



# Wychwood Benefice

Church News 22 - 29 December 2019

***Our Vision: To build God's Kingdom here on earth as in heaven***

## **SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER – ADVENT 4**

9.30am Milton United Benefice Holy Communion  
6.00pm Shipton Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight

## **PRAYERS AND READINGS**

**Collect** Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Post Communion** Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Readings:** (Year A)

**First Reading Romans 1:1-7** Paul introduces himself to the Roman church and offers his credentials. He states that he has been “called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God...concerning his Son”.

**Gospel Matthew 1:18-end** The Gospel writer tells how the birth of Jesus came about, and how an angel of the Lord persuaded Joseph that he should take Mary to be his wife, despite her early pregnancy.

**Prayer List:** Hostage John Cantlie, David Trollope, Mark Forsbrey, Emma Bradford, Wendy Cherry, Marian Clark, baby Arthur Smith, Graham Harris and Margaret Gibbs.

**R.I.P.:** Johnny Graham and Renzo.

**Funerals:** There will be a memorial service for Johnny Graham early in 2020.

## **TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE**

4.00pm	Milton Crib & Christingle
4.00pm	Shipton Crib & Christingle
6.00pm	Milton Carols around the tree
7.00pm	Shipton Carols around the tree
11.00pm	Milton Midnight Mass

**Collect** Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Post Communion** Eternal God, for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life: keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Readings: For Midnight** Isaiah 9: 2-7, Luke 2:1-20.

## **WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY**

9.30am	Milton Christmas Communion
11.00am	Fifield Christmas Communion
11.00am	Shipton Christmas Communion

### **PRAYERS AND READINGS**

**Collect** Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen**

**Post Communion** God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen**

**Readings (Year A) First Reading Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]** The writer explains that Christ is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's being. He was involved in creation and sustains all things. After purifying our sins he sat down at God's right hand, superior even to angels.

**Gospel John 1:1-14** John sets out the main themes of his book in this prologue and introduces us to the idea of Jesus as the Word, an intrinsic part of all creation.

## **SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS I**

11.00am      Shipton United Benefice Holy Communion

### **PRAYERS AND READINGS**

**Collect** God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

**Post Communion** Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Readings** First Sunday of Christmas

**First Reading Hebrews 2:10-end** Because of Jesus, we know that God does not stand apart from human beings in any part of our experience. Rather, God is with us even in the depths of our own suffering.

**Gospel Matthew 2:13-end** This is a story in three parts, each one fulfilling an Old Testament scripture. At the heart of it we see Mary, Joseph and Jesus fleeing as refugees from one land to another, seeking safety.

### **Notices**

#### **Holidays and office hours over Christmas**

Geoffrey will be on holiday from 26 December to 4 January. If you need to speak to a priest in an emergency during this time please contact Anne.

The Benefice Office will be closed from Friday 21 December and then open as follows: Monday 30 December 9-5, Tuesday 7 January 11-2.30, Wednesday 8 January 11.00-2.30, Friday 10 January 9-2.30.

#### **Mince Pies & Sausage Rolls for Shipton's Carol Service, 22 December**

Please can you either bring mince pies or sausage rolls to the service or give to Claire Bell beforehand (tel 831281).

#### **Christingle Making: Mon. 23 Dec. 10am-12noon in the Benefice Office**

Do come and join us for our annual Christingle making session. Children are very welcome to come and help make Christingles ahead of the Crib and Christingle services (and possibly eat some sweets along the way...).

## Pastoral Support at Christmas

The Christmas season is the time of year for great excitement and delight for many, especially those who gather with family to celebrate.

But for many reasons Christmas can also be a painful and difficult time.

Can we the pastoral team and the church family as a whole remain extra mindful of those around us who might appreciate a call or even a card to offer a visit.

Over the festive period Anne is the first contact for pastoral enquiries.

**Thurs. 2 January 11am-1pm Coffee & Cake followed by homemade soup** (choice of 2) and homemade bread. £3 a head. Fifield Parish Hall. Please book by Tuesday 31 December if possible, to help with catering quantities - Catherine Hitchens 01993 831881.

**Diary Date: “Musings on the Constitution”** A talk by Sir Stephen Tomlinson, ex Lord Justice of Appeal. Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 7.30pm at the New Beaconsfield Hall. £15 to include a glass of wine. Proceeds to Shipton Church roof repairs. Tickets from James Walmsley Tel 01993 830842  
Email [jameswalmsley@mistral.co.uk](mailto:jameswalmsley@mistral.co.uk) or the office.

## Supporting local families:

We are helping several local families in need and we are still looking for donations towards providing fitted carpet and flooring. If this is something you would like to contribute towards, please speak to Geoffrey or Anne. Many thanks to the offers we have already received.

## Readings 5 January: Epiphany

First Reading Ephesians 3:1-12, Gospel Matthew 2:1-12.

Vicar: Rev Geoffrey Clement [vicar@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk](mailto:vicar@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk) 01993 832514

Rest Day: Thursday

Rev'd Anne Hartley [anne@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk](mailto:anne@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk) 01993 830160

out of contact on Thursdays

Administrator: Clare Harper, Office Hours:

Mon 9-2.30, Tuesday 11-2.30, Wednesday 12.30-2.30, Fri 9-11

Tel 01993 832467 [office@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk)