



Wychwood Benefice

Church News 15 November, 2020

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

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2020
The Second Sunday Before Advent

A pre-recorded Service
will be posted online to Facebook and
YouTube on Sunday morning.
[youtube.com/wychwoodbenefice](https://www.youtube.com/wychwoodbenefice)

This Sunday's service was scheduled to be our Shoebox Sunday service where we would dedicate the shoeboxes that have been prepared locally. Your shoeboxes can still be left in Milton church, closing date Sunday 22nd.

There is an online service from the Diocese at 9am each Sunday. The order of service and links to view/listen are posted on Saturday:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/>

PRAYERS AND READINGS

Collect Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Post Communion Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

November 15, 2nd Sunday before Advent

First Reading Zephaniah 1:7. 12-18

The prophet announces that the day of the Lord is close. This will be a day when the Lord will execute judgement on all the earth, and for some there will be terrible punishment.

Second Reading I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Paul likens the day of the Lord to a thief coming in the night. It will be sudden and there will be no escape from the consequences. However, unlike Zephaniah, Paul is able to soften the hard message of judgement with the hope of salvation through Jesus.

Gospel Matthew 25:14-30

Large sums of money (talents) are left with three servants, with the clear expectation that they will invest the money profitably and wisely while their master is away. On the master's return there will be a reckoning.

Prayer List: Hostage John Cantlie, Marian Clark, Meriel Brooke, Richard Adams, Emma Bradford and Shauni McGregor.

Deanery: 15 November: The Tews & Heythrop. Please pray for visiting clergy as they cover Interregnum & churchwarden Clair Freeman.

Intercessions: In our prayers we are particularly praying for all in our care homes - Tall Trees, Old Prebendal and The Paddocks; and all the elderly in our villages. We also pray for our school – for the teachers and staff and all the children. We are also praying for the work of the foodbank.

Church of England

- **Daily Hope telephone line** available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**. A Free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers plus listen in to the weekly service.
- For Personal prayers: [churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/](https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/)
- For daily prayer and readings: www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer
- For the latest Church of England guidelines and other resources please visit: www.churchofengland.org/

Notices

Update from Geoffrey:

The renewed lockdown means there will be no Sunday services for a while, I will be filming a service each week and posting it online at both Wychwood Benefice Facebook and Wychwood Benefice You Tube channel. As well as Sunday services there will be an Advent Carol service and a Lessons and Carols service later in December.

We have permission to keep churches open for private prayer and ask that any who go into church sign in on the sheet and use the QR code for track and trace and observe the facemask and hand sanitising advice.

Risk assessments have been carried out in our churches to ensure that we are doing everything necessary to keep our churches open for private prayer as well as preparing to come back to church in December. This does mean however that we need to keep on top of cleaning our churches regularly.

More Help with Cleaning our Churches Urgently Needed

To keep our churches open safely we need to ensure extra cleaning happens. To this end we really do need some additional helpers.

Please get in touch with Geoffrey or Anne or email the office if you can help.

Christmas Shoebox Campaign

Deadline for dropping off shoeboxes is 22 November. There are some flatback boxes available in Milton church.

We are once again collecting shoeboxes on behalf of the charity **Teams4U**. This year there is also the option to sponsor a shoebox.

For details of what to include and to download labels or the leaflet, please have a look at the website: <http://teams4u.com/>

Advent Groups during December

We will be using Bishop Steven's book *Alive in Christ* and have copies if you would like one -either for individual use or as part of our advent sessions which will run online. Copies are available in Milton church. They cost £2.50. Please post the money into the Church Room postbox or get in touch with Clare. If you would like to join the online Advent Groups, please get in touch with Anne.

Join in The National Month of Prayer

Throughout the month, Christians will be encouraged to pray daily for a specific area of national concern, wherever they are, culminating in a collective moment of prayer at 6pm each evening, with cathedrals and churches across the country invited to ring a bell at this time.

You can download a booklet with themes and suggested prayers here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/PftN%20Booklet%20spreads.pdf>

Further details can be found here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/call-prayer-nation>

Shipton Christmas Cards are now available at services in Shipton or contact Mike and Joy on 01993 830014. These are £5 for 10.

Continued Support of the Foodbank

The North Oxfordshire Community Foodbank is a voluntary group of local churches providing practical help to issue emergency supplies of food to those in need in our locality. Their provision has doubled recently and is likely to increase further in the coming months. Goods collected in our area are taken to Chipping Norton for sorting and distribution. We can support in a number of ways.

- Prayer
- Donations of long-life and non perishable foods, soap, toothpaste and basic cleaning materials eg. Washing-up liquid. These can be left at the village Co-op store or our local churches.
- Look on-line for ways of donating either a one-off gift or a regular payment and more information about the Foodbank
<http://www.northoxfordshirecommunityfoodbank.org.uk/donations/4542603964> Tel 07929 721172
- We can signpost individuals to collect tokens which they can exchange for supplies via The CAB, Social Services and the GP.
Get in touch with Elaine Russell-Jarvie for more details:
erusselljarvie@talktalk.net tel 01993 831610

Readings: November 22 – Christ The King

First Reading Ezekiel 34:11-16. 20-24

Second Reading Ephesians 1:15-end

Gospel Matthew 25:31-end

Contact Details

The Benefice Office is currently closed, Clare is working from home and will be checking emails and phone messages Mon – Fri.

Tel 01993 832467 office@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk

Vicar: Rev Geoffrey Clement vicar@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk 01993 832514

Rest Day: Thursday

Rev'd Anne Hartley anne@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk 01993 830160