



Wychwood Benefice

Church News 29 November, 2020

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

**SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2020
ADVENT SUNDAY**

There will be two pre-recorded services online today:

A pre-recorded *Advent Carols Service & Advent Sunday Holy Communion Service*

both will be posted online to Facebook and
YouTube on Sunday morning.

[youtube.com/wychwoodbenefice](https://www.youtube.com/wychwoodbenefice)

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 Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Post Communion O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sunday 29 November – First Sunday of Advent

First Reading I Corinthians 1:3-9 Paul writes to the Church in Corinth, giving thanks for their understanding of the Gospel and spiritual gifts, and their readiness for the day when Christ comes again.

Gospel Mark 13:24-end Jesus warns his disciples of hard times to come and tells them to remain watchful for the return of the Son of Man.

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

R.I.P.: Hugo Yaxley.

Deanery: 29 November: Holy Trinity, Ascott-under-Wychwood. Please pray for Mark Abrey and Ilona Cheyne.

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 & prayers plus weekly service.
- ❖ Personal prayers: [churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/](https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/)
- ❖ Daily prayer and readings: www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/
- ❖ For the latest Church of England guidelines and other resources please visit: www.churchofengland.org/

Notices

PREPARING FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

The Church of England launches national Comfort and Joy campaign

“This Christmas the Church will need, in the words of St Paul in Romans 12.15, to ‘Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep’. We will aim to celebrate where we can together in one place – but also embrace a wider community that wants to join in the celebration but may not be physically able – or emotionally ready – to do so. We hope that **Comfort and Joy** will enable us to build a campaign that both enables us to reconnect with the rich and joyous traditions of the past and to offer God’s consoling love in the present.” For more details visit:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/preparing-advent-christmas-2020-comfort-and-joy>



Advent & Christmas in the Benefice:

- ❖ **Advent Groups:** The Wednesday evening group will start on 25 November 7pm on Zoom. The Monday group will start on 30 November. Get in touch with Anne or Geoffrey if you’d like to be involved. 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.

- ❖ **29 November pre-recorded Advent Carols online** (includes music from Shipton Choir).
- ❖ **11 December Christingle home kits** available in Churches and going to all children at school (accompanying video online).
- ❖ **13-20 December Blue Christmas Week.** Our churches are open for all to remember departed loved ones and find space and peace this week. There will be resources in church including stars to hang on Christmas trees with the names of loved ones and prayers and reflections.
- ❖ **20 December Blue Christmas Service 9.30 in Milton church** This will be a quiet, simple service for those for whom Christmas is a difficult time of year. It will also be a chance to remember our departed loved ones as well as all those who have been affected by COVID 19, and offer our thanksgiving for all our key workers who have done so much this year.
- ❖ **20 December pre-recorded Crib & Christingle Service online**
- ❖ **20 December pre-recorded Lessons and Carols service online**
- ❖ **Christmas Eve 11pm Midnight Service in Shipton** (this service will also be posted online for anyone unable to go to church this Christmas).
- ❖ **Christmas Day Communion in church:**
 - **9.30am Milton**
 - **11am Shipton**
 - **11am Fifield**

Update from Geoffrey:

It is still our understanding that we will resume services in church (with a congregation!) starting with Shipton UB on 6 December at 11am.

Shipton church update: Lang the building specialists will be starting to work in the church on Monday 30th November. To begin with they are just doing the preparation work which should take until the beginning of January. Lang's have indicated that they hope to complete the work in March 2021.

We hope the church will remain open for this first stage of the work and services will continue as planned.

Fundraising: We have a “**silent auction**” planned to raise funds for Shipton Church with some excellent items on auction, from Hampers to Holiday Lets to a skip! Online from 26 November to 12 December. Visit: galabid.com/shiptonchurch

Monthly Prize draw: We have also just launched a monthly draw. To enter the prize draw (£100 prize every month) see details on the website or contact Mary: minifan2@gmail.com

Christmas – lunch in the community

This year with travel plans in question and probable restrictions on meeting up in numbers, it is possible that more members of our community than usual may be facing Christmas alone.

If you hear of someone who may be home alone this year, please can you let Elaine Russell-Jarvie know on 831610 with their name and perhaps a telephone number or address. We will aim to make sure that they are contacted on Christmas Day and offer in advance to deliver a Christmas lunch.

Continued Support of the Foodbank

We can support the North Oxfordshire Community Foodbank 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

Sunday 6 December – Second Sunday of Advent

I I am Shipton United Benefice Holy Communion service in church

We will be having a double celebration: 2nd Sunday of Advent and St Nicholas Idbury Patronal Festival.

First Reading 2 Peter 3:8-15a God's time is not the same as our time. God may seem slow in delivering people from their sufferings, but the end times will come suddenly. Be ready.

Gospel Mark 1:1-8 Mark reflects on Isaiah's words, interpreting them in the light of John the Baptist who appeared from the wilderness to herald the coming of Jesus.

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