



# Wychwood Benefice



Church News 20-27 December, 2020 **Christmas Issue**

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

## **SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER - ADVENT 4**

**9.30am**

### **Milton United Benefice Blue Christmas Service**

*This will be a quiet simple service for those for whom Christmas is a difficult time of year. All are welcome.*

### **Pre-recorded Benefice Christingle Service online**

### **Pre-recorded Benefice Lessons & Carols online**

*The online services will be posted to Facebook and YouTube*

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

[facebook.com/WychwoodBenefice/](https://www.facebook.com/WychwoodBenefice/)

**3.45pm**

**Outdoor Nativity in Fifield** brought up to date and performed in the grounds of The Old Farmhouse with a cast of thousands (well, ten). Dress for the weather and being outside. Entry free but a ticket is required for social distancing - contact Catherine Hitchens 01993 831881. After the performance there will be warming drinks and finger food and then the Christmas Raffle will be drawn.

**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**

**First Reading Romans 16:25-end** The final verses of Paul's letter are a doxology, and refer in particular to a mystery held secret for centuries, but now disclosed. Through the grace of God, the revelation of Jesus is for Gentiles as well as the Jews.

**Gospel Luke 1:26-38** The angel Gabriel, fresh from informing the priest Zechariah that his wife, Elizabeth, will give birth to John the Baptist, tells an ordinary Galilean teenager called Mary that she will be the mother of the long-awaited Messiah.

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

**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.

## **WEDNESDAY 23 DECEMBER**

**10.30am Mid-week Holy Communion in Milton Church**

## **THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE**

**11pm Shipton United Benefice Midnight Communion**

**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:**

**Titus 3:3-7**

**Luke 2:1-14**

## **FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY**

**9.30am Milton Christmas Communion**

**11am Shipton Christmas Communion**

**11am Fifield Family Christmas Service**

**Pre-recorded Service online on Facebook and YouTube**

**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**

**First Reading Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]** In these last days God spoke to us by his Son who is the exact reflection of God. The angels worship him and he sits at the right hand of God on high.

**Gospel John 1:1-14** The writer of John's Gospel describes Jesus as the pre-existing Word of God whose life became the light.

## **SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER - FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**9.30am Milton United Benefice Holy Communion**

*No recorded service today but please do watch the Diocese At Home service online [www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/](http://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/)*

**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**

**First Reading Galatians 4:4-7** God's Son came in the fullness of time. He was born of a woman and redeemed us so that we could be adopted into God's family.

**Gospel Luke 2:15-21** The shepherds go to Bethlehem and find Jesus lying in the manger, as the angels had told them. They return to the fields glorifying and praising God.

### **Update from Geoffrey**

#### **Holy Communion Update**

Following advice from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, it is now possible to receive both the bread and the wine (by dipping) if you wish, please let the person taking the service know if you wish to receive just the bread.

#### **Home Communion**

If you or someone you know is unable to join us at our services and would like to receive communion at home, please let either Geoffrey or Anne know.

## **Which Christmas services do you need to book seats for?**

Fifield's Christmas Day Service is now full (if you have already booked with Catherine then you will have a seat) but there are still spaces in Milton and Shipton. Contact Geoffrey or Anne if you would like to attend services on Christmas Day in Milton or Shipton or the Midnight service in Shipton at 11pm on Christmas Eve. (contact details at bottom of Church News).

**Last minute Christmas cards of Shipton Church** are available at services in Shipton or contact Mike and Joy on 01993 830014. These are £5 for 10.

## **Notices**

### **Holidays**

Geoffrey will be on annual leave from 26 December to 2 January.

Clare will be on annual leave from 17 December to 29 December.

If you need to contact a priest urgently during this time, please contact Anne.

### **Work in Shipton Church**

Every effort will be made to warm the church for the Christmas services. We are looking at reorganizing the seating, so that everyone can be more comfortable whilst remaining safe.

### **Fundraising for Shipton**

Over £4500 was taken at the Auction raising much-needed funds for Shipton. Also the WI are giving £230 to the roof fund from the proceeds of the cake sale on Saturday on Milton Common. This is combined Milton and Shipton effort. Many thanks to all who helped organize and/or purchased goods.

### **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.

#### 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](mailto:office@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk)

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