



# Wychwood Benefice

Church News 6 December, 2020

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

## **SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER – ADVENT 2/ IDBURY PATRONAL FESTIVAL**

11.00am Shipton United Benefice Holy Communion Church Service  
*We will post a recording of the service on Facebook and YouTube each Sunday. It will be available on the website on Monday. [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, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

**Post Communion** Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**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.

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

**R.I.P.:** Hugo Yaxley.

**Deanery:** 6 December: St Mary's, Shipton. Please pray for Geoffrey Clement, Anne Hartley, James Walmsley, Mike Brooks and Peter Wilkinson.

**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/](http://churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/)
- ❖ Daily prayer and readings: [www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/](http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/)
- ❖ For the latest Church of England guidelines and other resources please visit: [www.churchofengland.org/](http://www.churchofengland.org/)

## Notices

### Advent & Christmas in the Benefice:

- ❖ **Advent Groups:** There is a Wednesday evening group 7pm on Zoom and a Monday group. 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-either for individual use or as part of our advent sessions which will run online. Copies are available in Milton church for £2.50. Please post the money into the Church Room postbox or get in touch with Clare.
- ❖ **29 November pre-recorded Advent Carol Service is now 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. Resources in church will include 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**



## **Bid Now in our Christmas Auction of Promises!**

Raising much needed funds for Shipton church online until Saturday 12 December! All you need for your Christmas meal, special treats, gifts for everyone, from amazing experiences to practical help, a stay in a local B&B to a weekend break in Southwold.

Go to the website to view the lots and register as a bidder by clicking on REGISTER. Or your bid can be placed for you by a member of the fundraising group – contact Kay [kay.shortland@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:kay.shortland@oxfordshirewi.co.uk) or Anne 07770745621

<https://app.galabid.com/shiptonchurch/items>

## **Sign up for new Monthly Prize Draw – £100 prize every month!**

We have also just launched a monthly draw starting from £36 a year (£3 a month). To enter the prize draw (£100 prize every month) see details on the website or contact Mary: [minifan2@gmail.com](mailto:minifan2@gmail.com)

[monthly-draw-shipton-church/](#)

## **Update from Geoffrey:**

**New Bishop of Dorchester.** Last week The Venerable Gavin Collins was announced as the Bishop Designate of Dorchester. **Gavin, 53, is presently Archdeacon of The Meon in the Diocese of Portsmouth. Gavin is married to Christina, who is a Health Visitor, and they have 3 young adult children.** Gavin will be consecrated on January 28<sup>th</sup> 2021 and begin his ministry as Bishop of Dorchester in March. A video of Gavin being interviewed by Bishop Steven can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/483699792>

As of this Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December we are now permitted to hold Church Services with a congregation. Churches in all 3 tiers can now hold services. To this end we will be holding all our planned services including the mid-week Wednesday Communion in Milton. In all of our church buildings we are working hard to maintain regular cleaning to ensure your safety. We still need to wear a face mask or covering in church, and congregational singing is also not permitted. Some people will feel that they must stay at home which is perfectly understandable. We will continue to post a recording of the Sunday service online.

**Shipton church update:** Lang the building specialists have started work. 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.

## **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.

## **Supporting the Foodbank at Christmas**

Christmas donations need to be made by 18 December to local churches or the coop. Look on-line for ways of donating either a one-off gift or a regular payment [www.northoxfordshirecommunityfoodbank.org.uk/](http://www.northoxfordshirecommunityfoodbank.org.uk/)

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](mailto:erusselljarvie@talktalk.net) tel 01993 831610

## **Sunday 13 December – Third Sunday of Advent**

9.30am Milton Holy Communion

11.00am Shipton United Benefice Holy Communion Church Service

11.00am Fifield BCP Holy Communion

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## **First Reading | Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Constant in prayer, Christians are urged to accept the Spirit's guidance with joy and gratitude, seeking to do good as they await the Lord's coming.

## **Gospel John 1:6-8. 19-28**

Introduced as a witness to the light, John identifies himself as one who prepares the way for the promised Messiah, already present but not yet recognised.

### 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