



Wychwood Benefice

Church News 17 January, 2021

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

SUNDAY 17 JANUARY – EPIPHANY 2

9.30am Milton Holy Communion Church Service

We will post a recording of a service on Facebook and YouTube each Sunday. It will be available on the website from the Monday.
[youtube.com/wychwoodbenefice](https://www.youtube.com/wychwoodbenefice)

There is an online service from the Diocese at 10am 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 Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Post Communion God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Second Sunday of Epiphany

First Reading Revelation 5:1-10 The one being in all of heaven and earth who is worthy of opening the mysterious scroll is both the Lion of Judah and a slaughtered lamb.

Gospel John 1:43-51 Jesus engages in conversation with Nathanael and reveals both his knowledge of Nathanael and something about his own identity.

Prayer List: Hostage John Cantlie, Marian Clark, Richard Adams, Emma Bradford, Shauni McGregor, Robert Arlott, Joan Howard Drake and Wendy Cherry.

R.I.P.: Ian Carrington, Annette Chapman and Gillian Sleight.

Funerals: Gillian Sleight's funeral is on 18 January in Shipton.

Banns: Will be read at the next 2 Sunday Services for Marianne Burns and Philip Buckingham who are getting married in Milton Church on 30 January.

Intercessions In our prayers we are particularly praying for all in our care homes – especially those at Old Prebendal (staff and residents) following the recent flooding and evacuation. Also we pray for Tall Trees and The Paddocks; and all the elderly in our villages.

We pray for all affected by the flooding. We pray for the work of the foodbank. We also pray for our school – for the teachers and staff and all the children

Update from Geoffrey

I would like to share with you part of a letter from our Bishops from 8 Jan, 2021:

“As you well know, the government has not required churches to close for worship for this lockdown so far, despite the high infection rates. This is, in part, a recognition that churches and other places of worship have made a huge effort to be as safe as possible. There has also been a growing recognition of the key role that churches and faith communities have played and will play in this time of crisis. As the letter sent to the government by faith leaders in November argued clearly, the freedom to worship is a key part of sustaining this loving service.

Because something is permitted, it does not mean that it should happen. With the authority to take decisions locally comes significant responsibility and we would urge you at this present time to be extremely cautious about the offer of in-person services, particularly in the parts of the Diocese where infection rates are extremely high. Our impression from listening to the Diocese and the wider Church is that the majority of parishes have moved back to online services for the time being (and Church at Home is available for those who are not able to do this or to supplement what is offered locally).

As bishops, we welcome these decisions and support this move. The new variant of the virus spreads more rapidly. There have been examples of transmission in churches locally, even where the previously recommended measures were all observed...

Clergy and lay ministers, parishioners, church officers and volunteers who are vulnerable or shielding should not place themselves at risk in leading or attending in-person worship at this time.” *Bishops Steven, Olivia, Alan and Gavin Collins (bishop designate).*

Here in the Wychwood Benefice we are for now continuing with one service of Communion each Sunday for the duration of the lockdown as well as the Wednesday Service in Milton. An online service will continue to be posted for those who wish to stay at home, as well as a Zoom Sunday service.

These will be simple said services, I do not wish to oblige anyone to attend who does not wish to, this includes sides-men/women or sacristans, readers, intercessors, so please can we suspend any rotas for the duration. I will bring my

own Chalice and Pattern to minimise the involvement of others. I urge you to think seriously about attending these services, your safety must come first, and I will not be disappointed if there is no one attending.

We have also decided to try holding a live Zoom Service. The first of these will be on Sunday 24 January at 11am. More details below.

We will be holding a JPCC on Wednesday 27 January 11.30am on zoom. During this time where we continue to be unable to gather together as usual, the proposed JPCC will provide an opportunity to come together as 3 parishes and share thoughts and ideas.

This will be an opportunity to discuss amongst other things the views and concerns of those in our parishes at this time. This will include thoughts on:

- Continuing with services in church,
- Starting live online services on Zoom
- Pastoral needs and how these are being met
- Finance – drop in income and how we might address this.

Church services for the next few weeks are as follows:

January

24 Idbury 11am

31 Milton 9.30am

February

7 Shipton 11am

14 Fifield 11am

17 Ash Wednesday 10.30am Milton

21 Milton 9.30am

28 Idbury 11am

Mid Week Communion in Milton

This will continue to be every Wednesday in Milton Church at 10.30am.

Guidelines on coming to church:

- Booking: It will be necessary to book to attend services in Fifield church. Contact Catherine, who will allocate seating 01993 831881 catherine.lordlandry@gmail.com.
- We ask you please not to come if you (or anyone in your household) are unwell.
- Please wear a mask or covering and use hand sanitizer on entering church.
- Please sign in and use the track and trace system if possible.
- Please adhere to the advice displayed on signs in church with regards to social distancing and where to sit.

Churches are still open for private prayer and there will be copies of the orders of service and Church News available for you to take home in the churches.

Update on Shipton Church Last week large pieces of oak were delivered and are now being cut to the correct shape and size. Also, this week the scaffolders arrived to put up access scaffold outside. This is for the work on the Victorian cast iron ties which hold the upper walls of the nave clearstory as well as the replacement of stone coping on the nave parapet. A visit to Shipton church for your daily exercise will reveal all the above in its full glory.

New Sunday Zoom Services 11-11.30am, then conversation 11.30-12

We are proposing to introduce a short Sunday service on Zoom starting on 24 January at 11am followed by conversation 11.30-12.

The JPCC will review that first service and give a chance for discussion of all that is being provided at the moment.

The idea behind this is that, with the current severity of the virus, an increasing number of people are feeling that it is not a good idea for them to meet in church, even with all the safeguards. This suggestion would enable people to be present albeit virtually at a live service with the opportunity to stay on afterwards for conversation, over a cup of coffee – or just come to see everyone for the conversation at 11.30.

Geoffrey will continue to lead one communion service a Sunday, rotating round the churches of the benefice and will post a recorded communion service on the website/Facebook each Sunday. It is proposed that Anne should lead or at least participate in this service, which will provide an alternative means of meeting for worship, including a bible reading, prayers and either a short talk or other presentation within a simplified order of service, which can be followed on your screen. People will be encouraged to participate if they wish, or just enjoy being present.

This is a new venture for us – so we will see how it develops. As with all Zoom meetings a link will be provided for you to click on to join. More information next week. If you haven't yet tried zoom and would like some help, get in touch.

Sunday 24 January 2021 – Epiphany 3

11.00am Idbury Holy Communion Church Service

11.00am Zoom Service

First Reading Revelation 19:6-10

Gospel John 2:1-11

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

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Rest Day Thursday

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