



Wychwood Benefice

Church News 31 January, 2021

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

SUNDAY 31 JANUARY Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

9.30am Milton Holy Communion Church Service

11.00am Live Zoom Service followed by conversation & coffee
from 11.30-12

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/>

Zoom Service Login Details:

Join our Zoom Sunday Service: Sunday 31 January, login at 11am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83839976916?pwd=Uk5DcmRJamYlV0YrMFo0czdUdGZydz09>

Meeting ID: 838 3997 6916

Passcode: Service

PRAYERS AND READINGS

Collect Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God. **Amen**

Post Communion Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

First Reading Hebrews 2:14-end

The writer of Hebrews stresses that Jesus shared our human nature, suffering as we do, so he could make the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

Gospel Luke 2:22-40

When Mary and Joseph take the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to fulfil requirements of the Old Testament Law, they receive an ecstatic welcome from Simeon and Anna.

Prayer List: Hostage John Cantlie, Marian Clark, Richard Adams, Emma Bradford, Shauni McGregor (who is now in Katharine House), Robert Arlott, Joan Howard Drake and Wendy Cherry.

Weddings: Marianne Burns and Philip Buckingham 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.

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

Thanks to all those who joined us for our first zoom service. For those who would like to try it do join us on Sunday. This will be a short, informal service led by Anne 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.

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. If you would like some help with zoom, get in touch with Liz 01993 684286 or Anne 01993 830160.

Update from Geoffrey

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.

Church services for the next few weeks are as follows:

February:	17 Ash Wednesday 10.30am Milton
7 Shipton 11am	21 Milton 9.30am
14 Fifield 11am	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.

Prayer for the Nation

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are issuing a call to the nation to pause and reflect to remember the more than 100,000 people across the UK who have died after contracting Covid-19 and all those who know and love them.

Starting on 1 February we invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love.

www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/20210126%20Letter%20to%20the%20nation.pdf

The pastoral team (Geoffrey, Anne and Elaine) are available if you or anyone you know might need pastoral or practical support. They are only too happy to receive your calls or emails.

Supporting the North Oxfordshire Community Foodbank

We are continuing to support our local foodbank. Donations of long-life and non perishable foods, soap, toothpaste and basic cleaning materials eg. Washing-up liquid can be left at the village Co-op store or our local churches.

Lent Groups and Lent Book *Living is Christ, Dying is Gain*

As we enter Lent we will be looking at our chosen lent book during our home groups for 4 weeks from 22 February.

Living is Christ, Dying is Gain is “Bishop Steven’s reflections on the book of Philippians. In this new and challenging season for the church, we are returning to the centre and rediscovering what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ in small groups and along simpler paths.

None of us would have chosen this journey in this way. But that does not mean that we have nothing to learn. Paul calls the Philippians out of lockdown to return to Christ as the centre and the pattern of their faith: to be contemplative, compassionate and courageous no matter what they are facing. The same call comes to us.

Living is Christ, Dying is Gain will be helpful to individuals and small groups of Christians meeting together online or in person in the coming months. Readers and small groups will, again, hear the simple call of Christ: follow me.”

If you’d like to join our home groups on zoom get in touch.

Or, if you would like to order a copy of the book for £2.50, let Geoffrey know.

Sunday 7 February 2021 – 2 Before Lent

11.00am Shipton Holy Communion Church Service

11.00am Zoom Service followed by coffee

First Reading Colossians 1:15-20

Gospel John 1:1-14

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