



# Wychwood Benefice

Church News 28 November & 5 December 2021

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

## **SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER – ADVENT SUNDAY**

- 8.15am            Shipton BCP Holy Communion  
9.30am            Milton Worship for All  
11.00am          Idbury BCP Holy Communion  
6.00pm            Shipton United Benefice Advent Carols ***livestreamed on Facebook***

## **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**

## **READINGS**

**First Reading** **1 Thessalonians 3:9-end** This beautiful blessing is a prayer for faithfulness and readiness as we live constantly in Jesus' presence.

**Gospel** **Luke 21:25-36** Jesus' counsel to his listeners is to be alert at all times, praying that they may have the strength to escape the things that will take place – such as distress among nations.

**Prayer List:** Hostage John Cantlie, Marian Clark, Emma Bradford, Iain Russell-Jarvie, Craig Smith, Sandy Schlee and Carolyn Coleman.

**R.I.P.:** Joan Howard Drake, John Jennings and David Reynolds.

**Deanery:** 28 November St Mary's, Charlbury. Please pray for Sally Welch, Jan Fielden, Tish Bird and churchwardens Dine Glasgow and Paddy Gallagher.

5 December St Mary's, Chipping Norton. Please pray for David Salter, James

Kennedy, Martha Simpson, Roger Simpson, Judith Marshall and churchwardens Graham Povey and Timothy Woolcock.

**Funerals:** The funeral of David Reynolds is on Monday 29 November 11am in Sipton Church.

**Baptism:** To the families preparing for baptism and the recently baptized.

## **SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER – ADVENT 2**

11.00am Idbury United Benefice Holy Communion **livestreamed on Facebook**

### **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 Philippians 1:3-11** Writing to the Christians of Philippi, Paul is full of joy on account of their sharing with him in the Gospel of Christ.

**Gospel Luke 3:1-6** While those who are powerful in the Roman world govern from great cities, the word of God comes to John the Baptist in the desert.

**MID WEEK HOLY COMMUNION** Wednesdays at 10.30am in Milton Church

### **Christmas Shoeboxes Thank You**

Thank you to everyone who donated shoeboxes this year. We had a total of 98 which will be going to Romania, Georgia, Moldavia and Uganda.

### **Advent Groups (Homegroups)**

Join us for our Advent Groups where over four weeks (starting Monday 22 November) we are looking at the following resource *Light in the Darkness*

<https://www.lightsforchrist.uk/litd-course-navigation> These will be on Monday mornings 11am on Zoom or 6.30pm Monday evenings. Get in touch with Geoffrey or Anne.

### **Looking for a filing cabinet.**

If anyone has a spare, lockable filing cabinet they would be willing to donate to the church office, please get in touch with Clare.

## Back to Church Season - Christmas in the Benefice



Our Christmas cards with details of the services are being delivered around the villages and there are some in the churches.

We look forward to welcoming many people back to church over the Christmas period.

Christmas Service details are also on the website [christmas-in-the-wychwood-benefice-2021/](https://www.wychwood-benefice.org.uk/christmas-in-the-wychwood-benefice-2021/).

Please do take the opportunity to extend an invitation to someone you know to come and join in with a particular service. Even if they do not come, at least we have made an invitation and we can always invite them to one of our other services.

## Celebrating Geoffrey's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination

We invite everyone to join us for seasonal refreshments following Shipton's Carols by Candlelight Service at 6pm on Sunday 19 December. We will be celebrating this special anniversary with Geoffrey.

## Donations of Mince Pies and Sausage Rolls

If you are able to please bring mince pies or sausage rolls along to Shipton's Carol service on 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm. We will have plates there ready and waiting.

## St Mary's Christmas Auction 2021 Online

This was a huge success last year! The auction goes live on 27 November until 11 December when each lot will go to the highest bidder. Visit

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

## Shipton Christmas Tree Festival Event

You can drop into Shipton Church to see the trees from 6-11 December. Local groups and businesses will sponsor and decorate a tree, to be displayed in the Church - a forest of sparkle and light.

The Christmas tree festival evening was such a fun evening that we are repeating it again this year, with a party in Church on Saturday 11 December, 6-8 pm. Tickets are £10 from Geoffrey. Come and enjoy festive refreshments. There will also be a raffle. Donations of Raffle prizes most welcome - please contact Kay Shortland on 01993 832927 or Anne Hartley 07770745621.

Both of the Shipton events are raising funds for the roof repairs and improvements we have planned.

## Guidance on coming to church

**With the current high rates of covid infections and more people expected at some of our services over the Christmas period please follow the guidance below.**

**For your own safety and the safety of others, we ask that you please stay at home if you are feeling at all unwell.**

**Masks** It is no longer a legal requirement to wear a face covering, though the government expects and recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded and enclosed settings to protect themselves and others.

**Hand sanitizer** is readily available.

**Space and Seating** We will have an area in church for those who prefer to keep their distance.

**Communion Services** Clergy will wear a mask whilst preparing the elements and distributing the Communion as at present.

**Congregational singing** We still recommend wearing a mask whilst singing.

**Register of Attendance in Church** We are encouraging people to continue to sign in using the sign-in sheets.

Thank You.

## FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER

6.30pm          Fifield Carols by Candlelight

## SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER – ADVENT 3

8.15am          Shipton BCP Holy Communion

11.00am        Shipton BCP Morning Prayer **livestreamed on Facebook**

11.00am        Fifield BCP Holy Communion

5.00pm          Milton Carols by Candlelight

## READINGS First Reading Philippians 4:4-7, Gospel Luke 3:7-18

Clare is working Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

Tel 01993 832467 [office@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk)

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

Contactable on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings

If you'd like to receive the Church News by email, please contact the office.