



Wychwood Benefice

Church News 12 & 19 December 2021

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

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

PRAYERS AND READINGS

Collect God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Post Communion We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading Philipians 4:4-7 Paul encourages the Philippian Christians to take joy in their Lord. He urges them to release their anxieties into grateful prayer. In so doing, they will experience God's peace.

Gospel Luke 3:7-18 John calls the crowds coming for water baptism to a repentance that will result in changed lives. He proclaims the imminent appearance of the Messiah, who will judge, refine and baptise God's people with the Holy Spirit.

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

R.I.P.: Guthrie Piggot.

Deanery: 12 December St Andrew's, Great Rollright. Please pray for Janet Faull, Janet Collins, Wendy Cunningham, Keith Disney and churchwarden Sarah Durham.

Funerals: The funeral of Guthrie Piggot is on Friday 10 December 11am in Fifield Church.

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

SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER – ADVENT 4

9.30am Milton United Benefice Holy Communion *livestreamed on Facebook*

PRAYERS AND READINGS

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 Hebrews 10:5-10 Paul writes of Christ's humble willingness to do the will of God as being worth more than the burnt offerings of the people.

Gospel Luke 1:39-45 [46-55] Mary visits Elizabeth and the two women share humbly in the joy of the miraculous work of God in their lives.

MID WEEK HOLY COMMUNION Wednesdays at 10.30am in Milton Church

St Mary's Christmas Auction 2021 Online

This is now online until 11 December. To see the great range of Christmas items and other treats on offer visit: <https://app.galabid.com/stmaryschurch2021>

Shipton Christmas Tree Festival Event

You can drop into Shipton Church to see the trees from 6-11 December. Local groups and businesses have sponsored and decorated a tree. Come and see the 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. Both of the Shipton events are raising funds for the roof repairs and improvements we have planned.

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.

Milton Christmas Tree Trail Saturday 18 December from 4pm

The trail starts by picking up your map at Milton Church where there will also be a craft activity. Then, spot as many trees as you like - but be sure to look out for 6 special clues. Finish up at Wychwood Baptist for some hot chocolate, yummy treats, more craft activities and more!

Celebrating Geoffrey's 25th 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 19th December at 6pm. We will have plates there ready and waiting.

St Simon and St Jude Martha Teams

Our Church cleaning teams do a splendid job in keeping our Church clean and tidy. However we would appreciate more volunteers. At present there are five teams with two members, and so our duties come around every 5 weeks. With just two more members that would be every six weeks, and even less often with 4 more!

Duties are not arduous and take at the most an hour and consist mainly of dusting and tidying, and washing or sweeping hard floor surfaces. We are fortunate that vacuuming is not one of our duties. If you feel you could give an hour every six weeks, then please contact me, Marjorie Connolley either in church, on 01993 832851 or email mmconnolley@googlemail.com

Shipton Prize Draw for 2022

Thank you to everyone who has supported this during 2021. If you took part this year, you should have already been contacted to see if you would like to renew for 2022.

The draw will stay at £36 per ticket. If you would like to join, please complete a application form (available on the website [**Shipton-Prize-Draw-application-2022.pdf**](#)). If you are renewing, you don't need to fill out another form just confirm how many tickets you would like for 2022. Email Hilary:

[**hilarymatthews58@gmail.com**](mailto:hilarymatthews58@gmail.com)

Guidance on coming to church and staying safe

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.

Lateral Flow Tests Clergy will take a LFT before leading a service in church.

Masks It is now once more a legal requirement to wear a face covering in places of worship.

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.

Christmas in the Benefice

Details of Christmas Services are on the website christmas-in-the-wychwood-benefice-2021/.

Please do take the opportunity to extend an invitation to someone you know to come a 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.

Clare is working Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

Tel 01993 832467 office@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk

Rev Geoffrey Clement vicar@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk 01993 832514

Rest Day Thursday

Rev'd Anne Hartley 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.