



# Wychwood Benefice

Church News **Christmas 2021**

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



## **CHRISTMAS EVE FRIDAY 24 DECEMBER**

- 4.00pm      Shipton Crib and Christingle  
4.00pm      Milton Crib and Christingle  
11.00pm     Milton United Benefice Midnight Communion

## **PRAYERS AND READINGS**

**Collect** Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Post Communion** Eternal God, for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life: keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Readings:**

#### **Isaiah 9:2-7**

Isaiah foretells the birth of someone special who will bring God's people out of darkness and lead them into his marvelous light.

#### **Luke 2:1-14**

Luke's narrative of the birth of Jesus tells us of the heavenly host, the angels visiting the Shepherds as they watch over their sheep in the fields.

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

**R.I.P.:** Sandy Schlee and Karen Gibney.

## **Christmas Eve - Village Carols around the Tree**

- 6pm      Milton  
7pm      Shipton

## CHRISTMAS DAY SATURDAY 25 DECEMBER

- 9.30am Milton Christmas Communion *livestreamed on Facebook*  
11.00am Shipton Christmas Communion  
11.00am Fifield Family Christmas Service (Non Communion)

### PRAYERS AND READINGS

**Collect** Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen**

**Post Communion** God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen**

#### First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10

Isaiah encourages the Jews with good news of God's future victory and salvation. He will defeat their Babylonian oppressors, restore the ruined Jerusalem and bring his people back home from exile.

#### Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]

The writer to the Hebrews explains the uniqueness of Jesus, who is divine, superior even to angels, and was involved in creation and sustains all things.

#### Gospel John 1:1-14

The writer of the fourth Gospel sets out the main themes of his book in this prologue and introduces us to the idea of Jesus as the Word; the one who reveals to us what God is like.

## SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER - STEPHEN

- 9.30am Milton United Benefice Holy Communion

*Also livestreamed services at 9.30 and 11 am from the Diocese online at [oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/](https://oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/)*

### PRAYERS AND READINGS

**Collect** Gracious Father, who gave the first martyr Stephen grace to pray for those who took up stones against him: grant that in all our sufferings for the truth we may learn to love even our enemies and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt, looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us, Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Post Communion** Merciful Lord, we thank you for the signs of your mercy revealed in birth and death: save us by the coming of your Son, and give us joy in honouring Stephen, first martyr of the new Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**First Reading** St Stephen Acts 7.51–60

**Gospel** Matthew 10.17–22

## **SUNDAY 2 JANUARY – EPIPHANY**

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

### **PRAYERS AND READINGS**

**Collect** Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Post Communion** Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **First Reading Ephesians 3:1-12**

The mystery of Christ which was revealed to Paul is now available to all human beings. Gentiles are now fellow heirs of the Gospel.

### **Gospel Matthew 2:1-12**

Magi from the east visit Herod to discover the whereabouts of the new king whose star they have been following. Despite Herod's evil intentions, they find the new baby Jesus and worship him.

Geoffrey will be on leave from 27 December to 2 January (inclusive).

Clare will be on leave from 22 December to 4 January (inclusive).

During this time if you need to speak to a priest urgently, please contact Anne.

**MID WEEK HOLY COMMUNION** Wednesdays at 10.30am in Milton Church. N.B. There will be no Mid Week Communion on Wednesday 29 December.

## 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.

## SUNDAY 9 JANUARY - BAPTISM OF CHRIST

9.30am Milton Holy Communion **livestreamed on Facebook**  
11.00am Shipton Holy Communion  
11.00am Fifield BCP Holy Communion

## READINGS

**First Reading Acts 8:14-17, Gospel Luke 3:15-17. 21-22**

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.