

Christmas 2023



Wychwood Benefice

Church News 17 - 31 December 2023

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

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER – ADVENT 3

9.30am Milton United Benefice Holy Communion

4.00pm Idbury Carols by Candlelight – *Festive readings, poems and carols followed by refreshments*

6.00pm Shipton Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight with Choir *followed by mulled wine and mince pies.*

Donations of mince pies or other edible goodies for Shipton would be very welcome. Please email Claire clairelizbell@gmail.com (and then bring them along on the night).

PRAYERS AND READINGS (YEAR B)

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: Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-11, **Gospel:** John 1. 6-8, 19-28

Prayer List: Sian Jones, Marie Gill, Jeffrey Bell-Taylor, Chris Seviour and Myra Hoyle.

Weddings: Olivia and James who are being married at Shipton on Dec 31.

Weds Mid-week Communion 10am in Milton Church

N.B. There will be no midweek communion on Wednesday 27 December.

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm Crib & Christingle Service: Milton, Shipton and Fifield Churches

11.00pm Milton Midnight Communion

PRAYERS AND READINGS (YEAR B)

Collect: Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Post Communion: God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Readings at Midnight First Reading: Isaiah 52. 7-10, **Gospel:** John 1. 1-14

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am Milton Christmas Communion

11.00am Shipton Christmas Communion

11.00am Fifield Christmas Family Service



PRAYERS AND READINGS (YEAR B)

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 9.2-7, **Gospel:** Luke 2.1-14

SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS I

9.30am Milton United Benefice Holy Communion

PRAYERS AND READINGS (YEAR B)

Collect God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Post Communion Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

First Reading: Galatians 4.4-7, **Gospel:** Luke 2.15-21

Other Events

Care Homes

Tuesday 19 December 11am Holy Communion Old Prebendal House

Monday 8 January 2pm Holy Communion Tall Trees

Tuesday 9 January 10.30am Holy Communion The Paddocks

Wyewood Primary School Carol Service Wednesday 20

December 9.15am Shipton Church (Key Stage 2)

Coffee, Cake and Company in Fifield Village Hall

Every Thursday 10.30am to 12.30pm Contact Amy Schlee 07954794990.

On Thursday, 21 December, we are planning to have our own little Christmas morning and be extra festive with both savoury and sweet treats. All welcome.

No charge. We will then be closed for the weeks of the 28 December and 4 January (2024). We return on the 11 January, running weekly from then.

Bell Ringing Fri 22 December A quarter peal will be rung on Shipton bells by a one of the Shipton ringers and some of her friends between 7pm and 8pm.

Christingle Making Sat 23 Dec 10am-12noon Milton Church Room

Did you know we make over 200 Christingles for our churches? If you can spare some time to help us construct these, do come along.

Tuesday 2 January 11 to 2pm Food with Friends, Fifield Parish Hall

Coffee and Cake then Homemade Bread and Soup (2 flavours) in the Parish Hall.

£3 a head all-in. Everyone welcome, for all or part of the time, to enjoy excellent refreshments and good company. If you can book beforehand, please do but come anyway. Catherine 01993 831881. Future dates will be 6 February and 5 March.

Planning Meeting Monday 15 January 9am Benefice Centre

To look at services and events for March, April and May (including Mothering Sunday, Lent, Holy Week and Easter). All welcome.

Vacancy News

Section 12 Meeting Thursday 22 February 7.30pm Benefice Centre

The next formal meeting in the procedure for selecting a new vicar is on 22 February. A representative of the bishop and others will meet the PCCs from the 3 parishes and anyone else who would like to attend to finalise the benefice profile, agree matters such as the form of advertisement, arrangements for shortlisting, the interview day etc. We are hoping to head for interviews in early May.

Prayer as we enter a new vacancy – there is also a copy of this in each of the churches: wychwoodbenefice.org.uk/prayer

Milton Christmas Fayre Thank You!

Thanks to Heather who organised a wonderful Christmas Fayre on 2nd December which raised the amazing total of £1,757. Thanks also to all who contributed to a lovely, happy occasion and raising funds for Milton church.

SUNDAY 7 JANUARY – BAPTISM OF CHRIST

11.00am Shipton United Benefice Holy Communion

First Reading: Isaiah 60.1-6, **Gospel:** Matthew 2.1-12

Contact during Christmas period

Church Office: The office is closed the week after Christmas and Karen and Clare are on annual leave.

In an emergency you can contact Anne.

Clare works Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday mornings.

Tel 01993 832467 office@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk

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

Contactable on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday mornings

Rev Karen Rizzello available on Mondays & Wednesdays revkaren@rizzello.co.uk