



Fortnightly Church News  
Sunday 8 and 15 December 2024

# Wychwood Benefice

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

## **SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER – ADVENT 2**

9.30am Milton Holy Communion

11.00am Idbury BCP Holy Communion (Patronal)

11.00am Shipton Holy Communion with choir

### **PRAYERS AND READINGS (YEAR C)**

**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**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Malachi 3.1-4, **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Philippians 1.3-11, **Gospel:** Luke 3.1-6

**Prayer List:** Chris Seviour, Jenny Hayward, Stuart Wallace & Karen Rizzello.

Karen is recovering well from her knee operation and we hope will be back with us some time in the New Year.

**R.I.P.** Rachel Cable and Bob Hitchcock.

**Funerals:** Rachel's family and friends will celebrate her life at a Service of Thanksgiving on Wednesday 11 December 2pm in Milton Church followed by tea in Milton Village Hall. Everyone welcome. Please wear a splash of colour and/or sparkle.

**Deanery:** 8 December: St Nicholas, Heythrop. William Burke and churchwardens John Sword and Charles Heneage. 15 December Holy Trinity, Ascott-under-Wychwood Mark Abrey and Ilona Cheyne.

## FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER

6.30pm Fifield Carols & Readings by Candlelight  
*with festive refreshments*

## SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER

6.00pm Milton Christmas Event with Seasonal Readings & Music  
*with festive refreshments*

## SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER – ADVENT 3

9.30am Milton United Benefice Holy Communion with choir

### PRAYERS AND READINGS (YEAR C)

**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**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Zephaniah 3.14-20 **Canticle:** Isaiah 12.2-6, **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Philippians 4.4-7, **Gospel:** Luke 3.7-18

### Mid-Week Communion Wednesdays, 10am in Milton



### Christmas Card

Do look out for your Benefice Christmas Card arriving through your door, with details of the services and events taking place through Advent up to Christmas.

**Visiting Bell Ringers:** On Saturday 7 December Fairford/Cirencester ringers will be ringing a quarter PEAL between 10 & 11am in Shipton.

### Care Homes

Mon 9 December 2.15pm Tall Trees Holy Communion.

**The Shipton Prize Draw** winning number for November is 64!

**Updated Pattern of Services from January 2025** The service rota really just swaps the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays over allowing us to introduce an evening service on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. This means that those who are busy during the day have an opportunity to worship in an evening and the choir have an opportunity to sing more anthems. There will either be full choral Evensong or an opportunity to celebrate Advent, Epiphany, Candlemas & other major festivals with carol services whilst enabling a communion service with hymns for those who are more sacramental in their worship.

Sundays	8.15	9.30	UBS Host	11am	6pm
1 <sup>st</sup>	Shipton BCP Holy Communion	Milton W4A: Worship for All		Fifield BCP Holy Communion	Shipton Choral Evensong or Carols
2 <sup>nd</sup>			11am Shipton CW Holy Communion		
3 <sup>rd</sup>		Milton CW Holy Communion		Fifield/ <u>Idbury</u> Morning Prayer Shipton CW Holy Communion	
4 <sup>th</sup>			9.30am Milton CW Holy Communion		
5 <sup>th</sup>			Fifield/ Idbury CW Holy Communion		

## Safeguarding Update

Many will have been angered, upset, frustrated, shocked (do consider all emotions acceptable here) by the revelations of the Makin report and the failure of the Church of England to protect the vulnerable and manage safeguarding concerns which prompted the resignation of the Arch Bishop of Canterbury. Karen spoke eloquently about this at the united benefice service in Milton at the end of November. This was designated as Safeguarding Sunday several years ago but we had a guest speaker collecting shoe boxes and we did not give the national issues enough attention. Please know that I met with our Parish Safeguarding Officers in my first week here and we take safeguarding very seriously. However it is a wake up call to all of us that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and Liz Watts and I will be addressing this at the Benefice service in Shipton on 9th February. If you want to explore what Bishop Steven had to say on the issue please read or listen to his presidential address, *The Time is Fulfilled* which he gave to the new Diocesan Synod in November and which I used in part for my Christ the King sermon. [Home - Bishop Steven's Blog](#) If you have any further concerns or issues please do feel free to speak to Liz, myself, Anne or Karen.

## **Advent Groups: Homegroups:**

During Advent, the Homegroups will become Advent Groups. These run as follows: Mondays 10.30am at The Paddocks (in the T.V. lounge), Wednesdays 2pm in The Paddocks. Plus Mondays 9 & 16 December 7pm in the Benefice Centre. For more details contact Sarah.

## **Coffee, Cake & Company in Fifield Parish Hall, Thursdays 10.30-12.**

Contact Amy Schlee 07954794990.

## **Memory Lane Café: Monday 16 December 10am-12pm at New Beaconsfield Hall (until further notice)**

For people experiencing memory loss, their carers, family and friends and those who have lost loved ones. Contact [davidensor@mac.com](mailto:davidensor@mac.com) 07836 613540.

Christmas meeting on 16 December and next date is 20 January.

## **Shipton Christmas Tree Festival: Friday 20 December 6.30pm**

Come and enjoy the trees and refreshments (mulled wine and mince pies) with friends. Tickets £10 from David Ensor [davidensor@mac.com](mailto:davidensor@mac.com).

## **Mince Pies for Shipton's Nine Lessons & Carols on 22 December**

If you are able to bring a plate of mince pies to go with the mulled wine after Shipton's Carol Service, please bring them along to the service -there will be a table with plates somewhere near the door. Thank you!

## **SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER – ADVENT 4**

9.30am Milton United Benefice Holy Communion

4.00pm Idbury Carols by Candlelight\*

6.00pm Shipton Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight with choir\*

*\*followed by seasonal refreshments*

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Micah 5.2-5a **Canticle:** Magnificat or Psalm 80.1-8, **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Hebrews 10.5-10, **Gospel:** Luke 1.39-45 [46-55]

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