



Fortnightly Church News

Christmas 2024 22 December – 5 January 2025

Wychwood Benefice

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

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*

PRAYERS AND READINGS (YEAR C)

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**

1st Reading Micah 5.2-5a, **2nd Reading** Hebrews 10.5-10, **Gospel Luke** 1.39-45 [46-55].

Prayer List: Chris Seviour, Jenny Hayward, Stuart Wallace, Karen Rizzello and Iain Russel-Jarvie.

R.I.P. Bob Hitchcock and Margaret Holtam.

Funerals: The funeral of Margaret Holtam is on Monday 30 December, 11am in Milton Church. The funeral of Bob Hitchcock is on Thursday 2 January 12.30pm in Burford Church.

Christmas Message from Sarah

I'd like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and support over the last few months as I settle into the benefice. Please do take on board the slightly altered pattern of services for next year which includes a regular evening service for those who are otherwise engaged during the day. I still haven't managed to get around to visiting everyone. If you would like a visit please do invite me around. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a peaceful new year. And we would love to receive your empty Pringle type tubes – they make excellent Paschal candles. Sarah

TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm Crib & Christingle Services in Fifield, Milton & Shipton

11.00pm Shipton Midnight Communion

PRAYERS AND READINGS (YEAR C)

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.

Amen

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**

1st Reading Isaiah 52.7-10, **2nd Reading** Hebrews 1.1-4 [5-12],

Gospel John 1.1-14

WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am Milton Christmas Communion

11.00am Fifield Christmas Service of the Word

11.00am Shipton Christmas Communion

PRAYERS AND READINGS (YEAR C)

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**

1st Reading: Isaiah 62.6-12, **2nd Reading:** Titus 3.4-7, **Gospel:** Luke 2.[1-7] 8-20

SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS I

9.30am Fifield United Benefice Holy Communion

PRAYERS AND READINGS (YEAR C)

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**

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 2.18-20, **2nd Reading:** Colossians 3.12-17,
jug Gospel: Luke 2.41-52

SUNDAY 5 JANUARY – EPIPHANY

8.15am Shipton BCP Holy Communion

9.30am Milton Worship for All

11.00am Fifield BCP Holy Communion

6.00pm Shipton Epiphany Carols with choir

PRAYERS AND READINGS (YEAR C)

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**

1st Reading Isaiah 60.1-6, **2nd Reading** Ephesians 3.1-12, **Gospel** Matthew 2.1-12

Mid-Week Communion Wednesdays, 10am in Milton NB not on 1 January.

Contact during Christmas period

The church office is closed the week after Christmas. Clare is next in the office on Friday 3 January. If you need to contact a priest urgently, please contact Sarah.

Notices/ Diary Dates

Please see the separate sheet with details of January services and the updated pattern of services.

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!

Christingle Making Mon 23 December 10-12noon in the Benefice Centre.

Care Homes

Fri 3 January 10.30am The Paddocks Holy Communion.

Mon 6 January 2.15pm Tall Trees Holy Communion.

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

Contact Amy Schlee 07954794990. Not on 26 Dec or 2 Jan. Returns on 9 Jan.

Gift Hamper for Staff at Old Prebendal House

Following the traumatic flooding at Old Prebendal and their forced relocation, we would like to put together a hamper of goodies to say thank you to the staff.

If you would like to donate anything (food & drink: wine, coffee, tea, chocolate, biscuits, wellbeing items or any surplus Christmas gifts you may have or vouchers) please bring them to any of the church services on 5 January (or give to Sarah/Anne or Clare). Thank you.

SUNDAY 12 JANUARY - BAPTISM OF CHRIST

11.00am Shipton United Benefice Holy Communion with choir

1st Reading Isaiah 43.1-7, **2nd Reading** Acts 8.14-17, **Gospel** Luke 3.15-17, 21, 22

Rev Sarah Sharp vicar@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk

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Contactable on Mon, Tues & Weds mornings

Rev Karen Rizzello available Mon & Weds revkaren@rizzello.co.uk

Clare Harper, Administrator (Mon, Tues & Weds mornings)

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