

## ANNUAL TOY SERVICE

Thank you for all the toys donated at last Sunday's Toy Service. These have been collected by the Salvation Army and will support the valuable work they do.



## ADVERTISEMENT

Following the resignation of our independent examiner we are looking for someone to take up this voluntary position for the 2020 accounts and onwards. The accounts and record books are usually ready for inspection by mid-February and need to be reviewed before the APCM, usually at the end of March / beginning of April. No qualifications are required other than a sound financial understanding. If you, or anyone you know would be willing to carry out this small but essential role, then either Pat Rushmere or Caroline Gulliver would be delighted to hear from you.

**ONE CAN TRUST.** We now have a (plastic) One Can Trust donation box outside the church. Any non-perishable food items or toiletries will be gratefully received. Caroline Johnston will be taking the donated items to the Trust at intervals. Thanks for the donations received to date which will help struggling families at this time.

### *This Week you are Asked to Pray For:*

- Those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Irene Foord, Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Ron Goodearl, Ian Goodearl, Phillipa King, Jenny King and Sally Zeybek.
- The recently departed, may their souls rest in peace. And for their families.
- All parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and those caring for them. For the country of South Africa, for the people of Cape Town and Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman.

### Key Contacts:

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[www.stjohnschurchlaceygreen.co.uk](http://www.stjohnschurchlaceygreen.co.uk)

## PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing  
**SUNDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

### FOCUS ON... PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

The voice of John the Baptist, the voice crying in the wilderness, reminds us of the radical break in human history that happened when Christ entered the world. So it is important for us to listen to the message of John the Baptist calling us to prepare the way of the Lord, the new light coming into the world. And, as John says, that new light is already present: "Among you stands one whom you do not know", he proclaims, "the one who is coming after me." But though the Kingdom of God is indeed among us, albeit seemingly in a hidden way, the Advent message of hope and waiting is that a time is still to come when the world will see the divine Kingdom in the fullness of its glory. And there is indeed nothing that our world, with all its troubles and anxieties, truly needs more than the light of God's presence. The key message of the coming Festival of Christmas, then, is that the dawning of the Kingdom of God comes about not in a blaze of glory, but in the vulnerability of a baby born in the humblest of circumstances and as one of us. This is one of the many good reasons why we so often speak of our God as a God of Surprises. And perhaps it is the biggest surprise of all that the Messiah, the anointed Christ, came to us – the wider family of the human race - in such a discreet and in many ways hidden, and even ambiguous, manner. This is indeed such a truly surprising matter because it transpires that, as St. John the Evangelist affirms, he is revealed to be the Word made Flesh, the light that shines in the darkness and cannot be overwhelmed. And so, in the dark days of Advent, the voice of John the Baptist encourages us to look around us for signs of that light, so that we may be ready to greet that light at Christmas. And to aspire to live each day of our lives in a manner worthy of greeting the dawning of that new age which has been promised when, in due time, the true light which enlightens the world will indeed be made manifest in the fullness of glory.

Canon Tony Bundock

### *Weekly Services:*

SUNDAY

10:00 am

Said Communion (Common Worship)

11:00 am

On-line Morning Worship with Hymns on Zoom

TUESDAY

9:30 am

Said Communion (Common Worship)

## WORSHIP IN CHURCH – COVID-19 MEASURES

Collective Worship in Church has been allowed to resume following the ending of the second Lockdown in England. Buckinghamshire is currently in Tier 2. This means that the same measures for worship in church that existed before the second lockdown will apply. Groups inside church should not be more than 6 persons, groups should not combine and there must be social distancing between groups. Holy Communion will continue to be in one kind only and the 2-metre social distancing requirement will apply. Contact details of those attending will need to be recorded in a suitable notebook and details kept for 3 weeks. **When attending worship in church you must continue to wear a face mask within the church building** apart from the celebrant, those reading lessons / leading intercessions and during receipt of Holy Communion.

## COLLECT FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT SUNDAY

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, *Amen*.



## READINGS FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah Ch. 61 VV. 1 – 4 & VV. 8 – 11  
1 Thessalonians Ch. 5 VV. 16 – 24

John Ch. 1 VV. 6 – 8 & VV. 19 – 28

## PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

**(INTERCESSIONS DURING THE SERVICES WILL BE LED BY PAT RUSHMERE)**

Heavenly Father, you sent your messengers to tell of the birth of your Son, that people might believe in him. Open our ears to hear your call, to repent of our sins, and to seek our heavenly inheritance. May we profess Christ until we stand by his grace before the glory of your majesty; Grant this for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen

## MORNING WORSHIP ZOOM SERVICE FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This Sunday's Online Morning Worship service on Zoom will be led by Canon Tony from St. John's with assistance from Graham King and start at **11:00 am** GMT (new time now collective worship in church has resumed). Details are being supplied in the email sending out this Pew Sheet, and are as follows:

Topic: Morning Prayer with Hymns  
Time: Dec 13, 2020 11:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79406710921?pwd=VnI1QnVOWnJsbUJCby9EenpHVnBwUT09>

Meeting ID: 794 0671 0921

Passcode: DWjn6t

(if copying the above into your internet browser window, you need to type in all of the text in blue as a single entry without a space – it has been split into two for formatting purposes.)



## DOORSTEP CAROLS

A small group of ministers belonging to Churches Together in Risborough have been discussing an idea to spread the good news of Christmas this year by way of singing carols outside our front door as a way to bless our neighbours this Christmas and inviting them to join us in the carol singing. An idea that initially began at a local level has been picked up and developed by a national campaign - see details of the national campaign on <https://www.doorstepcarols.co.uk/>. The Churches Together in Risborough proposal is to sing the carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" outside our front doors at 6pm on Christmas Eve. Invitations with words of the carol will be available shortly.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The programme of Christmas Services taking into account current Guidance and restrictions has now been finalised as follows:

- Christmas Eve 3.30 pm. Crib Service – an entirely online service broadcast from the church building.
- Christmas Eve 9.00 pm. A form of Nine Lessons and Carols – an entirely online service broadcast from the church building.
- Regrettably, we will not be celebrating a Midnight Mass this year, but on-line options are available for those who wish to join one. (The Carol service at 9.00 pm replaces this).
- Christmas Morning 10.00 am Said Holy Communion – with an outdoor carol at the end. A physical service in the church building but also broadcast to those who wish to join us online.
- Sunday 27th December St. John's Day 10.00 am – an entirely online service broadcast from the church building. It is proposed this will be Morning Prayer with Hymns.