

ADVERTISEMENTS

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

The (plastic) One Can Trust donation box outside the church was removed just before Christmas. All donations have now been delivered & were gratefully received. Thank you to all who donated items which will have helped struggling families at this time. We will let you know when the collection service will resume.

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, Beryl Palmer and Sally Zeybek.
- The recently departed, may their souls rest in peace. And for their families at this difficult time.
- All parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and those caring for them. For our own country where infection rates have been rapidly increasing in recent weeks and the health services as they work to cope with increasing numbers of hospital cases.
- For the country of South Africa, for the people of Cape Town and Diocese of Kimberly and Kuruman including our linked parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.

Key Contacts:

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| Vicar: | Rev. Canon Tony Bundock | 01844 347741 |
| Team Rector: | Rev. David Williams | 01844 346984 |
| Licensed Lay Minister: | Mr Graham King | 01844 343910 |
| Churchwardens: | Mrs Pat Rushmere | 01844 345452 |
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www.stjohnschurchlaceygreen.co.uk

PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 31ST JANUARY 2021
4TH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

FOCUS ON... CANDLEMAS

The Feast of Candlemas, the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem, falls on 2nd February. Candlemas brings the 40 days of the season of Christmas and Epiphany to a conclusion. In some ways, Candlemas can be seen as a bridge between the commemoration of Christmas and Epiphany, and the coming season of Lent, Holy Week and Easter – “one last look back at Christmas”, it is said, “then turn towards the Cross”. Chapter 2 of St. Luke’s Gospel that tells us that, 40 days after his birth, Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Temple to do for him what was prescribed by the Law of Moses, the ritual acts of purification after childbirth and redemption of the first-born son. At the Temple they encounter Simeon who had evidently been promised that he would live long enough to see the Messiah, the Christ, the anointed one of God. And thus, Simeon prays the prayer which has come to be known as the Nunc Dimittis which is customarily sung or recited as part of the Candlemas ceremonies, “Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace”. Simeon prophesies that here is a child of destiny and speaks of the redemption of the world through Jesus Christ. But he warns that this will not be without cost. To Mary, the Mother of Jesus, he says “and a sword will pierce your own soul too”. Also present at the Temple at the Presentation of the infant Christ is Anna, a prophetess and a woman of great age who, in the encounter with the infant Christ, praises God and speaks of the importance of this child for all who have been looking for divine redemption. Of course, the focus of the Feast of Candlemas is the infant Christ, brought to the Temple for this important ritual of purification and redemption. This theme is also intrinsic to the rite of Christian Baptism which affirms that it is God’s loving purpose to set us free from transgression. This gift of divine redemption is at the heart of the Christian understanding of the nature of God.

Canon Tony Bundock

Weekly Services:

SUNDAY 10:00 am GMT On-line Morning Worship with Hymns on Zoom

TUESDAY 9:30 am GMT On-line Celtic Morning Worship on Zoom

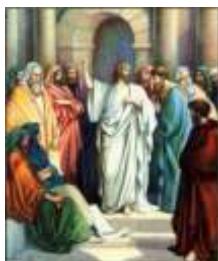
WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

Buckinghamshire remains in **Tier 5** which is in effect a third National Lockdown. Current guidance is where churches decide to do so and it has been judged safe, collective worship is still permitted, although the latest Guidance from the Bishop strongly encourages churches to suspend collective worship in church and switch to on-line services. However, the PCC has decided that with immediate effect, in-church collective worship will be suspended for the present. This decision has been made to protect our congregation due to high infection rates in Buckinghamshire including with the new more transmissible strain of Covid-19. (The other churches in the Risborough Team are also suspending in-church services during January.) This will be reviewed by the Standing Committee of the PCC when it meets on 2nd February.

We will continue to hold an On-line Morning Worship Service with Hymns on Sundays (at 10:00 am GMT for the rest of January). The Tuesday morning service has been replaced with an On-line Celtic Morning Prayer service at 09:30 am GMT. We will also be opening the church for private prayer on two days during the week (Tuesday Morning from 10:00 to 10:30 am and Thursday Evening from 7:00 to 7:30 pm).

COLLECT FOR THE EPIPHANY 4

God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen.



READINGS FOR EPIPHANY 4

Deuteronomy Ch. 18 VV. 15 – 20
Revelation No. 12 VV. 1 – 5a

Mark Ch. 1 VV. 21 – 28

PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK (THIS SUNDAY THE INTERCESSIONS WILL BE LED BY JAMES NISBET)



Lord, we pray this week for all those who have lost loved ones through the coronavirus pandemic. May they be comforted in their grief and feel your loving presence in their hearts. We give thanks for the vaccines that are now being administered and pray that we will soon see hospital admissions dropping. Give strength to our doctors and nurses as they battle to save lives and courage to those recovering from illness. Through 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 evermore. Amen.

MORNING WORSHIP ON THE 4TH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

This Sunday's Online Morning Worship service on Zoom will start at **10:00 am GMT**.

Details are being supplied in the email sending out this Pew Sheet.



CANDLEMAS

The Tuesday on-line Celtic Morning Worship Service on 2nd February at 09:30 am will include the Candlemas ceremonies. Participants will be invited to light a candle at home in the course of this service.

Ash Wednesday Service

This year's Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 7:30 pm on 17th February. It is currently expected that this service will be held on-line on Zoom. Details to follow over the coming weeks.

LENT COURSE

This year's Lent Study course as adopted by Churches Together in Risborough will be based on the book "Singing in Babylon" by Jeff Lucas. The 5 sessions will be weekly and online; and the St. John's sessions will be Thursday afternoons at 2.30 pm starting on 25th February. The book costs £7.99 and Kathryn at the St. Mary's Parish Office will be placing a bulk order with St. Andrew's Bookshop this coming Monday 1st February. If you would like Kathryn to order a book for you, please let Tony know by E Mail or telephone by first thing Monday morning (1st February).

