

NOTICES

Team Morning Prayer Services

The Risborough Team Clergy continue to meet on Wednesdays for 08:45 am Morning Prayer in turn at our respective churches.

15th December – Holy Trinity, Bledlow.
22nd December – St Mary's, Princes Risborough
29th December – NO PRAYER MEETING.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Christmas Tree Festival in Church – Sunday 12th December 12 noon to 3:00 pm
- Christingle Service – Sunday 12th December at 3:00 pm.
- Nine Lessons and Carols – Sunday 19th December at 6:00 pm.

CHURCHES TOGETHER ADVENT STUDY COURSE

The Churches Together in Risborough Study Course for Advent will follow the book "Advent for Everyone – a Journey through Luke" by Tom Wright. The St. John's sessions will be online on Tuesday afternoons - 14th and 21st December – all at 3pm.

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.



Key Contacts:

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	01494 562140
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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2021
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

You are warmly welcomed to St. John's Church, particularly if you are new to our congregation or are a visitor. This Sunday our Service will be led by Canon Tony.

WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

Following the lifting of most remaining Lockdown restrictions, on 20th July, the PCC Standing Committee have agreed to the following changes to worship at St. John's for the immediate future:

- Although no longer legally required, we request that, for the time being due to Covid-19 infection rates remaining high, that the congregation do continue to wear masks in Church, maintain social distancing and sanitise their hands.
- The choir has resumed singing in Church during the main Sunday service. The congregation are invited to join in the singing of hymns but are requested to do so wearing their masks.
- Holy Communion will continue in one kind only for the time being and will be administered from the area in front of the chancel step (as we have been doing during lockdown).
- The Peace will continue for the time being to be observed discreetly and following social distancing protocols.
- The congregation are asked to observe social distancing as far as possible and the Lady Chapel area will be set aside as a mandatory social distancing area for those who feel they need to socially distance themselves from others. Please respect this.

Weekly Services:

SUNDAY
8:00 am In-church Said BCP Communion Service (1st & 3rd Sun)
10:00 am In-church Parish Communion Service with Hymns
6:00 pm On-line Evening Prayer with Hymns (1st Sun).

TUESDAY
9:30 am In-church Said Parish Communion Service

FOCUS ON..... SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

The Gospel testimony is that John the Baptist was born when his parents were elderly. In a vision his Father Zechariah, who was a priest in the Jerusalem Temple, was instructed that the child was to be dedicated from the outset to become a Nazarite – set apart from the world to live a life of holiness as Christian monks and nuns were later to be. Those called to be Nazarites abstained from strong drink and let their hair grow without cutting it. The Old Testament strong man Samson was also dedicated as a Nazirite, a holy man set apart to honour God with his life and provide an example to others. It seems that, very early in his adult life, John the Baptist withdrew into the desert, where through prayer and fasting and self-discipline, he prepared himself for the ministry he was to fulfil as forerunner and herald of the anointed Messiah. It also appears that he returned to inhabited parts of Palestine a little before Jesus began his own ministry. John's message was a call to repentance and holy living; and he adapted the rite of cleansing by which Jewish converts were admitted to Judaism so that it became a ritual of Baptism of repentance in preparation for the coming of the Kingdom of God. We are told that John recognised Jesus as the Messiah by a vision of the Holy Spirit descending upon him in the form of a dove when he came to be Baptised by John; and that he spoke of Jesus as the Lamb of God. Soon after Jesus was Baptised, John was arrested by King Herod Antipas for having dared to criticise him for having married his brother's wife Herodias. She was herself bitterly angry with John the Baptist and, when her daughter danced before Herod on his birthday, she took the opportunity to seek for John to be executed by beheading. The chief feast of Saint John the Baptist is observed on Midsummer's Day on the basis that the Gospels state that he was born six months before the birth of Jesus and there is a tradition that Midsummer bonfires are lit to commemorate John whom Jesus himself described as "a burning and a shining light".

Canon Tony Bundock

COLLECT FOR 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Zephaniah Ch. 3 VV. 14 – 20
Philippians Ch. 4 VV. 4 – 7

Luke Ch. 3 VV. 7 – 18

PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

(THIS SUNDAY THE INTERCESSIONS WILL BE LED BY JUNE BRAZIER)



In Advent, as we prepare for the coming of your Holy Son. Dear Lord, our planet needs your healing power, compassion and mercy. Please inspire all peoples to learn how best to save our planet - your great Creation. Spare us from any virus, disease or illness. Inspire our Scientists to discover the vaccines that will conquer such invasions in our health. Thank you for the freedom to worship and trust in You, our Heavenly Father. In the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, 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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER FOR 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.

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, Beryl Palmer, Sally Zeybek, Doug Tilbury, Don White, Stuart Richards, John Roberts, Pat Syrett, Marina Deacon, Margaret Karstens and Motsansana Manyako.
- The recently departed, including Sally Smith. May their souls rest in peace. We pray for their families and friends 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. Particularly praying for countries where infection rates are very high and the hospitals are struggling to cope.
- 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.

CONFIRMATION

We are planning to present candidates for confirmation at Long Crendon on Sunday evening 30th January 2022 at 6:00 pm. The preparation course begins with a first session on Saturday 18th December at 3:00 pm which is due to be online. If anyone wishes to be confirmed at this service, please speak to Canon Tony.