

NOTICES

Team Morning Prayer Services

Wednesdays for 08:45 am Morning Prayer at Team churches in rotation:

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- Sunday 19th December at 6:00 pm – Nine Lessons and Carols.
- Friday 24th December at 3:00 pm – Annual Crib Service.
- Friday 24th December at 11:15 pm – Midnight Mass of the Nativity.
- Sat 25th December at 10:00 am – Christmas Day Communion Service.
- Sunday 26th December at 10:00 am – Parish Communion Service.

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 the final session being on 21st December at 3pm.

FIRST AID COURSE

Princes Risborough Baptists Church are planning to run a First Aid course in the new year but don't currently have enough people to fill it. If anyone at St. John's wishes to do a First Aid course (particularly to support their Church role) please contact either Vanessa or Sheila at the Baptist Church Office if they would like to join. There is a charge for the course. More details from Vanessa / Sheila (prbaptist@btconnect.com)

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
	Mrs Margaret Gray	01844 347094
PCC Secretary & Pew Sheet editor:	Mr Mark Roberts	01296 437345

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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2021
4TH 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..... MARY THE THEOTOKOS

As we light the candle on the Advent Wreath for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our thoughts are directed to the person of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was the Mother of our Lord. To the Orthodox Churches of the East and Russia, she is called the "Theotokos", the "god-bearer". Traditionally, Mary is believed to have been a young girl at the time that she received the astonishing news that she had been chosen to give birth to the Messiah, the Christ, the anointed Son of God. St. Matthew's Gospel does tell us of the angelic appearance to Joseph in which he is told of the forthcoming birth on the infant Christ, but it is Mary who appears to have had the more profound grasp on the realities of the situation. Her response to the angelic message is embodied in the familiar text of the Magnificat, the Canticle of Mary. Her joyful song has a distinct "edge" to it; of things changing and being turned on their head, the injustices of the world being turned upside down. It could be easy to leave it there with Mary, two millennia ago, firmly embedded in the world of first-century Palestine, where it is indeed a matter of great joy, but also far enough removed from our world to be "safe" or even sanitised. But that is not how we are expected to respond. To do justice to the nature of the message and this brave and tenderly young and resourceful first-century Jewish woman we need to try work out what it might mean for us in our church, in our community, in our locality, in the political and economic situation of today's world. That may not be at all easy – Mary was perplexed by this Good News, and so may we be. But let us also be prepared to do what she did – to go and find others to share the story, and yes to get away if we need to as she did in visiting her cousin Elizabeth, to talk to others who believe and understand. But most crucially to do whatever it is we need to do to enable us to sing Mary's song of life-changing obedience, justice, mercy, and faith - in our own time and in our own place.

Canon Tony Bundock

COLLECT FOR 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen.



READINGS FOR 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Micah Ch. 5 VV. 2 – 5a
Hebrews Ch. 10 VV. 5 – 10

Luke Ch. 1 VV. 39 – 55

PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK (THIS SUNDAY THE INTERCESSIONS WILL BE LED BY MARK ROBERTS)



In this Advent of expectation draw us together in unity, that our praise and worship might echo in these walls and also through our lives. Draw us together in mission, that the hope within might be the song we sing, and the melody of our lives. Draw us together in service, that the path we follow might lead us from a stable to a glimpse of eternity. 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 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.

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.

