

# NOTICES

## Team Morning Prayer Services

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

29<sup>th</sup> December – NO PRAYER MEETING.  
(January 2021 Service Locations to be Notified.)

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S

- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December at 10:00 am – Parish Communion Service.
- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> December at 9:30 am – Said Parish Communion Service.

## 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](mailto:prbaptist@btconnect.com))

**One Can Trust**



The One Can donation box is outside the Church so that we can continue to make our gifts to this worthy cause. Caroline will continue to take what has been collected on our behalf and deliver it to the main collection centre. Thanks very much to everyone who continues to support this cause. Please see the One Can Trust Web Site ([www.onecantrust.org.uk](http://www.onecantrust.org.uk)) for further details on the scheme and current urgent needs.

### 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
	<a href="mailto:mark.roberts975@btinternet.com">mark.roberts975@btinternet.com</a>	
	<a href="http://www.stjohnschurchlaceygreen.co.uk">www.stjohnschurchlaceygreen.co.uk</a>	

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



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing  
**SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021**  
**FESTIVAL OF ST. STEPHEN**  
**DEACON AND MARTYR**

### 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. You are wished a Merry Christmas on behalf of all at St. John's.

## WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

Recent UK Government Guidance has been reviewed and at this stage few changes are going to be required for in-church worship at St. John's. These will remain in place for the immediate future:

- Wearing masks in church, apart from for the choir when singing and for those leading worship is now mandatory. Also, during actual receipt of Holy Communion. The congregation are requested to wear masks in Church, maintain social distancing and sanitise their hands.
- Singing of hymns in Church during the sung services will continue. As before, 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.
- 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 (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun)  
10:00 am In-church Parish Communion Service with Hymns

TUESDAY

9:30 am In-church Said Parish Communion Service

## FOCUS ON..... CHRISTMAS JOY

**T**he song of the angels; the star of Bethlehem; the obedience of Mary and Joseph; the humility of the Shepherds; the perseverance of the Wise Men; sheep and cattle and camels, an ox and a faithful ass! These are the familiar elements to the great Christmas story of the birth of Christ which continues to engage and excite the imagination and the faith of people of all ages and across the whole world. It is like gold dust trickling through our fingers!

On behalf of everyone at Saint John's Church, and as we complete our Advent journey of yearning hope and expectation, I do invite you in whatever way you are able to join with us in the Church's great festival of the celebration of the 12 Days of Christmas. It is a time of the year when the veil between earth and heaven rolls back once more as we join again in the song of glory and in proclaiming the holy message of peace and joy to the world so wonderfully expressed in the familiar carol written in 1719 by the English minister and hymn-writer Isaac Watts:

*Joy to the World, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.*

May the Lord grant to you and your loved ones a truly blessed and joyful Christmas.

*Canon Tony Bundock*

### **COLLECT FOR FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN DEACON & MARTYR**

Gracious Father, who gave the first martyr Stephen grace to pray for those who took up stones against him: grant that in all our sufferings for the truth we may learn to love even our enemies and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt, looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us, Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen.



### **READINGS FOR ST. STEPHEN DEACON & MARTYR**

2 Chronicles Ch. 24 VV. 20 – 22  
Acts Ch. 7 VV. 51 – 60

Matthew Ch. 23 VV. 34 – 39

## **PRAYER CHAIN PRAYERS**

(This Sunday Service's Intercessions Led by JAMES NISBET)



Lord of all holiness, we thank You for giving us St. Stephen as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate the love of You he showed in choosing to devote himself to Your service as a deacon in the early Church. May his mission of helping the poor inspire us to do the same and guide our lives to think of those less fortunate than ourselves. 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.

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER FOR ST. STEPHEN DEACON & MARTYR**

Merciful Lord, we thank you for the signs of your mercy revealed in birth and death: save us by the coming of your Son, and give us joy in honouring Stephen, first martyr of the new Israel; 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, Sally Zeybek, Doug Tilbury, Don White, John Roberts, Pat Syrett, Marina Deacon & Christopher Roberts. Also, Margaret Karstens and Motsansana Manyako of Kuruman.
- The recently departed, including Sally Smith, Beryl Palmer and Father Jonathan Vervant (Kuruman). 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.

