

NOTICES / DIARY DATES

Event	Date and time	Venue
Team Bereavement "Drop In"	2 nd Mon of the Month (3:00 to 4:00 pm)	St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough
Team "Tea for All" for anyone who is feeling lonely and wants to drop in for tea, cake and a chat.	Last Sunday of the Month (2:30 to 4:30 pm)	St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough
Said Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)	Sun. 7 th January (8:00 am)	St. John's Church
Parish Communion	Sun. 7 th January (10:00 am)	St. John's Church
PCC Meeting	Tues. 9 th January (7:30 pm)	St. John's Church
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 10 th January (8:45 am)	St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 17 th January (8:45 am)	St. Dunstan's, Monks Risborough
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 24 th January (8:45 am)	Holy Trinity Bledlow
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 31 st January (8:45 am)	St. John's Church
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 7 th February (8:45 am)	St. John's Church

ONE CAN TRUST

One Can Trust are trying to create bags that enable families to make a nutritious meal. Soup is not needed, but all donations for the food cupboard are welcome, including tinned meat, tinned fish, lentils, pasta, tinned tomatoes and cook-in sauces. We are being told that donations to the Trust have been down recently, but demand remains high. We have a donations box outside the Church Porch. Thank you.

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 Margaret Gray	01844 347094
	Vacancy	-
PCC Secretary & Pew Sheet editor:	Mr Mark Roberts mark.roberts975@btinternet.com	01296 437345

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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY 2024
THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

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.

WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

Wearing masks in church is now optional except for the Lady chapel where we request that masks are still worn in this part of the Church. The Lady Chapel area will continue to be set aside as a mandatory social distancing area for those who feel they need to socially distance themselves from others. Please respect this. A bottle of sanitiser is available in the Chancel in front of the Chancel Screen for people to use, if they wish, before receiving Communion. The Common Cup is being used during our Communion services with a separate chalice for those who wish to receive by Intinction. We will generally be serving coffee after the 10:00 am Service on Sundays.

We have a card reader available, so we are able to take cashless offerings during services / donations. Linked to this we also have a QR code for members of the congregation to donate via their Smartphone, which can be used as of now. You will need a QR reader App to use this. Thank you for however you choose to make your offering.



Weekly Services:

SUNDAY

8:00 am	In-church Said BCP Communion Service (1 st & 3 rd Sun)
10:00 am	In-church Parish Communion Service with Hymns

TUESDAY

9:30 am	In-church Said Parish Communion Service
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FOCUS ON ... THE MAGI

In his Gospel narrative, Saint Matthew emphasises the kingship of Christ. In the Second Chapter of his Gospel account, he tells of Wise Men from the East who bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the infant King. Matthew also tells us of the encounter of the Magi with King Herod the Great, a despot and puppet ruler in the service of the Roman Empire. The historical testimony is that Herod was responsible for successfully carrying out a number of significant building projects including the reconstruction and extension of the Temple at Jerusalem. But history also records him to have been a wicked ruler who was married ten times, killed his favourite wife Mariamne, and murdered three of his own sons. Matthew's Gospel tells us that Herod was so fearful of the infant Jesus that he ordered the execution of all children in Bethlehem aged under two in an unsuccessful attempt to eliminate the holy child. This Gospel event is known as "The Holy Innocents", a commemoration which the Western Church observes each 28th December. The gifts of the Wise Men symbolise three key aspects of Christ's identity – gold representing his kingship, frankincense as a symbol of his priestly role, myrrh as a symbol of his prophetic role and a prefiguring of his sacrificial death and embalming. The three gifts of the Magi are also said to express their offering of love, truth and service to Jesus. According to Western Church tradition, the names of the Magi are Balthazar who is often represented as a King of Arabia or sometimes Ethiopia, Melchior as a King of Persia, and Caspar as a King of India. In Christian art from the 14th century onwards, Caspar has often been depicted as an old man, Melchior as a middle-aged man, and Balthazar as a young man. Though travelling together, and possibly from an area of ancient Babylon or Persia where the principal religion at that time was Zoroastrianism, their differing ethnicities are said to identify them as representative of the human race as a whole.

Canon Tony Bundock

COLLECT FOR 1ST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through 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*.



THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Genesis Ch. 1 VV. 1 – 5

Acts Ch. 19 VV. 1 – 7

Mark. Ch. 1 VV. 4 – 11

PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER



Lord, as we begin a new year and look forward to fresh experiences, we thank you that you are with each one of us as we walk along life's highway. We give thanks that whether we feel elated or face distress and tiredness, that you are our constant friend and companion. Help us to trust in you at all times, through life's highs and lows that we might come at last to behold the revelation of your majesty, *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 1ST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; 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; Mary Mines, Rita Probert, Roger Hussey, Martin Moore, Graham King, Dick Field, Helena Oecken, Marcus Barthropp, Ursula Glynn-Jones, Tony Scott, Sheila Wright and Kate Collet-Fenson.
- The recently departed including Irene Foord. May their souls rest in peace. We pray for their families and friends at this difficult time.
- We pray for our government, that they will lead wisely and fairly for all.
- We pray for countries where there have been natural disasters, for their peoples and for the various aid organisations bringing relief. We pray at this time for people of the UK who have been affected by recent storms including flooding.
- We pray for Peace in the Ukraine, the Sudan, Israel and The Gaza Strip. That there will be a rapid end to the fighting and the suffering for their Peoples.
- We pray for our National Health Service and the Doctors, Nurses and Support Staff.
- 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.