

FUTURE EVENTS

On **Sunday 6th December 2020** we will be holding our **Annual Toy Service**. It will be held at 10:00 am. We will advise nearer the time whether this will be a Church or Zoom service. Presents should be new and unwrapped and suitable for any child / young person. They can be brought to the church on 6th December or delivered anytime to Pat (01844 345452) or Margaret (01844 347094).



ADVERTISEMENT

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.

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, Jill Baker, Jenny King and Sally Zeybek.
- The recently departed, may their souls rest in peace. And their families.
- All parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and those caring for them. For the country of South Africa, for the people of Cape Town and Diocese of Kimberly and Kuruman.

Key Contacts:

Vicar:	Rev. Canon Tony Bundock	01844 347741
Team Rector:	Rev. David Williams	01844 346984
Licensed Lay Minister:	Mr Graham King	01844 343910
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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

**Week Commencing
SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2020
ADVENT SUNDAY**

FOCUS ON... ADVENT SUNDAY

On Advent Sunday we light the first of the candles on the Advent Wreath as our journey through the season of Advent gets under way. The tradition of lighting of the candles on the Advent Wreath is widely believed to have begun in the Lutheran Church in the 16th Century and was imported to this country from northern Europe in the nineteenth century; and is now common practice for both Protestant and Catholic Churches, as well as the Orthodox Churches of the east. In some traditions there are four candles but the Advent Wreath here at St. John's follows the custom of five candles. Three of them are violet and for Gaudete Sunday, which is the Third Sunday of Advent, there is a rose candle. At the centre of the Advent Wreath is the white candle which is traditionally lit for the first time at Midnight Mass, the first Eucharist of Christmas.

And so, on Advent Sunday, we begin a new phase in our own spiritual journey. It marks the beginning of the season of Advent, the penitential season which prepares our way both for the great festival of Christmas and for the coming of the Son of Man on clouds of glory. Though a penitential season, Advent is not marked by the self-mortification and self-denial which are characteristic of the traditions associated with the season of Lent. Advent is indeed a time for earnest prayer and self-examination; and for reflection of the weighty matters of judgement and the final things that await the world at the end of time. But it is a season that is principally characterised by hope and joyful yearning for what is to come into being. For the pilgrim people of God, then - the community of faith travelling together on a journey of hope and expectation - Advent Sunday marks a new beginning as, for the Church of God, another year of service for the sake of the Kingdom begins in earnest. A new liturgical year, known as Year B, begins on this day; and thus the Advent "tingle" of joyful anticipation stirs in our hearts once more.

Canon Tony Bundock

Weekly Services:

SUNDAY

TO BE CONFIRMED

TUESDAY

9:30 am

On-line Morning Worship on Zoom

WORSHIP IN CHURCH – COVID-19 MEASURES

England will emerge from the second lockdown on 2nd December 2020 following which Buckinghamshire will be in Tier 2 of the new Tiering System for England. We are still awaiting confirmation from the Diocese of Oxford, but it is expected that Collective Worship in Church can resume from Sunday 6th December. The times of the services are to be advised, but it is likely we will return to having a 10:00 am GMT Said Communion Service in Church followed by Morning Worship on Zoom each Sunday at 11:00 am GMT.

COLLECT FOR ADVENT SUNDAY

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever., *Amen.*



READINGS FOR ADVENT SUNDAY

Isaiah Ch. 64 VV. 1 – 9
1 Corinthians Ch. 1 VV. 3 – 9

Mark Ch. 13 VV. 24 – 37

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

Lord, as we begin the season of Advent let us focus our thoughts and prayers on peace and goodwill. May our hearts rejoice in the expectation of celebrating the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray that our families can be re-united and the troubles of the world can be cast aside by your infinite love and light.

Let us be thankful for our blessings and mindful of those less fortunate than ourselves around the world at this time. May peace and understanding prevail in anticipation of a better world to come. Amen

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen

MORNING WORSHIP ZOOM SERVICE FOR ADVENT SUNDAY

This Sunday's Online Morning Worship service on Zoom will be led by Canon Tony from St. John's with assistance from Graham King and start at **10:00 am** GMT.

This will permit the lighting of the first candle on the Advent Wreath. The hymns will be led by Cher and Gavin Mole. Other members of the congregation will be taking part.

The Zoom service this week is being arranged by Gavin Mole and Details of the Zoom Service link are being supplied in the email sending out this Pew Sheet.



MORNING WORSHIP ZOOM SERVICE FOR TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER

You are welcome to join us for Celtic Morning Worship Services on Tuesdays during this second period of Lockdown. These will be held at 9:30 am GMT in place of the usual Said Communion. Details are being supplied in a separate email that will be sent out in advance of the service, and are as follows:

Topic: Celtic Morning Prayer
Time: Dec 1, 2020 09:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71051891688?pwd=MIlvWTNzZVZxdmc0bnpnQzJTUHhOZz09>
Meeting ID: 710 5189 1688
Passcode: x7dvWA

DOORSTEP CAROLS

A small group of ministers belonging to Churches Together in Risborough have been discussing an idea to spread the good news of Christmas this year by way of us singing carols outside our front door as a way to bless our neighbours this Christmas and inviting them to join us in the carol singing. An idea that initially began at a local level has been picked up and developed by a national campaign - see details of the national campaign on <https://www.doorstepcarols.co.uk/>. The Churches Together in Risborough proposal is to sing the carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" outside our front doors at 6pm on Christmas Eve. Invitations with words of the carol will be available shortly.