

ANNUAL TOY SERVICE

Today we are holding our **Annual Toy Service** at the 10:00 am GMT service in Church with a blessing of the toys donated during the 11:00 am service on Zoom. Presents should be new and unwrapped and suitable for any child / young person. For those unable to be present at the service in church, presents can be brought to the church on 6th December or delivered anytime to Pat (01844 345452) or Margaret (01844 347094). They will be donated to the Salvation Army.



PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2020
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ADVERTISEMENTS

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.

ONE CAN TRUST. We now have a (plastic) One Can Trust donation box outside the church. Any non-perishable food items or toiletries will be gratefully received. Caroline Johnston will be taking the donated items to the Trust at intervals. Thanks for the donations received to date which will help struggling families at this time.

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 for 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
Churchwardens:	Mrs Pat Rushmere	01844 345452
	Mrs Margaret Gray	01844 347094
PCC Secretary & Pew Sheet editor:	Mr Mark Roberts	01296 437345
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www.stjohnschurchlaceygreen.co.uk

FOCUS ON... GOOD NEWS ACCORDING TO MARK

In contrast with the Gospels of St. Matthew and Saint Luke, Saint Mark does not begin his Gospel with a lengthy narrative of the events of the birth of Jesus Christ. Instead, he plunges directly into the start of Jesus's public ministry. Everything that then follows in Mark's Gospel is an explanation and exposition of his vibrant opening which starts with this very direct statement, "The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, Son of God". Then he quotes from the Prophet Isaiah to provide the context for the proclamation of John the Baptist, the messenger who prepares the way for the coming of the Messiah, the anointed Son of God. Furthermore, Mark's opening sentence states that this is only the "beginning" of the Good News. The implication is that, as we read Mark's Gospel narrative the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ just keeps coming to us and will continue to do so. So, if we are to share the Good News of Jesus, in a way that changes lives, then we must not allow it to appear too ordinary and mundane. It can be all too easy to speak of God's salvation as though this is not especially good news – by focusing on a kind of rule-bound form of religiosity that makes faith appear like a hurdle to be jumped rather than a glorious invitation to be accepted and to be shared. In fact, our word "repentance" comes from a Greek word *metanoia*, which literally means to turn around, a complete change of direction. That means something far more radical than simply behaving a little more decently and kindly. The Good News about Jesus is utterly life-transforming and life-changing. If we wish to share that message then, in the company of Saint Mark and Saint John the Baptist, we need to be personally caught up by it, living the Good News as well as proclaiming it. Even now, the Good News has the power to transform us again whenever we hear of it. We are still only at the beginning of understanding what the full message of the Good News really means.

Canon Tony Bundock

Weekly Services:

SUNDAY	
10:00 am	Said Communion (Common Worship)
11:00 am	On-line Morning Worship with Hymns on Zoom
TUESDAY	
9:30 am	Said Communion (Common Worship)

WORSHIP IN CHURCH – COVID-19 MEASURES

As of this Sunday, Collective Worship in Church has been allowed to resume. Buckinghamshire is currently in Tier 2 of the new Tiering System for England. This means that the same measures for worship in church that existed before the second lockdown will apply. Groups inside church should not be more than 6 persons, groups should not combine and there must be social distancing between groups. Holy Communion will continue to be in one kind only and the 2-metre social distancing requirement will apply. Contact details of those attending will need to be recorded in a suitable notebook and details kept for 3 weeks. **When attending worship in church you must continue to wear a face mask within the church building** apart from the celebrant, those reading lessons / leading intercessions and during receipt of Holy Communion.

COLLECT FOR 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT SUNDAY

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever,
Amen.



READINGS FOR 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah Ch. 40 VV. 1 – 11
2 Peter Ch. 3 VV. 8 – 15a

Mark Ch. 1 VV. 1 – 8

PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK (INTERCESSIONS DURING THE SERVICES WILL BE LED BY GRAHAM KING)

At this season of Advent, come Lord Jesus and let your light shine through us so that by our words and actions, we may be salt for the earth, a light in peoples' sight and that we might reach out to you in one another, especially those in need.
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 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 **11:00 am** GMT (new time now collective worship in church has resumed). Details are being supplied in the email sending out this Pew Sheet, and are as follows:

Topic: Morning Prayer with Hymns
Time: Dec 6, 2020 11:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79406710921?pwd=VnI1QnVOWnJsbUJCby9EenpHVnBwUT09>
Meeting ID: 794 0671 0921
Passcode: DWjn6t

(if copying the above into your internet browser window, you need to type in all of the text in blue as a single entry without a space – it has been split into two for formatting purposes.)



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 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.

PROVISIONAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

We are currently working on the programme of Christmas Services taking into account current Guidance and restrictions. Provisionally the programme looks to be as follows

- Christmas Eve 3.30 pm. Crib Service – an entirely online service broadcast from the church building.
- Christmas Eve 9.00 pm. A form of Nine Lessons and Carols – an entirely online service broadcast from the church building.
- Regrettably, we will not be celebrating a Midnight Mass this year, but on-line options are available for those who wish to join one. (The Carol service at 9.00 pm replaces this).
- Christmas Morning 10.00 am Said Holy Communion – with an outdoor carol at the end. A physical service in the church building but also broadcast to those who wish to join us online.
- Sunday 27th December St. John's Day 10.00 am – an entirely online service broadcast from the church building. It is proposed this will be Morning Prayer with Hymns.