

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 are pleased to confirm that Caroline has reinstated the One Can donation box outside the Church so that we can resume making 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.

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, Jenny King, Beryl Palmer, Sally Zeybek and Genevieve Hurrell.
- The recently departed, may their souls rest in peace. And for their families 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. For our own country where infection rates have been rapidly increasing in recent weeks and the health services as they work to cope with increasing numbers of hospital cases.
- 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.

Key Contacts:

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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2021
2ND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

FOCUS ON... THE STEP OF FAITH

The four Gospel writers begin their accounts of the life of Jesus very differently. Matthew and Luke both begin with different accounts of the events leading up to the birth of Jesus; whilst Mark omits the nativity and childhood of Jesus completely, starting with the herald John the Baptist and his meeting with the adult Jesus. John offers yet another approach. Poetically fusing a variety of traditional materials and images familiar from the Old Testament, the Prologue with which John begins his Gospel takes us back to the unimaginable, mysterious origins of the universe before the dawn of time as we have come to know it. And there, says John, "was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God". This Word is the source of all created life; life which comes into being animated with the divine light, a light which no darkness can quench. Then, as the Prologue unfolds, events descend into the world of recorded time, with the introduction of John the Baptist as the herald of and witness to the light – Christ, the Word made flesh. But the air of mystery continues, because faith and belief in Christ, we are told, enables us to become children of God. And so, we are in the mysterious realms of "unknowing" here, way beyond the ability of our limited human senses and perception to grasp and comprehend. This is where faith really steps in. Faith accepts the scientific facts as our knowledge and awareness of the universe expands – and yet still believes that we are born through the will of a God who created us, knows us and loves us. Jesus taught that even the death of a sparrow is noted by God, and that we are so precious to God that "even the hairs of your head are all counted". The challenge comes for us when we realise all too well the limits of our own strength and abilities – and we then project our own limitations onto God. But we can take the step of faith in hope and trust, to look beyond our limitations - to the limitless possibilities offered us in God's love.

Canon Tony Bundock

Weekly Services:

SUNDAY

10:00 am GMT On-line Morning Worship with Hymns on Zoom

TUESDAY

9:30 am GMT On-line Celtic Morning Worship on Zoom

WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

Buckinghamshire remains in **Tier 5** which is in effect a third National Lockdown. Current guidance is where churches decide to do so and it has been judged safe, collective worship is still permitted, although the latest Guidance from the Bishop strongly encourages churches to suspend collective worship in church and switch to on-line services. However, the PCC has decided that in-church collective worship will be suspended for the present. This decision has been made to protect our congregation due to high infection rates in Buckinghamshire including with the new more transmissible strain of Covid-19. (The other churches in the Risborough Team are also suspending in-church services during January.) It is currently expected that this arrangement will continue until further notice.

We will continue to hold an On-line Morning Worship Service with Hymns on Sundays (at 10:00 am GMT for the rest of January and into February). The Tuesday morning service has been replaced with an On-line Celtic Morning Prayer service at 09:30 am GMT. We will also be opening the church for private prayer on two days during the week (Tuesday Morning from 10:00 to 10:30 am and Thursday Evening from 7:00 to 7:30 pm).

COLLECT FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever, *Amen*.



READINGS FOR 2 BEFORE LENT

Proverbs Ch. 8 V. 1 & VV. 22 – 31
Colossians Ch. 1 VV. 15 – 20

John Ch. 1 VV. 1 – 14

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



Heavenly Father, we turn to You who knows our deepest needs and desires. Guide us in these challenging times to make right decisions; to be a light to those around us; to support those in need and to bring glory to Your name in the communities in which we live and work.

Lord hear our prayer we beseech You.

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.

MORNING WORSHIP ON THE 2ND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

This Sunday's Online Morning Worship service on Zoom will start at **10:00 am GMT**.

Details are being supplied in the email sending out this Pew Sheet.



Ash Wednesday Service

This year's Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 7:30 pm on 17th February. It is currently expected that this service will be broadcast from St. John's on Zoom (on-line attendance only), kindly arranged by Gavin Mole. Details to follow over the coming weeks.

LENT COURSE

This year's Lent Study course as adopted by Churches Together in Risborough will be based on the book "Singing in Babylon" by Jeff Lucas. The 5 sessions will be weekly and online; and the St. John's sessions will be Thursday afternoons at 2.30 pm starting on 25th February. The book costs £7.99.

If you have ordered a book from St. Mary's via Canon Tony, payment is requested by bank transfer to the St. John's Church Account (or pass on a cheque to St. John's if preferred). St. John's has been requested to make a single payment to St. Mary's for all the books ordered.

Sort Code is: 40-24-17.

Account number is: 72102986

Account name: Parochial Church Council of St. John's

