

NOTICES

Team Morning Prayer Services

The Risborough Team Clergy continue to meet on Wednesdays for 08:45 am Morning Prayer in turn at our respective churches.

1st December – St Dunstan's, Monks Risborough.
8th December – St John's, Lacey Green.
15th December – Holy Trinity, Bledlow.
22nd December – St Mary's, Princes Risborough
29th December – NO PRAYER MEETING.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Advent Carol Service – Sunday 29th November 3:00 pm.
- Churches Together ecumenical Advent Service at St. Mary's – Sunday 29th November 6:00 pm.
- Family Eucharist and Toy Service – Sunday 5th December 10:00 am.
- Christmas Tree Festival in Church – Friday 10th December 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Saturday 11th December 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Sunday 12th December 12 noon to 3:00 pm (ending with Christingle service at 3:00 pm).

CHURCHES TOGETHER ADVENT STUDY COURSE

The Churches Together in Risborough Study Course for Advent will follow the book "Advent for Everyone – a Journey through Luke" by Tom Wright. The St. John's sessions will be online on Tuesday afternoons - 30th November, 7th, 14th and 21st December – all at 3pm. The book costs £7.99 and can be ordered from St. Mary's Parish Office through Canon Tony.

Key Contacts:

Vicar:	Rev. Canon Tony Bundock	01844 347741
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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2021
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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. This Sunday our Service will be led by Canon Tony.

WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

Following the lifting of most remaining Lockdown restrictions, on 20th July, the PC Standing Committee have agreed to the following changes to worship at St. John's for the immediate future:

- Although no longer legally required, we request that, for the time being due to Covid-19 infection rates remaining high, that the congregation do continue to wear masks in Church, maintain social distancing and sanitise their hands.
- The choir has resumed singing in Church during the main Sunday service. 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 (as we have been doing during lockdown).
- 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 (1st & 3rd Sun)
10:00 am In-church Parish Communion Service with Hymns
6:00 pm On-line Evening Prayer with Hymns (1st Sun).

TUESDAY

9:30 am In-church Said Parish Communion Service

FOCUS ON ADVENT SUNDAY

Advent is a season of the liturgical year observed by the majority of Christian denominations. It is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. In Western Christianity, Advent Sunday marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. 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. The name Advent derives from the Latin *Adventus* meaning “coming arrival”, translating the Greek *Parousia*. And so the season of Advent in the Christian calendar can be said anticipate the “coming of Christ” from three different perspectives: the physical Nativity in Bethlehem, the reception of Christ in the heart of the believer, and the eschatological Second Coming. The concept of the Advent Wreath originated amongst German Lutherans in the 16th Century and over time has developed and been adopted by all the major Christian denominations. The shape of the Advent Wreath is a crown representing the Kingship of Christ with the holly recalling the crown of thorns at his Crucifixion. The Advent wreath is adorned with candles, usually three violet or purple and one pink; the pink candle being lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, called *Gaudete Sunday*, the word *Gaudete* meaning “rejoice”. Many Churches add a fifth candle which is white. This is known as the Christ Candle. It is placed in the middle of the Advent Wreath, to be lit at the first Mass of Christmas and at Services throughout the 12 days of the great Christmas festival.

Canon Tony Bundock

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

Jeremiah Ch. 33 VV. 14 – 16
1 Thessalonians Ch. 3 VV. 9 – 13

Luke Ch. 21 VV. 25 – 36

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



Father, may our lives reflect Jesus' love as we look back in time to the first Advent of our Lord and Saviour, but let us never forget that there is a future Advent, a second coming when the earth will be filled with the glory of God once again, as the waters cover the sea. Lord, we know that You are returning, not as a tiny baby lying in a humble manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes, but as a conquering King Who is to come to rescue His people Israel. And Lord, we know that first You are to come in the clouds to take Your church back to Your heavenly home, when the dead in Christ will rise first and we will all be changed in a moment to become like You, Lord Jesus, 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 ADVENT SUNDAY

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; 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, Beryl Palmer, Sally Zeybek, Doug Tilbury, Margaret Karstens, Don White, Stuart Richards and John Roberts.
- The recently departed, 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.

CONFIRMATION

We are planning to present candidates for confirmation at Long Crendon on Sunday evening 30th January 2022 at 6:00 pm. The preparation course begins with a first session on Saturday 18th December at 3:00 pm which is due to be online. If anyone wishes to be confirmed at this service, please speak to Canon Tony.