

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.

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

- Family Eucharist and Toy Service – Sunday 5th December 10:00 am.
- Online Shorter form of BCP Evening Prayer with Hymns – Sunday 5th December 6.00 pm.
- 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
- Christingle Service – Sunday 12th December at 3:00 pm.
- Nine Lessons and Carols – Sunday 19th December at 6:00 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 - 7th, 14th and 21st December – all at 3pm.

Key Contacts:

Vicar:	Rev. Canon Tony Bundock	01844 347741
Team Rector:	Rev. David Williams	01844 346984
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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2021
2ND 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 PCC 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 WREATH – THE PROPHETS

For the second week of Advent, we light the second candle on the Advent Wreath to commemorate the hope and expectation of the Old Testament Prophets. In some traditions, this candle is known as the "Prophecy Candle" and it is lit in remembrance of the Prophets of Israel who looked for the coming of the Day of the Lord and the deliverance of the longer-for Messiah. Among the 55 Prophets named in the Jewish Talmud is the great Prophet Isaiah, whose foretelling of the birth of Christ Christians especially recall in the season of Advent and at the great festival of Christmas: *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)* The Prophets forewarned the ancient people of Israel and Judah of divine judgement in times when they fell into sin and apostasy. But they also delivered a message of hope and encouragement concerning the promise of divine deliverance. And, in times of oppression and occupation by foreign powers, they revived the faith of the people in the hope of coming of the Messiah and the promise of his glorious kingdom which would come into being. The prayer that is said as the second candle on the Advent Wreath is lit is as follows:

God our Father, you spoke to the prophets of old of a Saviour who would bring peace. You helped them to spread the joyful message of his coming kingdom. Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, to share with those around us the good news of your power and love. We ask this through Jesus Christ the light who is coming into the world. Amen.

The ancient Prophets, then, served as preachers expounding and interpreting God's will for the people. They acted as predictors announcing coming judgement, salvation, and events concerning the Messianic Kingdom. They functioned as watchmen over the well-being of Israel and Judah.

Canon Tony Bundock

COLLECT FOR 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Baruch Ch. 5. VV. 1 – 9
Philippians Ch. 1 VV. 3 – 11

Luke Ch. 3 VV. 1 – 6.

PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

(THIS SUNDAY THE INTERCESSIONS WILL BE LED BY JAMES NISBET)



Heavenly Father, You are the God who gives peace. During this second week of Advent, cause us to remember that because of Jesus we can experience a Christmas free from turmoil and chaos. Regardless of our circumstances or our situations, you offer us peace that passes all understanding. Keep us in perfect peace as our mind stays on the truth of your powerful love. Help us to trust fully in you and rest in the peace that you offer, 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 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; 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, Don White, Stuart Richards, John Roberts, Margaret Karstens and Motsansana Manyako.
- 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.