

NOTICES

Team Morning Prayer Services

Wednesdays for 08:45 am Morning Prayer at Team churches. The Team Clergy will resume weekly meetings for Morning Prayer during January attending Team Churches in rotation. The locations for the rest of January are as follows:

- Wed 12th – St. Dunstan's, Monks Risborough.
- Wed 19th – Holy Trinity, Bledlow.
- Wed 26th – St. Mary's, Princes Risborough.

FIRST AID COURSE

Princes Risborough Baptists Church are planning to run a First Aid course in the new year but don't currently have enough people to fill it. If anyone at St. John's wishes to do a First Aid course (particularly to support their Church role) please contact either Vanessa or Sheila at the Baptist Church Office if they would like to join. There is a charge for the course. More details from Vanessa / Sheila (prbaptist@btconnect.com)

One Can Trust



The One Can donation box is outside the Church so that we can continue to make 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. Please see the One Can Trust Web Site (www.onecantrust.org.uk) for further details on the scheme and current urgent needs.

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	01494 562140
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www.stjohnschurchlaceygreen.co.uk

PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 9TH JANUARY 2022
THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

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 the 10:00 am service will be led by Canon Tony.

WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

Recent UK Government Guidance has been reviewed and at this stage few changes are going to be required for in-church worship at St. John's. These will remain in place for the immediate future:

- Wearing masks in church, apart from for the choir when singing and for those leading worship is now mandatory. Also, during actual receipt of Holy Communion. The congregation are requested to wear masks in Church, maintain social distancing and sanitise their hands.
- Singing of hymns in Church during the sung services will continue. The congregation can continue to join in the singing of hymns, but 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.
- 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..... THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke all tell of how John the Baptist proclaimed Baptism for the forgiveness of sins; and told the crowds that he would be followed by someone more powerful than him. The Gospel writers also tell of how, at his Baptism by John, God's Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove, with the affirmation that Jesus is indeed God's beloved Son. In Luke's account, however, there are two important elements not included in Matthew or Mark. The first is John's proclamation that the "one who is more powerful" will bring judgement, will separate the wheat from the chaff. The longed-for Messiah was expected to come as judge as well as saviour. John's baptism of repentance was indeed good news in the face of imminent judgement. Saint Luke also wants us to see Jesus as a man of prayer. Elsewhere in his Gospel he writes about Jesus praying at important moments in his life and ministry; before calling his twelve disciples, before asking them who they believe he is, before teaching them how to pray, and during his last days in Jerusalem. And Luke says that it was whilst Jesus was praying that heaven opened and the Spirit of God descended, bestowing on him the blessing of his heavenly Father and thus the Messiah's right to judge and to forgive sins. We are told that immediately after his Baptism Jesus spent a long and testing time in the wilderness when perhaps, as he did on the cross, he felt abandoned by his Father. He would have needed to hold on in prayer to his experience of affirmation and blessing when he was tempted to doubt it. When we feel alone and lost in the wilderness, we too need to hold on prayerfully to the times when we have been affirmed and blessed. We are also called to affirm the good news to those struggling with their faith, and to all who judge themselves harshly. Because, in Jesus, we see abundant love and forgiveness, and the promise that we are indeed precious in his sight.

Canon Tony Bundock

COLLECT FOR THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen.



READINGS FOR THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Isaiah Ch. 43 VV. 1 – 7
Acts Ch. 8 VV. 14 – 17

Luke Ch. 3 VV. 15 – 17 & VV. 21 – 22

PRAYER CHAIN PRAYERS

(This Sunday Service's Intercessions Led by JUNE BRAZIER)



Dear Lord, we thank you for friendship, faith and hope. We thank you for food, shelter and warmth. For all those who are not so fortunate, and in distress and despairing, we earnestly pray for your loving presence in their lives, for hope and encouragement, and inspiration from the light of Jesus and the Holy Spirit to guide them on their pathway. 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 THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; 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, Sally Zeybek, Doug Tilbury, Don White, Pat Syrett, Marina Eldridge & Christopher Roberts. Also, Margaret Karstens and Motsansana Manyako of Kuruman.
- The recently departed, including Sally Smith, John Roberts and Irene Timmis (Mother of Sue Moore). 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.