

NOTICES / DIARY DATES

Event	Date and time	Venue
Team Bereavement "Drop In"	2 nd Mon of the Month (3:00 to 4:00 pm)	St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough
Team "Tea for All" for anyone who is feeling lonely and wants to drop in for tea, cake and a chat.	Last Sunday of the Month (2:30 to 4:30 pm)	St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 11 th October (8:45 am)	St. John's Church
Wed 11th October. Joint lunch and dinner at with live link to worship in Kimberley Cathedral and simultaneous Eucharist celebrated in Thame and Kimberley. Celebrant Bishop Steven. No charge if pre book. Further details from Canon Tony / Graham King		St Mary's Church, Thame
Harvest Festival	Sunday 15 th October (10:00 am)	St. John's Church
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 18 th October. (8:45 am)	St. Peter's Owlswick
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 25 th October (8:45 am)	St. Mary's Princes Risborough
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 1 st November (8:45 am)	St. John's Church

EASY FUNDRAISING

Did you know that when you make on-line purchases from many retailers at no cost to yourself the retailer will make a donation to St. John's Church on your behalf? This is done by accessing the retailer's web site via the Easy Fundraising web site and selecting St. John's Church, Lacey Green as your nominated charity. (www.easyfundraising.org.uk). For further details, please contact the Treasurer, Caroline Gulliver.

ONE CAN TRUST

One Can Trust are trying to create bags that enable families to make a nutritious meal. Soup is not needed, but all donations for the food cupboard are welcome, including tinned meat, tinned fish, lentils, pasta, tinned tomatoes and cook-in sauces. We are being told that donations to the Trust have been down recently, but demand remains high. We have a donations box outside the Church Porch. Thank you.

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 Margaret Gray	01844 347094
	Vacancy	-
PCC Secretary & Pew Sheet editor:	Mr Mark Roberts	01296 437345
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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 8TH OCTOBER 2023
18TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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.

WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

Wearing masks in church is now optional except for the Lady chapel where we request that masks are still worn in this part of the Church. The Lady Chapel area will continue to be set aside as a mandatory social distancing area for those who feel they need to socially distance themselves from others. Please respect this. A bottle of sanitiser is available in the Chancel in front of the Chancel Screen for people to use, if they wish, before receiving Communion. We have now re-introduced the Common Cup with a separate chalice for those who wish to receive by Intinction. We will generally be serving coffee after the 10:00 am Service on Sundays.

We have a card reader available, so we are able to take cashless offerings during services / donations. Linked to this we also have a QR code for members of the congregation to donate via their Smartphone, which can be used as of now. You will need a QR reader App to use this. Thank you for however you choose to make your offering.



Weekly Services:

SUNDAY

8:00 am	In-church Said BCP Communion Service (1 st & 3 rd Sun)
10:00 am	In-church Parish Communion Service with Hymns

TUESDAY

9:30 am	In-church Said Parish Communion Service
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FOCUS ON ... THE PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD

The Parable of the Vineyard in Saint Matthew's Gospel Chapter 21 Verses 33 to 46 takes the well-known biblical image of the vineyard as symbolic of God's territory, God's kingdom. And it is an image which Jesus uses to make a point to his listeners about expectation and what is meant by the phrase "expectancy violation". In this Gospel episode, Jesus is talking with Temple officials, who would have very well known that the vine was sometimes used in Scripture to represent the ancient Jewish people, as is the case in Psalm 80 verse 8 "you brought a vine out of Egypt, you drove out the nations and planted it". The imagery of the vine is a beautiful and vivid and precious picture of God's faithful people, and when we read the Old Testament narrative it indicates to us that, in Temple days, the concern of the Temple priests was to produce a worshipping culture in the Jerusalem Temple that reflected God's closeness to his ancient people, the people of Israel, God's precious vine. The Temple leaders hearing the teaching of Jesus would also have been familiar with the prophecy in Isaiah Chapter 5 Verses 1 to 7, with its stark warning about the need to bear good fruit in holy lives or risk the vineyard being destroyed or lost completely. The words of Jesus in Saint Matthew's narrative reflect the same concern as so many of the ancient prophets of Israel, and notably the prophet Micah, who wrote that the way of holiness is to "do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God". These are the ideals which make the following of a spiritual and religious life to be meaningful and purposeful. That is what we all want in life – a sense that our lives do have meaning and purpose. And so, Jesus shows both in word and deed that God's love is a gift and not something that can be earned simply by our efforts in prayer and worship alone, but that living in God's kingdom on earth comes as a result of this gift and is displayed in an exemplary way in the fruit of lives lived with justice, mercy and humility.

Canon Tony Bundock

COLLECT FOR 18TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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.



THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah Ch. 5 VV. 1 – 7
Philippians Ch. 3 VV. 4b – 14

Matthew Ch. 21 VV. 33 – 46

PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER



Lord, we pray for your healing of the earth. We know that you created this world and that you love it dearly. We pray for an end to the pollution and the destruction of your beautiful creation. Help us to be good stewards of the earth, and help us to live in harmony with all of your creatures. We pray for wisdom for our leaders. We pray that they would make decisions that would help to heal our world rather than add to its division and pain. We pray that they would seek your will and follow your leading, 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 18TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever, 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; Mary Mines, Lila King, Rita Probert, Roger Hussey, Martin Moore, Graham King, Dick Field, Helena Oecken, Kelly Safaris Silva, Marcus Barthropp, John Thomas-Davies, Frances Thomas-Davies, Richard Thomas-Davies, Jay Edmondson, Ursula Glynn-Jones Tony Scott and Sheila Wright.
- The recently departed. May their souls rest in peace. We pray for their families and friends at this difficult time.
- We pray for our government, that they will lead wisely and fairly for all.
- We pray for countries where there have been natural disasters, for their peoples and for the various aid organisations bringing relief. We particularly pray for the countries of Libya and Morocco, where there have been recent natural disasters.
- We pray for Peace in the Ukraine and the Sudan. That there will be a rapid end to the fighting and the suffering for their Peoples.
- We pray for our National Health Service and the Doctors, Nurses and Support Staff.
- 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.