

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
Parish Communion	Sun. 31 st December (10:00 am)	St. John's Church
Said Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)	Sun. 7 th January (8:00 am)	St. John's Church
Parish Communion	Sun. 7 th January (10:00 am)	St. John's Church
PCC Meeting	Tues. 9 th January (7:30 pm)	St. John's Church
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 10 th January (8:45 am)	St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 17 th January (8:45 am)	St. Dunstan's, Monks Risborough
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 24 th January (8:45 am)	Holy Trinity Bledlow
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 31 st January (8:45 am)	St. John's Church

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 mark.roberts975@btinternet.com	01296 437345

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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 31st DECEMBER 2023
1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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. The Common Cup is being used during our Communion services 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

FOCUS ON ... THE SHEPHERDS

In his Gospel narrative, Saint Luke emphasises to his readers Jesus as the Son of Man, fully entering into our humanity. For Luke, Jesus is good news for all, but especially for the outsiders in society. In his story of the Nativity, Luke does not mention the Magi, but rather he tells of how the angel appeared to shepherds and how these humble people then travelled what was presumably a relatively short journey to Bethlehem in order to see Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. A crucial element to Saint Luke's account is that the shepherds are the outsiders, literally and metaphorically. But crucially, it is to these outsiders that the angel proclaims the good news of the birth of Jesus. If Saint Luke were present in person today, he would no doubt tell us that this is good news for each person born into humble circumstances, or who finds themselves on the edge of society. And so it is that the angels choose to sing the good news to outsiders. But, in Luke's account, the shepherds are not just to kneel in front of the baby Jesus – these illiterate shunned people are the ones who have been chosen to pass on the extraordinary message that this baby is our Saviour, the Messiah, the Lord. This is turning the values of the world upside down. What does this say to us, then, if we do not regard ourselves as outsiders? As individuals, each of us is a mixture. There are parts of ourselves we like, and parts of ourselves we dislike and would like to change. Just as the angel of the Lord did not appear to those who were most admired or considered worthy in first-century Palestine, but to the shepherds, the good news that the angels bring is primarily for those parts of ourselves we feel bad about. As we come, like the shepherds, to kneel in front of the child in the manger, we are able to bring all of ourselves, the bits we find likeable and the bits we find much harder to like, in order in order to receive the joy of the message given to the shepherds, the good news that God is with us.

Canon Tony Bundock

COLLECT FOR 1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; 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. 61 V. 10 – Ch. 62 V. 3
Galatians Ch. 4 VV. 4 – 7

Luke Ch. 2 VV. 15 – 21

PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER



As we celebrate Christmas when your Word became flesh, we pray that we and your church may be filled with your loving life and that our words and actions touch the world with hope, *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 1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; 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; Mary Mines, Rita Probert, Roger Hussey, Martin Moore, Graham King, Dick Field, Helena Oecken, Marcus Barthropp, Ursula Glynn-Jones, Tony Scott, Sheila Wright and Kate Collet-Fenson.
- The recently departed including Irene Foord. 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 pray at this time for people in the North of England and Scotland who have been affected by Storm Gerrit.
- We pray for Peace in the Ukraine, the Sudan, Israel and The Gaza Strip. 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 Kimberley and Kuruman including our linked parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.