

You are very welcome to take your Pew Sheet home

Please see the back page for a list of upcoming services in the United Benefice

Sunday -3rd January 2016 - CW edition



**The United Benefice of Long Crendon (LC),
Cheersley (Ch) & Nether Winchendon (NW)**

**WELCOME EVERYONE TODAY AND EVERY DAY AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS**

Prayer



God our Father, in love you sent your Son that the world may have life: lead us to seek him among the outcast and to find him in those in need, for Jesus Christ's sake.. **Amen**

Collect for the Second Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God, in the birth of your Son you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word, and shown us the fullness of your love: help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love that we may know the fullness of his joy; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Readings for Today:

Old Testament: Jeremiah 31.7-14



For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel. "See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labour, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say,

"He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

The Epistle: Ephesians 1.3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Gospel: St. John 1.1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness

to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Post Communion Prayer

All praise to you, almighty God and heavenly king, who sent your Son into the world to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin: grant that, as we are born again in him, so he may continually dwell in us and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven, now and for ever.

Christmas Services – a big thank you to everyone who helped and supported the Christmas services across our Benefice, decorating the churches beautifully, singing, cleaning, and many other jobs without which we would not be able to offer such a choice of services.

Notes for your diary:

Sunday 10th January is Plough Sunday, so at St. Mary's Long Crendon the Morris Men will be dancing in church at the end of the 10:30 am Holy Communion service.

Saturday 30th January 2016 - Long Crendon Friends of St. Mary's Safari Supper. Forms are available from St. Mary's, the Flowerpot Café, the Library, or from james.frew@mac.com Forms will also be e-mailed to everyone who took part last year, or if you have queries call Mary Frew on 202018. The deadline for joining is Saturday 16th January – we look forward to seeing you!

Services in the United Benefice

Services Sunday 3rd January 2016 – Christmas 2

9.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	NW	Steve and Rose Williams
10.00 am	Café Sunday	LC	Ray Copping
10:00 am	Family Communion	Ch	Steve and Rose Williams
6:00 to 7:30 pm	Rock Solid Youth Group		

Services Sunday 10th January 2016 – The Baptism of Christ or First Sunday of Epiphany

10:00 am	Morning Celebration	Ch	Lay Led
10:00 am	Matins	NW	Robert Spencer Bernard
10:30 am	Holy Communion	LC	Andy Bell
6.00 pm	Evensong	Ch	John Scholefield

Services Sunday 17th January 2016 – Epiphany 2

9.00 am	Holy Communion	Ch	Derek Witchell
10.00 am	Family Holy Communion (BCP)	NW	Derek Witchell
10:30 am	Family Service	LC	Ray Copping

Services Sunday 24th January 2016 – Epiphany 3 or The Conversion of St. Paul

10.00 am	Family Service	Ch	John Scholefield
10.30 am	Holy Communion	LC	Tom Farrell
5:00 pm	Evensong	NW	Robert Hutton

Service Sunday 31st January 2016 – Epiphany 4 or The Presentation of Christ

10:00 am	United Benefice Service	LC	Gordon Kuhrt
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Note: this is a fifth Sunday and there will be no service in Chearsley or Nether Winchendon on this day

If you have events coming up in the Benefice and would like them included in future Pew Sheets, please let us have the details on llm.chearsley@btinternet.com Please note that your wording may have to be edited to fit the available space - John and Jenny Scholefield