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## Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016 - CW edition



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

WELCOME EVERYONE TODAY AND EVERY DAY

### Prayer



Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

### Collect for the Second 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 Today:



#### The Old Testament: Isaiah 11.1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall

eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

### **The Epistle: Romans 15.4-13**

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **The Gospel: St. Matthew 3.1-12**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root

of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

## Post Communion Prayer

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**

## Notes for your diary:

**Don't forget to keep looking for sheep**, and noting down their names, in Nether Winchendon until the Crib Service on **18<sup>th</sup> December**, and in Chearsley until the Crib Service on **24<sup>th</sup> December**. Extra entry forms from <http://chearsley.blogspot.co.uk/> click on St. Nicholas, Chearsley.

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**, 7:00 pm, St. Mary's is hosting an Advent Service on behalf of the Trustees of the Addington Fund, which provides homes for farming families in England and Wales, who have had to leave the industry through no fault of their own. Lots of carols to sing together, followed by refreshments. Please RSVP to Addington Fund on 01926 620135 if you would like to join in.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**, 9:30 am, St. Nicholas, Nether Winchenden, Monthly Prayer Gathering. This is an opportunity to pray for our three villages and the wider world. Remember, the Church advances on its knees! Ray Copping.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**, 11am-1pm, Chearsley Village Hall, "Elevensies" with Christmas Food and Crafts to buy, in aid of Chearsley Village Hall. If you have some craft items to donate, or could make some, please contact Anne Pratt, who will be delighted to hear from you.

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2017**, 9:30 am, St. Mary's, Long Crendon, Monthly Prayer Gathering. Everyone is welcome. Ray Copping

**Looking further ahead to 2017:** Friends of St. Mary's, Long Crendon: **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February**, Safari Supper; and **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February**, Dinner and Entertainment at the Manor, Long Crendon. All proceeds go to help preserve and improve the fabric of our lovely old village church, St. Mary's. Please book through [www.FSMLongCrendon.org](http://www.FSMLongCrendon.org) or e-mail [friends@FSMLongCrendon.org](mailto:friends@FSMLongCrendon.org) or call Geoff Smith 01844 208205 or Chris Miller on 208027 (Gift Aid form available from Geoff).

## Services in the United Benefice

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent (CW) or 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent (BCP)**

8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	LC	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Patronal Service for Ch and NW, and Toy Service	Ch	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Café Sunday with Christingle	LC	Rob Freestone

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (CW) or 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent (BCP)**

8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	LC	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Holy Communion	LC	Richard Phillips
4:00 pm	Christingle	Ch	Richard Phillips
6:00 pm	Lessons and Carols	NW	Richard Phillips

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2016 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (CW) or 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent (BCP)**

10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion	Ch	Derek Witchell
10:00 am	Family Crib/Christingle	NW	Richard Phillips
4:00 pm	Lessons and Carols	Ch	Richard Phillips
6:00 pm	Lessons and Carols	LC	Richard Phillips

### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2016 - Christmas Eve**

2:00 pm	Crib Service	LC	Richard Phillips
3:30 pm	Crib Service	Ch	Richard Phillips
9:00 pm	Holy Communion (BCP) with carols, NW		Richard Phillips
11:00 pm	Midnight Communion	Ch	Richard Phillips

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2016 – Christmas Day**

10:00 am	Family Holy Communion	LC	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Christmas Praise	Ch	John Scholefield
10:00 am	Christmas Family Service	NW	Robert Hutton

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 – The Second Sunday of Christmas (CW) or The Sunday after Christmas Day (BCP)**

10:00 am	United Benefice Holy Communion	LC	Richard Phillips
All are welcome at this United Benefice service at St. Mary's, which will be the only service in the three churches on this day (please note time).			

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](mailto:llm.chearsley@btinternet.com) Please note that your wording may have to be edited to fit the available space - John and Jenny Scholefield