

Services in the United Benefice

Sunday 10th December 2017 - Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 am	Holy Communion	LC	Richard Phillips
10:30 am	Holy Communion	LC	Derek Witchell
4:00 pm	Lessons and Carols	Ch	Richard Phillips
6:00 pm	Lessons and Carols	NW	Richard Phillips

Sunday 17th December 2017 - Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 am	Holy Communion	Ch	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Crib and Christingle	NW	Richard Phillips
4:00 pm	Christingle	Ch	Richard Phillips
6:00 pm	Lessons and Carols	LC	Richard Phillips

Sunday 24th December 2017 – Christmas Eve

2:00 pm	Crib Service	LC	Richard Phillips
3:30 pm	Crib Service	Ch	Richard Phillips
9:00 pm	Holy Communion	NW	Richard Phillips
11:00 pm	Holy Communion	Ch	Richard Phillips

Monday 25th December 2017 – Christmas Day

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

Sunday 31st December 2017 – First Sunday of Christmas

10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion	LC	Derek Witchell
----------	-------------------------	----	----------------

This is a fifth Sunday and there will be no other Benefice service on this day

Sunday 7th January 2018 – Epiphany 1 and Baptism of Christ

9:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	NW	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Family Holy Communion	Ch	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Café Sunday	LC	Café Sunday Team

Sunday 14th January 2018 – Second Sunday of Epiphany

8:00 am	Holy Communion	LC	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Morning Celebration	Ch	Morning Celebration Team
10:00 am	Matins	NW	Robert Spencer Bernard
10:30 am	Holy Communion	LC	Richard Phillips/Ray Copping
6:00 pm	Evensong	Ch	John Scholefield

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

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 10th December 2017 - CW edition



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

WELCOME EVERYONE TODAY AND EVERY DAY

Parish Prayer Points for December



Prayer is the foundation of all we do in our daily lives as well as in our church life - after all, a relationship thrives on communication! As we pray throughout Advent and Christmas on our own, in small groups, and at services, can I invite us to pray for these particular people:

In our 3 churches, giving thanks for our wonderful organists and choirs who lead us in sung worship throughout the year.

In our 3 villages, praying for our local shops and services, for a fair return on all their hard work as they serve us.

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 40.1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the



way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Epistle: 2 Peter 3.8-15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Gospel: St. Mark 1.1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

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**



Throughout December Chearsley's Knitted Mary and Joseph are looking for somewhere to stay on their way through Chearsley to Bethlehem. Could any Chearsley households offer them a home for one night during December? If so, contact Sharon 208740. We will also be hiding painted nativity rocks around the village to be found and re-hidden during December (see "Chearsley Rocks" face book page).

Note for your diary:

Saturday 6th January, Monthly Prayer Gathering at St. Mary's Long Crendon, 9:30-10:30 am to focus on the three villages and wider issues. From our three churches we can expect prayers for, for example, those struggling with ill health, thanksgiving for the various events and services with which we will have celebrated Christmas, and entering our New Year with the Alpha course. And whatever else may be on our hearts to pray for! All welcome. Ray Copping and Geoff Hogbin