

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 11th December 2016 - CW edition



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

WELCOME EVERYONE TODAY AND EVERY DAY

Prayer



God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Readings for Today:

The Old Testament: Isaiah 35.1-10



The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for

joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Epistle: James 5.7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Gospel: St. Matthew 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen**

St. John 8.12

Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

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 **18th December**, and in Chearsley until the Crib Service on **24th December**. Extra entry forms from <http://chearsley.blogspot.co.uk/> click on St. Nicholas, Chearsley 'loading'.

Saturday 7th 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 4th February**, Safari Supper; and **Saturday 11th 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 or e-mail 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 11th December 2016 – 3rd Sunday of Advent (CW) or 3rd Sunday in Advent (BCP)

8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	LC	Richard Phillips
10:30 am	Holy Communion	LC	Richard Phillips
4:00 pm	Christingle	Ch	Richard Phillips
6:00 pm	Lessons and Carols	NW	Richard Phillips

Sunday 18th December 2016 – 4th Sunday of Advent (CW) or 4th 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 24th 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 25th 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 1st 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).			

Sunday 8th January 2017 – The Epiphany (CW) or First Sunday after the Epiphany (BCP)

8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	LC	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Morning Celebration	Ch	Lay Led
10:00 am	Matins	NW	Robert Spencer Bernard
10:30 am	Holy Communion	LC	Richard Phillips/Robert Hutton
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