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

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2017 - CW edition**



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

**WELCOME EVERYONE TODAY AND EVERY DAY**

**Parish prayer points for February**



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 February on our own, or in gatherings on Sunday and during the week, can I invite us to pray for these particular people:

In our church, giving thanks for all who serve in our three bands of bell-ringers, as they ring out God's glory and welcome. For our tower captains Andrew Haseldine, Oliver Porteous, and Anne Pratt as they lead them. For those considering learning to ring. And finally for all those who have provided financially towards our magnificent bells themselves.

In our three villages, please pray for everybody who works in the hospitality industry. For those who work elsewhere, and for our pubs and restaurants, B&Bs, reception venues and marquee businesses based here.

**Collect for the Third Sunday before Lent**

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Readings for Today:**



### **The Old Testament: Deuteronomy 30.15-end**

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

### **The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3.1-9**

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

### **The Gospel: St. Matthew 5.21-37**

"You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be

liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. "Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

## **Note for your diary:**

<p><b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>, Monthly Prayer Gathering at St. Nicholas' Nether Winchendon, 9:30 -10:30 am. Our prayer focus will be on the three villages and wider issues. All are welcome. Ray Copping and Geoff Hogbin</p>
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## Services in the United Benefice

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – The Third Sunday before Lent, Proper 2 (CW) or Septuagesima (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	Derek Witchell
6:00 pm	Evensong	Ch	John Scholefield

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – The Second Sunday before Lent (CW) or Sexagesima (BCP)

9:00 am	Holy Communion	Ch	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Family Service	NW	Richard Phillips
10:30 am	Family Service	LC	Lay Led

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2017 - Sunday next before Lent (CW) or Quinquagesima (BCP)

8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	LC	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Family Service	Ch	Richard Phillips
10:30 am	Holy Communion with choir	LC	Steve and Rose Williams
5:00 pm	Evensong	NW	Robert Hutton

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 – Ash Wednesday

7:30 pm	Benefice Service	Ch	Richard Phillips
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### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – The First Sunday of Lent (CW) or the First Sunday in Lent (BCP)

9:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	NW	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Café Sunday	LC	Lay Led
10:00 am	Family Holy Communion	Ch	Derek Witchell

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – The Second Sunday of Lent (CW), or the Second Sunday in Lent (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	Derek Witchell
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](mailto:llm.chearsley@btinternet.com) Please note that your wording may have to be edited to fit the available space - John and Jenny Scholefield