

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 13th December 2015 - 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:



Old Testament: Zephaniah 3.14-end

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Epistle: Philippians 4.4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Luke 3.7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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**

Notes for your diary:

Sunday 20th December 4:00 pm Cheersley Carol Service - first choir practice is on **Friday 11th December**, 8:00 pm at Mead House. Please contact Jeremy Pratt to volunteer.

Saturday 12th December 6:30 pm – switch on of the Christmas Tree lights on Cheersley village green. Come and enjoy the traditional start to Christmas in Cheersley with carol singing round the tree and refreshments for everyone. There will be a collection for dEBra and Cystic Fibrosis. The date for Carol Singing round the village will be announced shortly.

Benefice singers - Sunday 20th December Nine Lessons and Carols Service, Long Crendon, at 6pm. The Benefice Choir would love to have more adult and child members. Rehearsals will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesdays 8th and 15th December. No need to be able to read music to join - the main requirement is that you enjoy singing. So come along and have fun! Please contact Chris Mundy (chrismundy100@gmail.com), or Catharine Meek on 01844 208536.

Services in the United Benefice

Services Sunday 13th December 2015 – Advent 3

10:00 am	Morning Celebration	Ch	Lay Led
10:30 am	Holy Communion	LC	Ian Ogilvie
4:00 pm	Christingle	LC	Andy Bell
6:00 pm	Evensong	Ch	John Scholefield
6:00 pm	Lessons and Carols	NW	Robert Hutton

Services Sunday 20th December 2015 – Advent 4

10.30 am	Family Holy Communion	LC	Ray Copping
3:00 pm	Christingle	NW	Derek Witchell
4:00 pm	Lessons and Carols	Ch	John Scholefield
6:00 pm	Lessons and Carols	LC	Tina Stirling

Services Thursday 24th December 2015 – Christmas Eve

3:00 am	Crib Service	Ch	Lay Led
9:00 pm	Holy Communion (BCP) with Carols	NW	Tina Stirling

Services Friday 25th December 2015 - Christmas Day

10:00 am	Family Holy Communion	LC	Archdeacon Karen Gorham
10:00 am	Christmas Praise	Ch	John Scholefield
10:00 am	Family Service	NW	Robert Hutton

Service Sunday 27th December 2015 – The First Sunday of Christmas, or St. John the Apostle and Evangelist

10.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	NW	Ian Ogilvie
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This is a United Benefice Service for all three parishes, and will be the only service in the Benefice today.

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		

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