

Services in the United Benefice

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 |

Sunday 21st January 2018 - Third Sunday of Epiphany, Plough Sunday

| | | | |
|----------|----------------|----|------------------|
| 9:00 am | Holy Communion | Ch | Richard Phillips |
| 10:00 am | Family Service | NW | Richard Phillips |
| 10:30 am | Family Service | LC | Richard Phillips |

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 17th 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.

Collects 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**

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**

Readings for Today:

The Old Testament: Isaiah 61.1-4 and 8-end



The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those

who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Gospel: St. John 1.6-8 and 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now

they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptising if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptise with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising.

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**



Throughout December Chearsley's Knitted Mary and Joseph have been staying in Chearsley on their way to Bethlehem. They are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Crib Service at 3:30pm on Christmas Eve, and to seeing all their sheep again.



The Alpha Course, for anyone in the Benefice, starts on 11th January, from 8-9:30 pm in Church House, Long Crendon. It is for anyone who is curious to explore the big questions of life, faith and meaning. The sessions are designed to encourage conversation and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. We will enjoy homemade puddings, a short film, and a discussion where you can share your own thoughts. To register your interest, or seek further information, please e-mail Robert at needlecottage@btinternet.com

Notes for your diary:

Carol Singing round the villages:
Chearsley Tuesday and Wednesday 19th and 20th December meet at Bus Stop at 6:30 pm.

Long Crendon Thursday 21st December meet under the lamp-post outside the Vicarage.

Saturday 6th January, first Monthly Prayer Gathering of 2018 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