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

Sunday 18th December 2016 - CW edition



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

WELCOME EVERYONE TODAY AND EVERY DAY

**A Christmas Greeting from our Vicar,
the Reverend Richard Phillips:**

Welcome to Christmas! Reflecting on this momentous year, I am reminded that, in coming to live a human life as Jesus, God assures us that He's never going to give up on the world He created.

If you are left with any questions, comments about our services, or suggestions about the way your churches serve the local community, please email me on reverend.richard.phillips@gmail.com, or call the vicarage on 208987.

In the meantime, can I thank you on behalf of my family for the tremendous welcome we've received since moving here in September, and wish you a blessed Christmas.

Richard

Prayer



Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; 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: Isaiah 7.10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

The Epistle: Romans 1.1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel: St. Matthew 1.18-end

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Notes for your diary:

Monday 19th December, Long Crendon Carols in the Square, 6:30 pm.

Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st December, Cheersley Carol Singing around the village. Meet at the Bus Stop at 6:30 pm. We need singers and collectors – all volunteers welcome!

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 Cheersley until the Crib Service on **24th December**. Extra entry forms from <http://stnicholascheersley.blogspot.co.uk/>

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 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

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

Sunday 15th January 2017 – Second Sunday of Epiphany (CW) or Second Sunday after the Epiphany (BCP)

9:00 am	Holy Communion	Ch	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Family Service	NW	Robert Hutton
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