

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 20th December 2015 - CW edition



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

WELCOME EVERYONE TODAY AND EVERY DAY

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:



Old Testament: Micah 5.2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrata, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Epistle: Hebrews 10.5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel: Luke 1.39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

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**

To all Chearsley children searching for Woolly and his friends – please note that the time for the Chearsley Crib Service on Christmas Eve is 3:00 pm (and not 4:00 pm as was accidentally printed on the competition sheets)



Notes for your diary:

Sunday 20th December 4:00 pm Chearsley Carol Service – the next choir practices are on Wednesday 16th December, 8:00 pm in the church, and Sunday 20th at 3:00 pm, directly before the Carol Service. Please contact Jeremy Pratt to volunteer.

Benefice singers - Sunday 20th December Nine Lessons and Carols Service, Long Crendon, at 6:00 pm. The next rehearsal of the Benefice Choir will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 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.

Tuesday 22nd December 6:30 pm – Chearsley's Carol Singing round the Village. Meet at the bus stop at 6.30 that evening (bring a torch and ideally wear something reflective). There will be the traditional post singing refreshments!

Services in the United Benefice

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		

Services Sunday 10th January 2016 – The Baptism of Christ or First Sunday of Epiphany

10:00 am	Morning Celebration	Ch	Lay Led
10:00 am	Matins	NW	Robert Spencer Bernard
10:30 am	Holy Communion	LC	Andy Bell
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