

Services in the United Benefice

Sunday 24 th 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 25 th 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 31 st 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 7 th 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 14 th 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 21 st 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

Sunday 28 th January 2018 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, Presentation of Christ, Septuagesima			
8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	LC	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Family Service	Ch	Richard Phillips
10:30 am	Holy Communion	LC	Derek Witchell
5:00 pm	Evensong	NW	Robert Hutton

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 24th December 2017 - Christmas Eve and Midnight Ch CW edition



Christmas greeting from Rev Richard

It strikes me that Christmas is a time which should raise questions. After all, we hear and sing about angels, virgin's conceiving, wise men searching, kings slaughtering children, and a baby born amongst animals.

We can of course choose to do nothing with these questions, perhaps taking comfort from their familiarity in an uncertain world. Or we can choose to respond with the curiosity of the shepherds and wise men, and do something to explore whether Jesus really can be God living a human life, and why it all happened.

A great way to do this would be join our Alpha Course starting in January. It offers a chance to gather in an informal setting, enjoy some homecooked pudding and good wine, watch a video exploring the basics of the Christian faith, and then voice your questions in small groups.

Meanwhile, if you have any comments about our services, or suggestions about the way your churches can serve the local community, please email me on reverend.richard.phillips@gmail.com, or call the vicarage on 208987.

God bless you and keep you curious this Christmas!

Richard

Just why was this baby born?

Explore: Life • Faith • Meaning

Alpha Course


Starts 11th January 8.00 – 9.30 pm
Church House, Long Crendon


Alpha is for anyone who's 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.

Enjoy homemade puddings, a short film, and a discussion where you can share your own thoughts.

To register your interest or ask any questions please email Robert at needlecottage@btinternet.com







Collect for Christmas Night

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; 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 Tonight:



The Old Testament: Isaiah 52.7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The Epistle: Hebrews 1.1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

The Gospel: St. John 1.1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen**

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 at 5:30 pm.

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

Alpha Course starts 11th January - see front page for details