

The United Benefice of Henley-on-Thames with Remenham  
**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN**

Christmas Midnight Mass 2018

*Welcome to this ancient Parish Church. If you are a visitor or a new member of the congregation, you will find the order of service in the booklets. The hymns are not announced - they can be found on this sheet.*

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**Entrance Hymn:** 33 Of the Father's heart begotten

**The Opening Prayer**

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.

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**The First Reading:** 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 Second Reading:** Hebrews 1:1-4 *God Has Spoken by His Son*

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.

**The Responsorial Psalm** Psalm 98

**R/ All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of God.**  
Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.  
His own right hand and his holy arm  
have won for him the victory. **R/**  
The Lord has made known his salvation;  
his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness  
towards the house of Israel,  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. **R/**  
Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth;  
break into singing and make music.  
Make music to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the voice of melody. **R/**  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
sound praises before the Lord, the King.  
Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,  
the world and all that dwell upon it. **R/**

Let the rivers clap their hands  
and let the hills ring out together before the Lord,  
for he comes to judge the earth.  
In righteousness shall he judge the world  
and the peoples with equity.

R/

**The Gospel Reading:** John 1:1-14

*The Word Became Flesh*

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.

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**THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**The Offertory Hymn:** 32 O little town of Bethlehem

**The Communion Hymn:** 35 Silent night!

**The Anthems:** Ding Dong! merrily on high *arr. Charles Wood*  
Away in a manger *arr. David Willcocks*

**The Final Hymn:** 26 Hark! the herald angels sing

**Organ Voluntary:** Dieu parmi nous *Olivier Messiaen*  
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**Please replace the kneelers on your pew before leaving. Thanks!**

**Christmas Day**

Said Eucharist 8.00am (St Mary's)

Sung Eucharist 9.30am (St Mary's)

Children's Service with Holy Communion and Carols 11.15am (St Nicholas)

Wed 26	S Stephen	Eucharist (CW Trd) 10.00am (SM)
Thurs 27	S John the Evangelist	Eucharist (CW Trd) 10.00am (SM)
Fri 28	Holy Innocents	Eucharist (CW Trd) 12noon (SM)
Sat 29	S Thomas Becket	

*Morning Prayer will be said at 9am and Evening Prayer usually at 5pm at St Mary's on weekdays*

**Sunday 30 December ~ The First Sunday of Christmas**

8.00am Eucharist (SM) 9.30am Sung Eucharist (SM)

11.15am Sung Matins (BCP) (SN)

**Tuesday 1 January ~ The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus**

11.00am Eucharist (SM)

**Sunday 6 January ~ Epiphany**

8.00am Eucharist (SM) 9.30am Sung Eucharist, Junior Church & Crèche (SM)  
11.15am Holy Communion with Hymns (BCP) (SN)

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***Please pray for***

***The sick:***

*Nicola, Neil, Helen, Stella, Maria, John Ogden, Jennifer, Kathryn, Henry, Margaret*

***The departed: Winifred Peters***

***Those whose year's minds falls this week:***

*Elizabeth Meldrum, Ronald Cox (26)*

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**Notices**

The parish office will be closed between Christmas and New Year and will open again on Wednesday 2 January. In case of any pastoral emergency, please call Fr Jeremy on his mobile 07906172730.

The new coloured envelopes for 2019 will be available for those who use them at the back for the church. Anyone using the white envelopes who wishes to convert to the more convenient coloured envelopes should please speak to one of the Churchwardens or Martin Whittaker. Similarly, any users of the white or coloured envelopes who wishes to convert to the bankers standing order system is requested please to speak to the Treasurer, Kathryn Turner.

The Henley Food Bank Box can be found by the crèche. Please bring donations on Sunday mornings - toiletry items, tinned veg, tinned fruit, savoury biscuits, tinned meat, long lasting milk, cereal, crisps, biscuits, squash, pasta sauce.

On Sunday February 17 there will be a united benefice confirmation service with Bishop Colin at 10.30am at St Mary's. Please speak to Fr Jeremy if you would like to be confirmed.

Do you need extra help at home this Christmas? Or know someone who needs extra care? Please call Carmen 07827803645.

Outstanding pianist and ground-breaking composer Edward Chilvers is coming to St Mary's on Saturday 12 January (7.30-10pm). International Piano said of Eddie's debut CD '12 Etudes': "...intriguing...involving...fascinating resonances abound...all are superbly played by the composer." Eddie's Etudes have also been played on Radio 3. For tickets: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/editionuk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/editionuk) or call Steve 0771 228 2182.

***Parish Office ~ Mon, Tues 9.30am-12.30pm : Wed, Fri, 9.30am-4.30pm  
tel: 577340 email: office.hwr@lineone.net rector.hwr@btinternet.com***

***Fr Jeremy is always happy to talk to parishioners about any subject, please call the parish office to make an appointment. Saturday is the his day off and Friday is his study day. Fr Jeremy would appreciate being spared calls on these days except in an emergency.***