

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

Entrance Hymn: 34 Once in royal David's city

The Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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The Responsorial Psalm Psalm 96

R/ O sing to the Lord a new song; O sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
tell out his salvation from day to day.

R/

Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.

R/

For all the gods of the nations are but idols;
it is the Lord who made the heavens.
Honour and majesty are before him;
power and splendour are in his sanctuary.

R/

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
Let the whole earth tremble before him.

R/

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king.
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.
Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

R/

Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them;
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.
For he comes, he comes to judge the earth;
with righteousness he will judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

R/

The Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-14 *The Birth of Jesus*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

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THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Offertory Hymn: 42 While shepherds watched

Communion Hymn: 22 Away in a manger

Anthems: Ding Dong! merrily on high *arr. Charles Wood*
In the bleak-midwinter *Gustav Holst*

The Final Hymn: 30 O come, all ye faithful

Organ Voluntary: Sortie on 'In Dulci Jubilo' *David Briggs*

Today's Sung Eucharist:

Sidesmen	Athley Cowling and Richard Fletcher
Lesson	Gill Aitchison
Intercessions	Terry Grouk
Servers	Sheila Croton and Norman Topsom
Acolytes	Sue Hockley and Tania Tindall
Chalice	Sue Hockley and Sheila Croton

Sorry there will be no coffee after the service this morning

Please replace the kneelers on your pew before leaving. Thanks!

This Week

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)

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)

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 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.