

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

Sunday 8 December 2019
The Second Sunday of Advent

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. The crèche is available throughout the service for toddlers and parents; Junior Church also takes place in the Chantry House.

Tea & coffee are served in the Chantry House after the service: please join us and make yourself known.

Mass St Anne's Mass *James MacMillan*

Entrance Hymn: 12 On Jordan's bank

The Opening Prayer

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

The Peaceful Kingdom

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him,
and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel for Jews and Gentiles Alike

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name';

and again he says,

'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people';

and again,

'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him';

and again Isaiah says,

'The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7

R/ **May all nations be blest in him.**

Give the king your judgements, O God,
and your righteousness to the son of a king.
Then shall he judge your people righteously
and your poor with justice.

May the mountains bring forth peace,
and the little hills righteousness for the people. **R/**

May he defend the poor among the people,
deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another. **R/**

May he come down like rain upon the mown grass,
like the showers that water the earth.

In his time shall righteousness flourish,
and abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. **R/**

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight." '

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Offertory Hymn: **495** God is working his purpose out
During which an offertory collection will be taken

The Communion Hymn: **297** Lord Jesus Christ

The Choir Anthem: People, look East *Malcom Archer*

The Final Hymn: **5** Hark! a herald voice

The Organ Voluntary: Epilogue on "Winchester New" Eric Thiman

Today's Sung Eucharist:

Sidesmen	Jim Hurst and Rebecca Hindle
Lesson	Norman Pope and Louis Bell
Intercessions	Sue Hockley
Servers	Norman Topsom and Sue Hockley
Chalice	Jim Hurst
Coffee	Joan Edwards and Jenny Lloyd

Please replace the kneelers on your pew before leaving. Thank you!

Today

7.30pm Elvis by Candlelight (SM)

The church will be closed today from 12noon. Doors open at 6.30pm.

This Week

Mon 9 Bach to Baby 10.30am (SM) Funeral of Pam Cole 2.00pm (SM)
Tues 10 Shiplake College rehearsal 10.30am-3.15pm (SM)
Wed 11 Babies And Toddlers Session 10am (SM) BATS Eucharist 11am (SM)
 Shiplake College rehearsal 2pm-4.30pm (SM)
Thur 12 Eucharist 10.00am (SM)
 Shiplake College rehearsal 11am-12noon (SM)
 Interment of ashes 11.30am (SM)
 Henley Municipal Charities Christmas lunch (CH)
 Choir Practice: Juniors 6pm Seniors 8pm (SM)
Fri 13 Praying Together 9.30am (CH)
 Shiplake College Carol Service 11.30am (SM)
Sat 14 Children's Christmas Workshop 10am-12.30pm (CH)
Morning Prayer will be said at 9am and Evening Prayer usually at 5pm at St Mary's weekdays

Sunday 15th December ~ The Third Sunday of Advent

8.00am Eucharist (SM) 9.30am Sung Eucharist, Junior Church & Creche (SM)
 11.15am Said Matins (BCP) (SN)
4.00pm Candlelit Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (St Nicholas)
6.30pm Candlelit Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (St Mary's)

***Please pray for
The church:***

*The work of the Mothers' Union around the world
Sheran Harper, Worldwide President, and Bev Jullien, Chief Executive
Bishop Colin confirming at Burford.*

The sick:

Nicola, Neil, Helen, Stella, Maria, Henry, Richard, Duncan, Robert, Anne, Caroline

The departed:

Pam Cole, Christine Southwell, Joyce Hogge, Sue Batty

Those whose year's minds falls this week:

George Whitfield (10), Evelyn Best (13), Ronald May (14)

Notices for the week beginning 8th December

We welcome The Venerable Judy French as the Celebrant & Preacher at the 9.30am Sung Eucharist today.

Joyce Hogge's funeral will take place at 10.00am on Monday 23 December in St Mary's. Please remember Joyce's family in your prayers.

There will be an hour of quiet advent prayer in church at 10.30am on Friday 20 December.

Sue Hockley and the Junior Church Team will be running a Christmas Children's Workshop on Saturday 14th December in the Chantry House from 10am – 12.30pm. If you would like to bring your children or grandchildren to a morning of fun and craft activities, please contact the parish office at office.hwr@btinternet.com or on 01491 577340 or Sue at sueh1963@hotmail.co.uk. Look forward to seeing you then.

The choir will be singing carols outside Waitrose on Sunday 15 December at 11am for half an hour or so, to raise money for the Children's Society.

Town Carols in the Town Hall takes place on Wednesday 11 December, 5.15pm till 6pm, with hot seasonal refreshments and mince pies before. Choirs from local primary schools, a short Christmas message and an offering towards the Nomad Youth and Community Project. An ideal event to invite friends who may not be comfortable in a church setting. The Living Advent Calendar hosted by Trinity at 4 takes place at 6.15pm outside the Town Hall.

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.

Fr Jeremy's Advent book recommendations: Rachel Mann's *In the Bleak Midwinter: Advent and Winter with Christina Rossetti* – a selection of poems and reflections for each day of the Advent and Christmas seasons. For those who find Christina Rossetti a little too melancholy, Bishop Nick Baines' *Freedom is Coming* could be a good alternative. The Bishop of Leeds takes readers through Advent and Christmas with the Prophet Isaiah. The prophecy of Isaiah is an excellent place to start in deepening our understanding and appreciation of the Hebrew Scriptures. Something different again is offered in *Dipping into Advent* by Fr Alan Hilliard, an Irish Roman Catholic priest, and his book is rich in irony and humour as well as biblical references, combining stories and anecdotes from his pastoral experience with his own photographs. If anyone would like help getting hold of these books let Fr Jeremy know.

Week by week our flower ladies produce magnificent floral arrangements to enhance the beauty of our marvellous church. Twice a year at the major festivals of Easter and Christmas, they fill the church with wonderful floral tributes to the glory of God. This comes at some considerable expense and it is necessary to reach out to friends and the congregation for donations towards these costs. If you would like to contribute to the fund for the Christmas 2019 arrangements, please hand your donation to Sheila Constantinidi or the church wardens, Robin or Sue. Thank you.

A beautiful print of the church commissioned originally for the Millennium (church restoration) appeal, by renowned 'Ladybird' artist Martin Aitchison is available to buy in aid of the St Mary's choir fund. At just £12 for a mounted print including details of the artist on the back, this print will fit into any standard 16 x 12 " frame. This would make an ideal Christmas present that will also help to fund the choir. Details from parish office or Gill Aitchison in the choir.