

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

Christmas Day 2019

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 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.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Offertory Hymn: **25** God rest you merry, gentlemen
During which an offertory collection will be taken

Communion Hymn: **22** Away in a manger

Anthem: In the bleak midwinter *Gustav Holst*

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The Final Hymn: **30** O come, all ye faithful (omit v 4)

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

Today's Sung Eucharist:

Sidesmen Anne Forrest and Athley Cowling

Lesson Maura Roni and Jill Edwards

Intercessions Terry Grouk

Servers Sheila Croton, Norman Topsom and Sue Hockley

Chalice Stuart Crippen and Sue Hockley

Sorry there will be no coffee after the service this morning

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

This Week

Thurs 26 S Stephen Eucharist (CW Trd) 10.00am (SM)

Fri 27 S John the Evangelist Eucharist (CW Trd) 10.00am (SM)

Sat 28 Holy Innocents Eucharist (CW Trd) 10.00am (SM)

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

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Sunday 29 December ~ The First Sunday of Christmas

8.00am Eucharist (SM) 9.30am Sung Eucharist (SM)
11.15am Sung Matins (BCP) (SN)

Wednesday 1 January ~ The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

11.00am Eucharist (SM)

Sunday 5 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 church:

*For the Peace of Jerusalem and the People of Bethlehem
Falkland Islands The Rt Revd Timothy Thornton
False Bay (Southern Africa) The Rt Revd Margaret Brenda Vertue
Federal Ministries (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Carl Wright
Federal Ministries (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd James Magnes*

The sick:

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

The departed:

Joyce Hogge, Jean Pippard, David Supran

Those whose year's minds falls this week:

Sam Pawson (24), Elizabeth Meldrum, Ronald Cox (26)

Notices

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.

The parish office will be closed between Christmas and New Year and will open again on Friday 3 January. In case of any pastoral emergency, please call Fr Jeremy on his mobile 07906172730.

The new coloured envelopes for 2019 are 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.

Parish Office ~ Mon, Tues 9.30am-12.30pm : Wed, Fri, 9.30am-4.30pm

tel: 577340 email: office.hwr@btinternet.com 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 his day off and Monday morning. Friday is

his study day. Fr Jeremy would

appreciate being spared calls on these days except in an emergency.