

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

**Sunday 15th December 2019 ~ The Third 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.*

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**Mass** St Anne's Mass *James MacMillan*

**Entrance Hymn:** 170 Lo, in the wilderness

**The Opening Prayer**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**The First Reading:** Isaiah 35:1-10

*The Return of the Redeemed to Zion*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**The Second Reading:** James 5:7-10

*Patience in Suffering*

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**The Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 146:4-10

**R/ I will praise the Lord as long as I live.**

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;  
Who made heaven and earth,  
the sea and all that is in them;  
who keeps his promise for ever;                   **R/**

Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong  
and bread to those who hunger.  
The Lord looses those that are bound;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;           **R/**

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous;  
The Lord watches over the stranger in the land;  
he upholds the orphan and widow;  
but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.  
The Lord shall reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.   **R/**

**The Gospel Reading:** Matthew 11:2-11

*Messengers from John the Baptist*

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## **THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**The Offertory Hymn:**       **7**       Hills of the North, rejoice  
*During which an offertory collection will be taken*

**The Communion Hymn:**   **284**    Father, we thank thee

**The Choir Anthem:**       How beautiful upon the Mountains *John Stainer*

**The Final Hymn:**         **9**        Lo! he comes with clouds descending

**The Organ Voluntary:**   Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 661 *J.S.Bach*

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### **Today's Sung Eucharist:**

Sidesmen	Clive and Inez Hemsley
Lessons	Athley Cowling and Joe Croton
Intercessions	Alan Tang
Servers	Sheila Croton and Sue Hockley
Chalice	Gill Aitchison and Sheila Croton
Coffee	Jacqui Pritchard and Lavinia Southern

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

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### **Today**

4.00pm Candlelit Service of Nine Lessons and Carols  
*Followed by mulled wine and mince pies* (St Nicholas)  
6.30pm Candlelit Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (St Mary's)

### **This Week**

Mon 16

Tues 17

Wed 18

Gillotts School Carol Service 7.00pm (SM)

*Rehearsal 9.15am to 3.15pm, church closed afterwards*

Thur 19 Eucharist 10.00am (SM) Choir Practice: Juniors 6pm Seniors 8pm (SM)

Fri 20 Praying Together 9.30am (CH) Quiet Advent Prayer 10.30am-11.30am (SM)

Eucharist 12noon (SM)

Amnesty International Concert 7.30pm (CH)

Sat 21

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

### **Sunday 22nd December ~ The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8.00am Eucharist (SM) 9.30am Sung Eucharist, Junior Church & Creche (SM)

11.15am Said Matins (BCP) (SN)

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#### ***Please pray for***

##### ***The church:***

*Sokoto (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Augustin Omole*

*El Salvador (Central America) The Rt Revd Juan David Alvarado Melgar*

##### ***The sick:***

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

##### ***The departed:***

*Joyce Hogge, Heidi Pippard, David Supran*

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

*John Houldsworth (15), David Walden (17), Simon Pettitt (18),*

*Patricia Lewis, Annie Crossley (20), Richard Wilson (21)*

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### **Notices for the week beginning 15th December**

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

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.

It has been suggested again that instead of exchanging Christmas cards with members of the congregation, we each write one card to everyone (cards will be displayed on the wall by the choir vestry) and make a contribution to a charity for the amount we would have spent on cards. We do hope this idea will gain support this year.

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.

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.

Amnesty International is delighted to welcome the wind quintet 'Syrinx' with pianist Andy Spiceley for a fund-raising concert in the Chantry House at 7.30pm on Friday 20 December. Music will include Mozart's Quintet for Piano and Wind and pieces from the Baroque to the 20th Century. Tickets £14 (£9 unwaged) including refreshments. Contact Amnesty Reading on 07740423894 at

[amnesty.reading@gmail.com](mailto:amnesty.reading@gmail.com) or book

on-line at <https://billetto.co.uk> (search 'Chantry House').

***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.***