

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

Christmas Midnight Mass 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: 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 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.

The Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and
worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while
we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus
Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for
himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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!'

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Offertory Hymn: **29** It came upon the midnight clear
During which an offertory collection will be taken

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: Paean on "Divinum mysterium" *John Cook*

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)

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

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:

*Ezo (South Sudan) The Rt Revd John Kereboro Zawo
Faisalabad (Pakistan) The Rt Revd John Samuel
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.