

WHEATHILL PRIORY BENEFICE

“Jesus Lives: Follow Him”

Sunday 19 December 2021 Advent 3

Welcome to the world of yet more uncertainty (yes I know that is the headline for the last two weeks but some things don't change!)

I'm writing this on Thursday morning as we all try to decide what Omicron means for us as individuals and communities as we approach Christmas. It is a relief that we'd already made some basic decisions; like holding the carol service in the grain store in Kingweston (thank you to David, Jane and the host of workers who help set up, take down and organise it) and we hope to hold the crib service outside, but will be watching the weather forecast carefully! Can we please encourage you to test regularly (if you've managed to get tests!) and to use masks, hand gel etc as appropriate.

This week's Gospel reading is the account of the meeting of Mary and Elizabeth at the beginning of Mary's pregnancy and in the final stages of Elizabeth's. As Mary greets Elizabeth the baby in Elizabeth's womb leapt and Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit. Luke wants us to know that both Elizabeth and John the Baptist (her baby) recognise what is happening, even at the early stages of Mary's pregnancy. They are ready to respond to Jesus, prior to his birth.

As Elizabeth responds to this coming of the Holy Spirit and her recognition of Jesus, she pronounces that Mary is blessed. She doesn't pronounce a blessing on Mary but declares that she is already blessed by God, blessed because of the child she carries and blessed because of her faith in God's action.

Maybe Elizabeth's response encourages us to notice around us in the business that accompanies each day where God is at work, and where is his blessing? What can we see today that is evidence of his hand at work in lives and communities?

Bible Readings

Sunday 19 December Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:39-45

8:30am Holy Communion Lydford on Fosse

3pm Carol Service Kingweston grainstore (wrap up warm & bring a chair if possible)

Monday Psalm 46, Malachi 1:1, 6-end, Luke 1:26-38

9am Morning Prayer Keinton Mandeville

Tuesday Psalm 121, Malachi 2:1-16, Matthew 19:13-15

Wednesday Psalm 124, Malachi 2:17-3:12, Matthew 19:16-end

12:00pm Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Anne Teague in Lydford on Fosse

Thursday Psalm 130, Malachi 3:13-end of 4, Matthew 23:1-12

9am Morning Prayer in Lydford and on Zoom

Friday Psalm 45, Nahum 1, Matthew 23:13-28

4pm Crib service in Keinton Mandeville Churchyard (if weather permits) or church if wet

11:15pm Holy Communion Keinton Mandeville

Saturday 25 December Christmas Day Psalm 110, Isaiah 62:1-5, Matthew 1:18-end

8:30am Holy Communion Barton St David

10:30am Christmas Celebration Lydford on Fosse

Sunday 26 December

No service

Morning Prayer has restarted in Lydford Church at 9am on Thursdays, we use Zoom so that those in other parishes can also join in. It will restart in Barton St David in January.

Forthcoming worship

24/12/21 4pm Crib Service Keinton Mandeville

11:15pm Holy Communion Keinton Mandeville

25/12/21 8:30am Holy Communion Barton St David

10:30am All Age Christmas Celebration Lydford on Fosse

26/12/21 No Service in Benefice, there will be a reflection on the Diocesan website and a service in Glastonbury

2/1/22 8:30am Holy Communion Keinton Mandeville

10:30am Morning Worship Lydford on Fosse

Phone Church

We have set up a phone line that you can use (for the cost of a local call so probably free for most) to listen to a reading, the reflection and prayers of intercession for the week. The phone number is **01458 552155**. The service will be available from Monday morning.

There is also the Church of England Daily Hope phone line, which has hymns, prayers and reflection



YouTube

Our weekly worship continues to be available on YouTube, we hope to livestream the services as they happen, so from 10:30am. If that fails we will upload them after the service. You can find the service here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9tB_kpGA8SZwwyE9AmKvmg/videos?view=57

Zoom Details:**Topic: Morning Prayer****Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8750238874?pwd=dkpVVnNoZnhvcUJCeVNsYTdJRHZOZz09>

Meeting ID: 875 0238 8874

Passcode: 115224

Bible Book Club

Bible Book club is reading the Letter to the Ephesians and our next meeting will be in the new year, because the Advent course is on the day we'd planned to meet! Why not come along & see what happens?

Our guidelines for how we conduct our worship are:

- Masks are now mandatory
- We sing
- We film and livestream/record & post to YouTube
- We continue to take details of who is present for track and trace
- You can either sit in close proximity with someone or be distanced (if you want to be distanced please take a notice and put it on the pew beside you)
- Communion continues to be administered in pews and in one kind only