

**Services for Sunday 4th December
Second Sunday of Advent**



Abbey: 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
Abbey: 10.30 am Sung Eucharist
Abbey: 2.30 pm Baptism
Berinsfield: 4.00 pm Messy Christingle
Berinsfield: 5.00 pm Candlelit Carols
Marsh Baldon: 10.30 am Holy Communion
Drayton St Leonard: 6.00 pm Holy Communion
Clifton Hampden: 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
Long Wittenham: 9.30 am Holy Communion
Culham: 11.00 am Family Holy Communion
Warborough: 11.00 am Family Eucharist
Stadhampton: 9.30 am Family Christingle

NOTICES:

**Babies and Toddler Time: In the Abbey
Wednesday mornings 9.30 am– 10.45 am**

Parents, grandparents and carers are all welcome.
Refreshments, toys and craft activities,
music and bible stories.

Further details from the Revd. Catherine Schneider
E. dorchesterTEAMcurate@gmail.com



Volunteering Opportunities:

Volunteer Reading Opportunities:

At ARCh (Assisted reading for children) there is an urgent need for volunteer reading helpers for children in Abbey Woods Primary in Berinsfield and wonder whether you would be able to share our appeal please? An enhanced DBS check will be required. Further details are available on the following website - www.archoxfordshire.org.uk

Church of England online services:

If you would like to see last week's service online, please use the following link:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

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& Team Office**

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Canon Rachel Carnegie – contact via the office

Revd Jennifer Morton 01865 343302

Curate

Revd Catherine Schneider – Contact via the office

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**Sunday 27th November
Advent Sunday**

Welcome to our service today, especially any who are visiting us or who are new parishioners. Please do make yourself known to the clergy or those on duty.

The Collect for Advent Sunday:

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life, in which your
Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Additional Collect:

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin
to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

The Readings:

Old Testament: Isaiah 2: 1-5

The Future House of God

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Judgement Pronounced on Arrogance

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

New Testament: Romans 13: 11-14

An Urgent Appeal

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 24: 36-44

The Necessity for Watchfulness

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Post Communion Prayer:

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Readings for Sunday 4th December

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11: 1-10
Romans 15: 4-13
Matthew 3: 1-12

For your prayers:

Today, most gentle God, we thank you that you sent your son, Jesus Christ, to be light in a dark world. As we turn towards a winter of uncertainty, help us to be grasp the light you have given us, become guides to others, sharing their journey and offering hope for a new world.

Dear God, you know the dark places of the world – places of war and destruction, of death and despair. Lighten the heavy hearts of those whose actions make life hard for others. Remove selfishness and love of power from those who have authority in the world and give them new hearts of love and service.

Dear God, you know what it is to be in pain and you stand with all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit. We pray for those who fear the darkness of death and the agony of pain. We pray for carers and curers, for those watching by bedsides and those waiting for news. Comfort them with your gentle touch and give them courage to face the challenges of bringing life and hope to others.

As we stand at the turn of your year, heavenly One, we ask that you will be with us as we move forward, into new times, new challenges. Give us grace to accept our mistakes and take new paths; by your mercy forgive us and set us free to be different; in your love, help us to dig deep into the darkness of our inner selves, to shed your wise love into our shadowlands, and bring us rejoicing to new life.

We pray for our own community and in our thoughts especially this week are all those living in Haven Close, Dorchester and those living on Henfield View, Warborough.

Advent 1 Prayer:

God of Abraham and Sarah,
and all the patriarchs of old,
you are our Father too.

Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David.

Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit to make his home among us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.

Amen.

