

Services for Friday 23rd, Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th December

Chiselhampton: Friday 23rd December

7.00 pm Chiselhampton Carols

Christmas Eve: Saturday 24th December

Abbey: 4.30 pm Crib Service

Note: Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the Crib Service. Children are invited to come dressed up as any character they would like to.

Abbey: 11.00 pm Midnight Mass

Berinsfield: 4.00 pm Crib Service

Drayton St Leonard: 2.30 pm Crib Service

Clifton Hampden: 11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Long Wittenham: 4.00 pm Come to the Cradle Carols and Readings

Little Wittenham: 6.00 pm Come to the Cradle Carols and Readings

Warborough: 4.00 pm Crib Service

Warborough: 6.00 pm Holy Communion (BCP)

Stadhampton: 4.00 pm Crib Service

Stadhampton: 11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day: Sunday 25th December

Abbey: 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Abbey: 10.30 am Sung Eucharist

Marsh Baldon: 10.30 am Christmas Communion

Drayton St Leonard: 9.30 am Christmas Communion

Long Wittenham: 9.30 am Holy Communion

Culham: 10.00 am Holy Communion

Warborough: 9.30 am Family Eucharist

Stadhampton: 9.30 am Family Communion

NOTICES:

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

Please note that the Toddler Group Session will not be available on Wednesday 28th December.

The group will resume on Wednesday 3rd January.

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



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& Team Office**

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Curate

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**Saturday 24th December
Christmas Eve**

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.



Collect for Christmas Eve:

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.
Amen

Additional Collect for Christmas Eve:

Eternal God,
in the stillness of this night
you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world's darkness with
the light of salvation:
give to the earth the peace that we long for
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen

The Readings: Christmas Eve Night

Old Testament: 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.

New Testament: Hebrews 1. 1-4 (5-12)

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

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 Son Is Superior to Angels

For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'

And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

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.

Post Communion Prayer for Christmas Eve:

God our Father,
in this night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.
To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen**

For your prayers:

God of new birth, you needed only a very little room to bring new life to an ageing world. Come into our hearts as we stand near love's birthplace, wondering at the miracle of the sun in winter.

You brought shepherds from the hills and already wise ones are travelling from far away; you turned a quiet town into a place of gossip and amazement; soon powerful ones will be sharpening their swords. Today the world turns from past to future and we move too from all that has been towards everything that is to come.

We thank you for bringing us here, now, today. We thank you for our life's journey, for family and friends, for roads travelled and places left behind. We thank you for lessons learned and the people who taught us.

And now we look forward, from here, now, today. As Mary said "Yes", so do we:
yes to new life and to new ways of living,
to new friends and old friendships made new.

As our "yes" echoes Mary's, so may it sing through the world: "Yes" to peace, to justice, to honesty and trust, "Yes" to challenges and "Yes" to opportunities.

Help us to bring new life to an old world, and put an end to fear. Help us to embrace diversity, befriend difference, lift up the fallen, and give the refugee new homes. May our heart's straw-filled manger bring sunshine in winter.

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>

Christmas Services: Please follow this link

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6080/service-and-events/advent-christmas/>