

Pew Sheet 14 December 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

A warm welcome to all visitors to church on this day



Today's Services:

8am Said Holy Communion St Peter and St Paul, Kedington

10am Holy Communion All Saints Great Thurlow

6pm Compline St Mary's Little Wrattling: (see below)

Services this week:

Evening Prayer 5pm Monday St Peter and St Paul's Kedington (no prayers on 29 December)

Wednesday 10am Said Holy Communion St Peter and St Paul Kedington

Services next Sunday

10am Holy Communion St Mary's Great Wrattling

10am Family Service St Peter's Little Thurlow

Compline, or Night Prayer, is the final daily Christian prayer service, named from the Latin "*completorium*" for "completion". It is a contemplative and quiet service performed at the end of the day, often just before sleep, and includes psalms, readings, and prayers for peace and the world. Its tradition is ancient, dating back to at least the 6th century. Chris Shelmerdine will lead the singing in this short service on the first, second and third Sundays of advent. This is a good way to welcome the season.

Ministry Team:

Fr Chris Giles	01440 762901	Ruth Hopper	01440 783125
Jill Davis	01440 713137	Peter Smith	01440 783278
		Mary Upton	01440 706237

The Stourhead Benefice

Collect: 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. **Amen**

First reading	Isaiah 35 v 1 - 10
Second reading	James 5 v 7 - 10
Gospel reading	Matthew 11 v 2 - 11

Hear The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All Glory to you O Lord

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you O Christ

Post Communion prayer: We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen**

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Home Communions - Pastoral Care:

The Blessed Sacrament is perpetually reserved for the Communion of the housebound, the sick and dying. Please inform Fr Chris or a member of the ministry team, of parishioners who are sick or in hospital, and of those who are in need of pastoral care. **The Sacrament of Reconciliation** by arrangement with the Rector.

Prayer List

Our prayers are asked particularly for:

Terry Chittock – Jacob and his family – Leo and Val Farthing – Bryan Chambers – Orla
Rev Bob Torrens – Paul Allard – Mike Driscoll – Steve Watts – Andrew Harrison
Frank Underwood – Andrew, Richard and Doreen Pound – Peter Phillips – Iris Eley
King Charles

We also pray for others. Those who have asked to be remembered in our prayers in church and at home.

We pray for those that have recently died and whose loss we mourn:

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord

All And let light perpetual shine upon them

May they rest in peace

All And rise in glory

An invitation: If you wish to receive communion please come forward when guided by the stewards. Members of other churches who usually receive communion are welcome to do so here. Those not wishing to receive communion are welcome to come for a blessing; it is helpful if you indicate this by bringing your service booklet with you. If you find it difficult to come to the altar rail, please tell this to the steward on duty, so communion may be brought to you in your seat.

Gluten free Communion wafers are available – please ask when you come up to the altar rail. Sharing of the common cup is permitted. However, if you do not wish to receive from the Chalice, please say 'Intinct' as the Priest approaches you, and they will intinct the wafer in Consecrated wine from a separate Chalice.

Notices

Forthcoming events:

Please send me details of events you wish to publicise by email or phone, and I will do my best to include it (subject to space):

Fr Chris Giles – stourheadbenefice@gmail.com 01440 762901

Church Coffee Morning “Dolce Gusto” 10am until 12 noon every Tuesday at St Peter and St Paul’s Church in Kedington. **(Please note – no coffee morning on 23 or 30 December; resumes 6 January 2026.)**



Stourhead Benefice Christmas Services

Gt Wratting Friday 19 December 6pm

Kedington Sunday 21 December 4pm

Lt Wratting Sunday 21 December 6.30pm

Gt Bradley Tuesday 23 December 6.30pm

Kedington Crib Service Christmas Eve 3pm

Thurlows (at Gt Thurlow) Christmas Eve 4.30pm

Lt Bradley Christmas Eve 6.30pm

Barnardiston Christmas Eve 7pm

Kedington Christmas Eve Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Lt Thurlow Christmas Morning 10am



Safeguarding – Safeguarding is about caring for one another and our community. As Christians, this is something we all need to do. If you would like any training or have any questions; please contact Fr Chris or another member of the Ministry team. Benefice Safeguarding Officers are Naomi Shelmerdine and Ruth Hopper contact phone number is 07405 624132

The Stourhead Benefice News is produced every other month.

Hard copies are printed by the Barnardiston School. It is also available on the Stourhead Benefice page of “**A Church Near You**”:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/1948/news/notice-sheet/grid/>

