

## The Greenway Benefice Sunday Sheet

Holy Trinity Badgeworth, St Paul's Shurdington, and St Mary's Witcombe with Bentham

*(Sunday services, readings and prayers are on this sheet, please look in the Three in One\* for other news and notices)*

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**The Holy Innocents**



### Today's Services:

10.30am St Paul's Benefice Holy Communion

*This will be the only service in the Benefice today - all welcome.*

#### Collect

Heavenly Father,  
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,  
though they had done no wrong:  
by the suffering of your Son  
and by the innocence of our lives  
frustrate all evil designs  
and establish your reign of justice and peace;  
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.

### Lectionary Readings

#### Jeremiah 31.15-17

<sup>15</sup> Thus says the Lord:

A voice is heard in Ramah,  
lamentation and bitter weeping.  
Rachel is weeping for her children;  
she refuses to be comforted for her children,  
because they are no more.

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the Lord:

Keep your voice from weeping,  
and your eyes from tears;  
for there is a reward for your work,  
says the Lord:

they shall come back from the land of the enemy;  
<sup>17</sup> there is hope for your future,  
says the Lord:  
your children shall come back to their own country.

#### Psalms 124

- 1 If the Lord himself had not been on our side, •  
now may Israel say;
- 2 If the Lord had not been on our side, •  
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us alive •  
when their anger burned against us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us

and the torrent gone over our soul; •  
over our soul would have swept the raging waters.

5 But blessed be the Lord •

who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

6 Our soul has escaped

as a bird from the snare of the fowler; •  
the snare is broken and we are delivered.

7 Our help is in the name of the Lord, •

who has made heaven and earth.

#### 1 Corinthians 1.26-29

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

### Gospel Reading

#### Matthew 2.13-18 The Escape to Egypt

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' <sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

#### The Massacre of the Infants

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup> 'A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

## This week's prayers

Please remember in your prayers:

- Those living in Atherton Close and Atherton House .
- Those who care for our church buildings and their worship: fabric officers, vergers, servers, cleaners.
- We are also praying for the people of Ukraine and the Middle East, that they may freely live in peace.

## Shurdington Primary School

We are continuing our school links, and we pray for the staff and pupils. This term's school value is Thankfulness.

## Our Frontline Prayer

We thank you, Heavenly Father, for the gift of this community. We commend one another to you on our different frontlines.

Wherever we are, whatever we do, whoever we are, may the Holy Spirit guide us in all things so that we may do God's will in the world, in the service of Jesus Christ and with great joy. Amen.

## In Church next week

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

**Epiphany**



8.00am	St Paul's	Holy Communion BCP
9:30am	St Paul's	Worship
11.00am	Holy Trinity	Worship
11.00am	St Mary's	All-age Worship

## ECO tip for December

**Celebrate a simpler and greener Christmas.** As Advent begins, let us turn our gaze to the true meaning of Christmas - God with us, Emmanuel. Consider: non-physical gifts (time, vouchers) ; sustainably produced gifts; recycled or reusable wrapping ; reduce food waste; spending time in nature to appreciate creation.

Find more ideas at

<https://arocha.org.uk/journeying-towards-a-zero-waste-christmas/>