

Pew Sheet 7 December 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

A warm welcome to all visitors to church on this day



Today's Services:

10am Holy Communion All Saints Little Bradley
10am Christingle Service at St Peter and St Paul Kedington
6pm Compline St Mary's Little Wratting (see below)

Services this week:

Evening Prayer 5pm Monday St Peter and St Paul's Kedington (except Bank Holidays)
Wednesday 10am Said Holy Communion St Peter and St Paul Kedington

Services next Sunday

8am Said Holy Communion St Peter and St Paul, Kedington
10am Holy Communion All Saints Great Thurlow
6pm Compline St Mary's Little Wratting:

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, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

First reading	Isaiah 11 v 1 - 10
Second reading	Romans 15 v 4 - 13
Gospel reading	Matthew 3 v 1 - 12

Hear The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All Glory to you O Lord

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you O Christ

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Post Communion prayer: Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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. Coffee morning 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/>

