

PRAYERS: For your prayers this week.

Vocations and ministry:

We pray for all our congregations, our Christmas services and those who find this time of year difficult.

The sick:

Marianne, Kylie, Merry, Alex, David, Jackie, Nic, Babs, Russell and Lee, Dennis, Malcolm and Alan. All those in hospital, having treatment and waiting for test results and operations.

Those needing long term care and support: Pauline, Richard, those being cared for at home, the residents of Goatacre Manor Care Centre and other local care homes.

Those who have died:

We pray for funerals being planned, those we know and those we read about in the news.

We pray for all those who grieve.

Baptisms and Weddings:

We pray for Des and Sarah whose wedding is at Lyneham this month.

Special intentions *(This is for people who may have plans or hopes for which they would like our prayer support)*

We pray for the King and all the Royal family.

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for churches in the Alderbury Deanery. Jesus, Our Saviour, we pray for the community of Clarendon. We pray for the people who live and work there and those who minister to them.

In our prayers for the Episcopal church, we pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil.

We pray for our Benefice congregations, parishioners and our churches in this time of vacancy. We give thanks for those helping at this time. We pray for the person/people who may feel called to join us here.



Bradenstoke Communion - 9am
Hilmarton Communion - 10.30am
Broad Town Morning Service - 10.30am
Lyneham Carol Service - 4pm (Church Hall)

Future services:

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|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Thurs 18 th Dec | Broad Town | Carol Service - 7pm |
| Sun 21 st Dec | Lyneham | Communion - 10.30am |
| | Hilmarton | Carol Service - 4pm |
| | <i>(starting at 48 Poynder Place, Church Service at 4.45pm)</i> | |
| | Tockenham | Christingle - 4pm |
| | Clyffe Pypard | Carol Service - 5pm (TBC) |
| Weds 24 th Dec | Tockenham | Carol Service - 6pm |
| | Hilmarton | Midnight Mass - 11.15pm |
| | Bradenstoke | Midnight Mass - 11.30pm |
| Thurs 25 th Dec | Broad Town | Communion - 10.30am |
| | Clyffe Pypard | Communion - 10.30am |
| | Lyneham | Communion - 10.30am |

Keep in touch by going to: www.achurchnearyou.com and searching for your parish church.

Using the Benefice of Lyneham and Woodhill Facebook page.

Getting your name added to the Benefice email list if it isn't already there – just email Elaine on beneficeofwoodhill@yahoo.co.uk and ask to be added.

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.

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 35.1-10*

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus² it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

SECOND READING: *James 5.7-10*

⁷Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL: *Matthew 11.2-11*

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to Jesus, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ ⁴Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the 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. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

⁷As 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”

¹¹Truly 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.’

POST COMMUNION

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.