

In & around the Benefice....

9th December | Second Sunday of Advent

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Worship in our churches.....

Today...

9.00am	Yardley Hastings	Holy Communion
11.00am	Castle Ashby	Holy Communion
3.00pm	Denton	Christingle
5.00pm	Grendon	Christingle

Next week 16th December, 3rd Sunday of Advent ...

8.00am	Whiston	BCP Holy Communion
9.00am	Grendon	Holy Communion
11.00am	Denton	All Age Holy Communion
4.00pm	Yardley Hastings	Crib Service

Midweek Services

Weds	9.30am	Grendon	Holy Communion
Thurs	8.00pm	Whiston	Carols by candlelight - led by Archdeacon Richard Ormston

Advent – a time of preparation



Advent is fast approaching!
To help us to draw closer to God as
we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus
Christ at Christmas, we will be
hosting three bible study sessions entitled

'Candles in the Dark', on:

Saturday 8th December
Saturday 15th December
Saturday 5th January
9.30am – 10.45am (at the very latest)
in the meeting room at
St Andrew's, Yardley Hastings.

Everyone from across the benefice is
warmly invited to any or all of the sessions

Please hold in your prayers this week...

- ◇ Our Bishops Donald, John and Ed
- ◇ Deborah and Liz, training for licensed ministry in our benefice.
- ◇ Messy Church, the children, parents and helpers
- ◇ Our politicians and government - may God's guidance and wisdom be with them
- ◇ Those in residential care and the housebound, among them: Gwen Brimacombe, Audrey Desborough, Tom Stocks, Ruth Williams and Gwen York
- ◇ Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them: , Delsie Greasley, Daniel Rouffaud, Michelle, Nicholas Vaughan, Ashleigh Loach, Guy Miller, Betty Eyre
- ◇ The recently departed, among them Anthony Smith, Linda Coyne and all who grieve at this time

Dec

9th	Christingle	3pm	Denton
9th	Christingle	5pm	Grendon
13th	Carols by candlelight	8pm	Whiston
15th	Blue Christmas	4pm	Yardley Hastings
16th	Crib Service	4pm	Yardley Hastings
19th	Carols by candlelight	7pm	Denton
21st	Carol Service	7pm	Grendon
21st	Carols around the Christmas tree	7pm	Yardley Hastings
24th	Crib Service	4pm	Grendon
24th	Carols by candlelight	5pm	URC
24th	Carol Service	6pm	Castle Ashby
24th	Midnight Mass	11.30pm	Yardley Hastings
25th	Holy Communion	9am	Whiston
25th	Holy Communion	9am	Denton
25th	Family Holy Communion	10am	Grendon
25th	Christmas Day Celebration	10am	URC
25th	Holy Communion	10am	Yardley Hastings
25th	Holy Communion	11am	Castle Ashby
30th	United Benefice Service	11am	URC

Christmas Services

Dates for the Diary...

Tues	11th	12.00noon	Funeral Service for Mr Anthony Smith RIP, St Mary's Grendon
Weds	12th	7.30pm	St Mary's Community Choir, St Mary's Grendon
Weds	12th	7.45pm	Benefice Choir Practice, St Andrew's Yardley Hastings
Thurs	13th	6.30pm	Youth Group, St Mary's Grendon
Fri	14th	3.30pm	Nativity Walk through Denton, all welcome. Meet at Village Hall car park
Sat	15th	9.30am	Advent - A Time of Preparation, St Andrew's Yardley Hastings
Tues	18th	6.00pm	Carol singing around Denton, starting in St Margaret's Church

The 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**

(or)

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as
judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

First Reading

Malachi 3: 1-4

Thus says the Lord God:

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the
way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will
suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the
covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is
coming, says the Lord of hosts.

But who can endure the day of his coming, and who
can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;
he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he
will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them
like gold and silver, until they present offerings to
the Lord in righteousness.

Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be
pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in
former years.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Philippians 1: 3-11

My brothers and sisters,
I thank my God every time I remember you,
constantly praying with joy in every one of my
prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the
gospel from the first day until now.

I am confident of this, that the one who began a
good work among you will bring it to completion by
the day of Jesus Christ.

It is right for me to think this way about all of you,
because you hold me in your heart, for all of you
share in God's grace with me, both in my
imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation
of the gospel.

For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with
the compassion of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow
more and more with knowledge and full insight to
help you to determine what is best, so that on the
day of Christ you may be pure and blameless,
having produced the harvest of righteousness that
comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise
of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 3: 1-6

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according
to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor
Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of
Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his
brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and
Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during
the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the
word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the
wilderness. He went into all the region around the
Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the
words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths
straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every
mountain and hill shall be made low, and the
crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways
made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation
of God." '

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion

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