

In & around the Benefice....

23rd December | Fourth Sunday of Advent



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Worship in our churches over the next week....

Today...

9.00am Castle Ashby Holy Communion

24th December, Christmas Eve

4.00pm Grendon Crib Service
6.00pm Castle Ashby 9 Lessons and Carols
11.30pm Yardley Hastings Midnight Mass

25th December, Christmas Day

9.00am Whiston BCP Holy Communion
9.00am Denton Holy Communion - we welcome the Reverend Tim Short
10.00am Grendon Holy Communion
10.00am Yardley Hastings Holy Communion - we welcome the Reverend Tim Short
11.00am Castle Ashby Holy Communion

There are no midweek services this week

Worship next Sunday, 30th December, First Sunday of Christmas

11.00am URC Yardley Hastings United Benefice Service

Please hold in your prayers this week...

- ◇ Our Bishops Donald, John and Ed
- ◇ 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 Brian Bostock, and all who grieve at this time



'Candles in the Dark'

The final session of this course will be held on
Saturday 5th January
9.30am – 10.45am (at the very latest)
in the meeting room at
St Andrew's, Yardley Hastings.

Everyone is welcome - there is no need to have
attended any of the previous sessions.
Come and explore Epiphany!

Dates for the Diary...

January

Fri	4th	10am-12	'The Place to Meet' - cuppa and chat with fellow villagers, Grendon Village Hall
Sat	5th	9.30am	Advent - A Time of Preparation, St Andrew's Yardley Hastings
Thurs	17th	6.30-8pm	Youth Group, St Mary's Grendon
Fri	18th	3.30pm	Messy Church, URC Yardley Hastings
Sat	19th	10-noon	Coffee morning, Lower Barn, Shop Lane, Yardley Hastings

The Collect

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our
saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

(or)

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading

Micah 5: 2-5a

The Lord says to his people:

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people
of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength
of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Hebrews 10: 5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will,
O God"
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'
When he said above,
'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in
sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-
offerings'
(these are offered according to the law),
then he added,
'See, I have come to do your will.'
He abolishes the first in order to establish the
second. And it is by God's will that we have been
sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus
Christ once for all.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1: 39-45

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

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town
in the hill country, where she entered the house of
Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth
heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb.
And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and
exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among
women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And
why has this happened to me, that the mother of my
Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the
sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt
for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there
would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by
the Lord.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen