

## SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE – DECEMBER 2023

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am Holy Communion Woodend

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Second Sunday of Advent

9.00am Holy Communion Maidford  
10.30am Family Service Blakesley  
4.00pm Carol Service Litchborough  
6.00pm Carol Service Farthingstone  
6.00pm Compline Adstone

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Third Sunday of Advent

10.30am Holy Communion Litchborough  
10.30am Music & Meditation Blakesley  
4.00pm Nine Lessons & Carols Maidford  
6.00pm Carol Service Blakesley  
6.00pm Compline Adstone

### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December

6.00pm Carol Service Adstone

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve

4.00pm Benefice Christingle Service Blakesley  
6.00pm Holy Communion for Christmas Eve Farthingstone

## Dates for your Diary

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December** **Concert by the Lambfold Choir and folk trio 'Michaelmas Daisies'** – 7pm at Farthingstone Church. Tickets £7.50 (with mulled wine & mince pie), free to children under 16. Tickets available from Betty Ore, Telephone: 01327 361426  
Email: betts-o@hotmail.co.uk

## BENEFICE CONTACTS

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**For all Benefice Contacts, please see [www.lambfold.org.uk](http://www.lambfold.org.uk)**



## THE LAMB FOLD LETTER

The Weekly Benefice Newsletter for the Churches of  
St Martin's, Litchborough; All Saints, Adstone;  
St Peter & St Paul, Maidford; St Mary's, Blakesley cum Woodend;  
and St Mary the Virgin, Farthingstone

[www.lambfold.org.uk](http://www.lambfold.org.uk)

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

### First Sunday of Advent

## Services in the Benefice today:

10.30am Holy Communion Blakesley  
5.00pm A Candlelit Benefice Service of Readings, Music and Reflections for Advent Litchborough (followed by refreshments)

## Leading Your Church into Growth

God of Mission,  
who alone brings growth to your Church,  
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, joy to our worship and power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Collect and Readings for the First Sunday of Advent

### Collect:

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.

### Isaiah 64. 1-9

<sup>1</sup> O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
<sup>2</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
<sup>3</sup> When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
<sup>4</sup> From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
<sup>5</sup> You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in their ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed  
<sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
<sup>7</sup> There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,

and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

<sup>8</sup> Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup> Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity for ever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

### Mark 13. 24-37

<sup>24</sup> 'But in those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

<sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup> Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup> 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup> 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup> Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup> or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'



### We have been asked to remember the following in our prayers:

David Aked-Walker, Katie Hakin, Carole Harrington, Diane Jones,  
Philip Le Roux, Rob Matthews, Sylvia Reynolds, James Wagstaffe  
and Chris Wright