

SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE – DECEMBER 2023

Sunday 17th 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 19th December

6.00pm	Carol Service	Adstone
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Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve

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

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day

9.00am	Family Communion	Adstone
9.00am	Communion by Extension	Maidford
10.00am	Family Communion	Litchborough
11.00am	Family Communion	Blakesley

Sunday 31st December – First Sunday of Christmas

10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion	Farthingstone
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Dates for your Diary

Thursday 21st 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
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BENEFICE CONTACTS

Rector: Reverend Sue Stanley

Tel: 01327 341307 Email: stanley.thehole@btinternet.com

David Cockshott (Reader) Tel: 01327 860119, djcgac@gmail.com

Sandy Aked-Walker (Safeguarding) Tel: 01327 830077, dg2010@btinternet.com

Sarah Rudkin (Benefice Admin & Treasurer) Tel: 01327 830965, srudkin@rudkindesign.co.uk

For all Benefice Contacts, please see www.lambfold.org.uk



THE LAMBOLD 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

Sunday 10th December 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

Services in the Benefice today:

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

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 Second Sunday of Advent

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.

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹ Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

⁶ A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand for ever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings,
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'

¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Mark 1:1-8

¹ The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of
you,

who will prepare your way;
³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight",

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the
whole Judean countryside and all the people of
Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river
Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with
a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He
proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am
not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have
baptized you with [□] water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'



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