

## SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE – NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November – Christ the King

9.00am	Matins	Maidford
10.30am	Sunday Morning Worship	Litchborough
10.30am	Holy Communion	Blakesley
6.00pm	Compline	Farthingstone
6.00pm	Compline	Adstone

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – First Sunday of Advent

10.30am	Holy Communion	Blakesley
5.00pm	A Benefice Service of Readings, Music and Reflections for Advent	Litchborough

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

9.30am	Holy Communion	Woodend
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### 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

## 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

**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](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 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### Second Sunday before Advent

## Services in the Benefice today:

9.00am	Holy Communion	Maidford
10.30am	Holy Communion	Litchborough
10.30am	Music & Meditation	Blakesley
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 Second Sunday before Advent

### Collect:

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son was revealed  
to destroy the works of the devil  
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:  
grant that we, having this hope,  
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;  
that when he shall appear in power and great glory  
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;  
where he is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Zephaniah 1. 7, 12-18

<sup>7</sup> Be silent before the Lord God!

For the day of the Lord is at hand;  
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,  
he has consecrated his guests.

<sup>12</sup> At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the people  
who rest complacently<sup>1</sup> on their dregs,  
those who say in their hearts,  
'The Lord will not do good,  
nor will he do harm.'

<sup>13</sup> Their wealth shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.

<sup>14</sup> The great day of the Lord is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,  
the warrior cries aloud there.

<sup>15</sup> That day will be a day of wrath,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,

a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
<sup>16</sup> a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

<sup>17</sup> I will bring such distress upon people  
that they shall walk like the blind;

because they have sinned against the Lord,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust,  
and their flesh like dung.

<sup>18</sup> Neither their silver nor their gold  
will be able to save them  
on the day of the Lord's wrath;  
in the fire of his passion  
the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end  
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

### Matthew 25:14-30

<sup>14</sup> For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup> to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup> The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup> In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup> But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup> After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." <sup>22</sup> And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." <sup>24</sup> Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." <sup>26</sup> But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

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### Prayers - 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