



The Parish of
Mitcheldean and Abenhall

Parish News

Advent 2016



ADVENT

Worship with us

St Michael and All Angels', Mitcheldean

1st Sunday of each month: 8.30am **Said Holy Communion** followed by

10.00 am **Family Service** (inc. Holy Communion)

Remaining Sundays: 10.00 am **Sung Eucharist**

Tuesdays: 10.30 am Holy Communion (said)

9.00am Tuesday, Wednesday: 8.45am Friday **Morning prayer**

Fridays: 12noon Midday Prayer

St Michael's, Abenhall

1st and 3rd Sundays of the month: 3.00 pm Holy Communion

2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month: 3.00 pm Evensong

For Saints Days and other Holy Day services, please see the porch noticeboards or view the website: www.stmichaelmitcheldean.co.uk

(Children and families are very welcome at all of our services)

Contacts:

Fr David

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Licensed Reader.

Janet Keene

Church Wardens:

Sue Lewis

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It's not over 'till the camels arrive.

Advent can be full of tension. We live in a world that wants to start celebrating Christmas weeks if not months before December 25th, the church's liturgical year wants to spend Advent thinking about Christ coming at the end of time, and most Christians want to spend Advent getting ready for Christmas. There is a tension but it need not be counter productive. Advent needs to be a time for thinking about what Jesus means to us what he means in our lives, and in the light of that what does the celebration of his birth mean to us. It's a bit like spending time thinking about what a loved one means to us before celebrating their birthday, think how much more the celebration means when we have a renewed sense of their importance in our lives. Of course advent comes with the added pressure of preparation for the celebrations but it is important in all of that not to lose sight of what we are going to celebrate so that our spiritual celebration is as exciting as our family celebration.

I would want to encourage you to remember how important it is that we the church family in this place worship together on Christmas day short of 'Thine be the glory' on Easter day there is nothing more powerful than singing 'Yeah Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning' on Christmas morning, and of the church family celebrating the Eucharist together on one of the two most important days of the year. On Christmas morning I hope that children (of all ages) will bring along some of their Christmas presents to show us.

We celebrate the Epiphany on it's proper day January 6th which this year is a Friday with a solemn Eucharist in Mitcheldean church at 7.00pm. The Epiphany celebrates the importance of the birth of Jesus for all people and is an important feast day that deserves to be a priority for us all.

I wish you a very happy Christmas.

David

Magazine: Don't forget this news letter is available by email or on the church website. If you'd like it emailed please send an email to Fr David

Daily Bible readings:

December

1st John 1 1-23

2nd John 1 24-28

3rd John 1 43- end

4th Matthew 3. 1-12

5th John 2

6th John 3. 1-21

7th John 3. 22-end

8th John 4. 1-26

9th John 4. 27-42

10th John 4. 43-end

11th Matthew 11. 2-11

12th John 5. 1-24

13th John 5. 25- 47

14th John 6. 1-21

15th John 6. 22-40

16th John 6. 41-59

17th John 6. 60 -end

18th Matthew 1. 18-end

19th John 7. 1-24

20th John 7. 25-36

21st John 7 37-end

22nd John 8. 1-20

23rd John 8. 21-end

24th Matthew 1. 18-end

25th Luke 2. 1-20

26th Acts 7. 51-end

27th John 21. 19-end

28th Matthew 2. 13-18

29th Luke 2. 22-35

30th Luke 2. 36-40

31st John 1. 1-18

Christmas Cards.

It is good to be able to exchange Christmas cards each year with friends and family, and each year we have a number of cards left in church. We know this can be a helpful way to leave cards for people we don't meet in the weeks before Christmas. But in the busy run up to Christmas with school services, Christmas fair, carol and crib service the cards are difficult to manage.

Therefore if you really need to leave cards in church can we please ask some favours of you.

1. If you bring a card to church and the person it is for is in church then please give them the card and wish them a Happy Christmas.
2. If you are leaving a card in church please make sure it has a full name on it every year we have cards left after Christmas that just have Christian names on and we have no idea who they are for.
3. Please don't leave cards for people who don't come to church.

Many thanks

David

Christmas Fair Friday 16th December from 6.00pm until 8.30pm in Mitcheldean church. Carols by Drybrook Silver band, various stalls, mulled wine, hot dogs, tea and coffee. Grand Draw at 8.30pm.
Grand Christmas Draw. 1st Prize £100 . Tickets available now.

100 Club. After many (many) years Doreen Davis is giving up running the 100 club. We wish extend our thanks to her for her reliable and faithful service in making sure the club runs smoothly.
However this means we are looking for some one else who would be willing to take over the running of the 100 club, which contributes around £500 to church funds. This isn't an overly onerous task, more details of what is involved from Fr David or Sue Lewis

Soup Lunches: By popular demand soup lunches at the Rectory are returning for Advent. 12.30pm until 2.00pm Drop in. December 1st , 8th, 15th and 22nd

Christmas Crackers: we would love to be able to support our school's Christmas lunch by giving each of the children a Christmas cracker. We need just over 200. Donations of Christmas crackers gratefully received. Please ensure the gifts inside are suitable for children from 5 years old

Dates.

December 4th 3.00pm Christingle Service. Mitcheldean
December 16th 6.00pm Christmas Fair. Mitcheldean
December 18th 3.00pm Carol Service. Abenhall
6.00pm Village Carol Service. Mitcheldean
December 24th 4.00pm Crib Service. Mitcheldean
11.00pm Midnight mass. Mitcheldean
December 25th 8.45am Holy Communion. Abenhall
10.00am Family Eucharist. Mitcheldean
January 6th. Epiphany. 7.00pm Eucharist. Mitcheldean

Please note there will be no Tuesday Communion on December 27th and no service at Abenhall on Sunday 1st January.

Items for the next News Letter to Fr David by 15th of this month please

Wanted: Large Screen (50") TV for use in church.

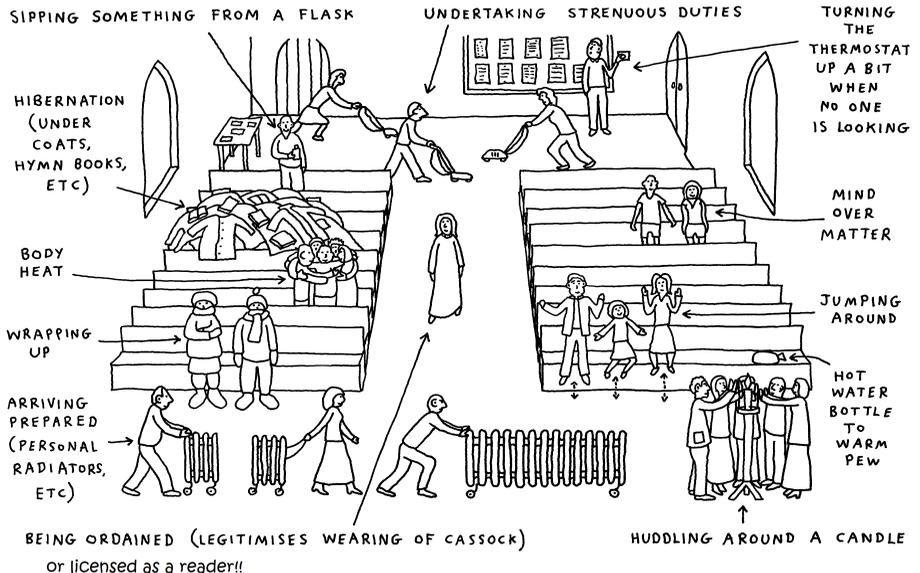
We need a working large screen Television for use in church. If you happen to be getting a new TV for Christmas and need a home for your old one. Please let Fr David of Sue Lewis know. It does need to around a 50" screen



Janet Keene: We were very pleased to be able to celebrate with Janet following her licensing as a Lay Reader in Oxford Diocese where she did her training. However we have had to be patient in waiting for her to begin her ministry with us, as there have been legal formalities around Janet being licensed in this diocese. We are pleased that this process is nearing completion and so we are planning to launch her ministry with us on Sunday December 18th at the Parish Eucharist. When we will have a short act of commissioning and Janet will preach.

WAYS TO KEEP WARM

IN CASE THERE IS ONE YOU HAVEN'T TRIED



The Diocesan Messenger, December 2016

Celebrate new Life with Bishop Robert

Following Bishop Robert's consecration as Bishop of Tewkesbury on 30 November, we are inviting everyone in the Diocese of Gloucester come to Gloucester Cathedral in December as we welcome him into his new ministry. Bishop Robert will be a Suffragan Bishop, which means that he will assist Bishop Rachel with the running of the Diocese. Although Robert will be well known to most of you as Archdeacon of Cheltenham, this is the start of a new ministry for him, as well as a time of new beginnings with our new diocesan vision, Life. With this in mind, local schools, charities and other organisations will play a big part as we celebrate his new start. One of the highlights of the service will be the presentation of Bishop Robert's pastoral staff, which has been created for him by pupils from All Saints Academy. It would be wonderful to see lots of you at this special service on **Sunday 11 December, at Gloucester Cathedral from 2.30pm.**

Churches answer school's concerns

Churches Together in Churchdown and Innsworth answered the call of local schools last summer by holding a holiday club. A local headteacher was concerned about all children having access to healthy food and fun activities in the long weeks of the summer holidays. The Revd Jacqui Hyde said: "in our own, St John's might have been able to offer an afternoon, or possibly a single day. By working with our partner churches and with support from the schools, Innsworth Parish Council and the local Tesco branch, we were able to offer a week of activities, including hot lunches all free to the families. ♦ If this has inspired you to start thinking about next summer in your own parish, contact Jacqui on revdjacqui@talktalk.net

Launching into a new Life

Thanks to everyone who was able to come along to the Life vision launch party at the end of last month. We hope you had a great time and were inspired by the opportunities to meet and celebrate together. You can see photos and videos from the day on our website and Facebook page [Facebook.com/Diocese.of.Gloucester](https://www.facebook.com/Diocese.of.Gloucester) If you're not on Facebook, just search for the Diocese of Gloucester and you should still be able to see the pictures.

If you didn't make it to the event, here's an overview of the new vision, which brings together views from communities and churches across the Diocese and beyond about where God is leading us for the next five years.

- **Leadership:** Committed to transformation
- **Imagination:** Opening new paths to faith
- **Faith:** Living as adventurous followers of Jesus Christ
- **Engagement:** Living out Christ's love and hope

Copies of the vision with more detail about the areas we want to focus on have been sent to every church in the Diocese and can also be downloaded from our website www.gloucester.anglican.org

Events and training

Friday 2 December, 7pm and Sat 3 December, 11am to 4 pm

Christmas Tree Festival

At St Nicholas Church, Ashchurch, Tewkesbury, GL20 8JZ

<http://stnicholasashchurch.org.uk> for more information.

Saturday 3 December

A Quiet Day for Advent, led by the Revd Richard McKay

Gambier Parry Hall, Highnam, GL2 8DG

To book, contact the Revd Canon Michael Cozens, 01453 543459

mcozens86@btinternet.com | 10.

9-11 December

Christmas Tree Festival

All Hallows Church, South Cerney.

9 December (6-8pm, preview event with Ann Edwards School Choir and All Hallows Church Handbell Ringers), 10 December (10-6pm) and 11 December (11am to 4pm).

Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 December, 1-6pm

Christmas Tree Festival

St Mary 痲, Church Lane, Berkeley GL13 9BN

A two day event, featuring Christmas music from St Mary 痲 Choir and a visit from Father Christmas on Saturday, and the popular Christingle service and auction of the decorated trees on Sunday. Stalls and refreshments on both days. Free entry, with donations and proceeds of the auction shared amongst a range of local charities and organisations. Contact Chris Smith 0771 819 5157.



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