

NOTICES

Sunday 17th December

3.00pm Calstone: Nine Lessons and Carols
6.00pm Cherhill: Carols
4.30pm Compton Bassett: Crib and Carols
11.15 Heddington: Holy Communion

Monday 18th December

10.00 Heddington Coffee Morning

Sunday 24th December
Christmas Eve

5.00pm Cherhill: Crib Service
11.30pm Cherhill: Midnight Communion
4.00pm Heddington: Crib Service
9.00pm Heddington: Midnight Communion
4.00pm Yatesbury: Carols

Monday 25th December
Christmas Day

9.45 Calstone: Holy Communion
10.00 Cherhill: Morning Worship
11.15 Compton Bassett: Holy Communion

Sunday 31st December

10.30 Heddington: Benefice Communion

Contact details

Administrator: Emma Marsh 07821 836233

oldburybenefice@gmail.com

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays, 9 am to 12 noon

Benefice Office: 8 Court Farm Stables, Heddington, SN11 0PN

Rector: Rev Matthew Earwicker, 01249 821329 mattearwicker@gmail.com

(Day off - Friday)

You will find contact details for the churchwardens in the Villages magazine.

If you need help with safeguarding issues, please contact the Safeguarding Officer on 07864 000906

17th December
3rd Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 61.1-4
John 1.6-8, 19-28



O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of
your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the
wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in
your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

**Next week:
4th Sunday of Advent**

**Christmas services
only**

Welcome

We hope you feel welcome at our church and find it a place where you can meet with God. If you are unsure about anything, please ask the person who gave you this sheet.

We love children and we understand they will make some noise; don't worry about it! However, if you feel your youngest ones would benefit from playing quietly in a corner, do ask the people who welcomed you and they can point you in a suitable direction. We may even have the odd book or toy for them to play with.

A **loop system** may be provided in this church. Please ask or check by switching your hearing aid to the "T" position.

Receiving the bread and wine

We have been asked by the Department of Health and the House of Bishops to discourage the dipping of wafers into the chalice as it is considered to increase the risk to others' health. If for any reason you do not wish to drink from the chalice, could I therefore ask you to simply let it pass you by. The Church of England has always taught that it is sufficient to receive just the bread. If you have any questions about this, please speak to me after the service or during the week.

PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61.1-4

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
and provide for those who grieve in Zion –
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendour.
They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities
that have been devastated for generations.

Gospel Reading: John 1.6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, 'I am not the Messiah.'

They asked him, 'Then who are you? Are you Elijah?'

He said, 'I am not.'

'Are you the Prophet?'

He answered, 'No.'

Finally they said, 'Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?'

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Make straight the way for the Lord."'

Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, 'Why then do you baptise if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?'

'I baptise with water,' John replied, 'but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.'

This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Heddington Coffee Morning

Come along for tea, coffee, cake, and a chat. All welcome
Mondays from 10.00-11.30 @ St. Andrews Church

Little Fishes runs most Tuesdays during term time from 9.15am at Compton
Bassett Village Hall.
Restarting 9th January 2024.