

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

**LINK FOR THE LIVESTREAM SERVICE** - <https://cofewrecclesham.org.uk/streamed-services/>

Please click on the link from ten minutes beforehand and there will be the livestream link to take you to the service

**Thank you to everyone involved in the services - and to those offering refreshments and hospitality today.**

**A HUGE WELCOME TO WRECCLESHAM SONGBIRDS WHO WILL SING THEIR CHRISTMAS 2023 OFFERING AT THE 10AM SERVICE**

**PLEASE NOTE – THERE WILL BE AN 8AM HOLY COMMUNION & 10AM PARISH COMMUNION AS USUAL ON THE MORNING OF CHRISTMAS EVE – as well at the 4pm Crib Service and 11pm Midnight Mass.**

### **TODAY'S SERVICE – 17<sup>th</sup> December**

**8am** - Holy Communion

**10am** – Third Sunday Service for Advent 3 – with the junior nativity – with guests Wrecclesham Songbirds

**6pm** – Carol Service

**Readings & Hymns:** There are **Pew Bibles** available to browse/follow the readings at the back of church  
*Lectionary (YrB):* Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24; John 1.6-8,19-28

**Hymns** – 323: It came upon a midnight clear – 60 Be still for the presence of the Lord – 580 - Silent Night, Holy Night – 53 Away in a manger – 250 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

The Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent - 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. **Amen**

### **NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE – 24<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve)**

**8am** - Holy Communion

**10am** – Parish Communion for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

**4pm** – Crib Service

**11pm** – Midnight Mass

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

**8am** – Holy Communion

**10am** - Christmas Celebration Service with Communion for all ages

## **TODAY'S MAIN NOTICES**

**CAKE SALE TODAY IN LEVERTON HALL** – David's sister, Hannah and Hugo will be selling cakes today in aid of REFUGE – the charity Hannah is fundraising for – including a second go of the London Marathon!

**FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS** – If you would like to make an offering to Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one, please see Chris Gray.

**THANK YOU – TO THE WORSHIP TEAM – Jonathan, Carol, David & Shirley (craft leader) - FOR LEADING A LOVELY CHRISTINGLE** – What a delight to see 51 children and 39 adults gathering in Ivy's memory to make Christingles and raise money for The Children Society – we raised £293 which will be duly sent to The Children's Society.

### **THANK YOUs – ROWLEDGE COMMUNITY CHOIR CONCERT**

Thank you to Edwin and Sam and the Rowledge Community Choir for a wonderful Christmas Concert – and to those who helped with refreshments and behind the scenes preparations and clearing.

**THANK YOU – FARNHAM BRASS BAND & ST PETER'S SCHOOL CHOIR** – Thank you to bandleader Viv Jones and the FBB – and to Caroline who conducted St Peter's School Choir – what a marvellous afternoon of Christmas music and carols – followed by festive refreshments. Thank you to Alex and Roz Forsyth for making this wonderful partnership happen – and look forward to the possibility of another concert in the spring – watch this space!

**Portable Wheel Chair** – a parishioner has a travel fold-up wheel chair to offer to someone who can make use of it. Please speak to Jacqueline

**Calling all singers....** Do you like to sing? Come and join our informal choir. No experience needed, you don't need to read music or commit to regular Sundays. We will meet at 9.30 before the service to run through the hymns with David - just turn up. For more information please contact me on 07548830018 or email [carolzeiher@sky.com](mailto:carolzeiher@sky.com).

## **OTHER HEADLINES / CHURCH NOTICES**

**THIS WEEK'S THANK YOUs...** To all of us for being there for each other and doing what we can for the love of the Lord and our St Peter's Church! ☺

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Andrew Steward, John Arbury, Penny Cleland, Andrew Jones, Gerald Martin, Zoe Perkins – for all who are poorly, and give thanks for the healing and ongoing wellbeing of all recovering and on the mend from illness....

**RIP** – Sylvia Ryder (d.16.12.23) Sylvia died peacefully at Ashton Manor with daughter Fiona by her side – please pray for Fiona and husband Scott as they mourn...

**Years Mind:** We remember all those dear to us whose years' mind falls around this time....: *(please let Jacqueline know if you would like someone remembered by name ...)*

**Please also pray for the life and work of our Church**, that we might be part of God's revival, and loving and transforming grace here in our place...

Please contact Jacqueline on [vicar@cofewrecclesham.org.uk](mailto:vicar@cofewrecclesham.org.uk) or 716431 / 07806 775974 if you have a notice to share – or if you would like to talk about something else – her day off is a Monday....

**HELP NEEDED, PLEASE – techy team rota** - we would like to extend the team - it is not as challenging as it sounds! Please do speak to Rob/Jacqueline or any of our wonderful Techy Team if you would like to know more – you will be on the rota roughly once every 4/5 weeks – you can work with another person if you like to be in a team!

**WRECCLESHAM OVER 60'S** – On 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month @ 1.30pm – a lovely group meet at the Leverton Hall – please pick up a leaflet for information....

### **Farnham Foodbank**

**THE BASKET IS NOW LOCATED ON THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE OF THE CHURCH BY THE DOOR**

**Please only donate long-life goods – fresh and perishable goods cannot be accepted** – thank you for all that you contribute

**For December** : Large Christmas Puds – large Christmas cakes, instant custard – mince pies

- **Please** continue to put donations in the basket and Lizzy Hendry will kindly be taking the food to the Foodbank – thank you everyone...

**Contact:** mail: [info@farnham.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@farnham.foodbank.org.uk) or call 07901 58153 visit our website [farnham.foodbank.org.uk](http://farnham.foodbank.org.uk) or follow on Facebook [facebook.com/farnhamfoodbank](https://www.facebook.com/farnhamfoodbank)

### **GENERAL NOTICES**

- **Lions Fuel Appeal** - Farnham Lions, for the 12<sup>th</sup> year running, are again launching the Wenceslas Appeal for anyone who might be in a position to donate their Winter Fuel Payment to help local people and families who will find it hard to keep warm and cook in these coming months – an amazing £57,000 was distributed to people in need who were referred via the Citizens Advice and Farnham Support Fund, Farnham Foodbank and other charities...

Donations can be made to <https://www.lionsgiving.co.uk/Appeal/farnhamwenceslas> or by cheque (payable to Farnham Lions Club CIO and endorsed WFP on the back) sent to Farnham Lions Club, 45 Edward Road, Farnham GU9 8NP

- **Farnham Assist** — Farnham Assist reach out to older people who live alone or who are carers – there are fliers at the back of church. **Please do take one if you or anyone you know might benefit from becoming part of the Farnham Assist community** – monthly Sunday lunches – pie & pint club for gentlemen – knit & natter – Ladies pub lunches – day trips & walks – and transport to help – it's all there...
- **GRANTS - Waverley Borough Council**
  - For Waverley residents on a lower income and living in a hard to heat home that is not heated by gas – check for eligibility for new government funding to make your home more energy efficient and reduce household bills. HELPLINE 01483 523204 – OR LOOK ONLINE AT: <https://www.waverley.gov.uk/Council-updates/Read-our-latest-news/ArtMID/1683/ArticleID/1321/Waverley-residents-urged-to-apply-for-free-grants-to-heat-homes>

- **Diocese News** - If you would like to receive news and information from the Diocese, please sign up to their [weekly parish brief](#).

### **LECTIONARY READINGS for the Third Sunday of Advent – Year B**

#### **First Reading - Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11**

The servant of the Lord said:

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion –  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

#### *Psalm 126*

#### **Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24**

My brothers and sisters, <sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; <sup>21</sup>hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

#### **Gospel Reading - John 1.6-8,19-28**

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' <sup>23</sup>He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' <sup>26</sup>John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.