

**News Sheet – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Fourth Sunday of Advent  
CHRISTMAS EVE**

**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.**

**THANK YOU TO CHRIS GRAY – JILL YATES – JESSICA ADAM – HAZEL SHARPLES – WENDY WAKEFORD**  
(Wendy Coxell & Jenny Emberson also part of the team) - **A BEAUTIFUL ARRAY OF CHRISTMAS FLOWERS –**  
**we are so blessed to have such a display to inspire our Christmas worship and celebration**

**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.**

**And there will be a 6pm short, reflective service for New year eve**

**TODAY'S SERVICE – 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**8am** - Holy Communion

**10am** – Parish Communion for Advent 4

**4pm** – Crib Service

**11pm** – Midnight Mass

**Readings & Hymns:** There are **Pew Bibles** available to browse/follow the readings at the back of church  
*Lectionary (Yr B):* 2 Samuel 7.1-11,16; Romans 16.25-27; Luke 1.26-38

Hymns: 612 Tell out my soul – 475 Of the Father's love begotten – 586 Sing we of the Blessed Mother – 580 Cm  
Silent night, holy night – 399 Lo he comes with clouds descending

The Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent - God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**8am** – Holy Communion

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

**Readings:** Isaiah 52. 7 – 10: Ps 98: Hebrews 1. 1-4, (5-12) – *only read 1-4, please* : John 1. 1-14

**Hymns:** 469 O Come, all ye faithful – 130 Ding Dong merrily on high – 318 In the bleak mid-winter – 213 God rest ye merry gentlemen - 53 Away in a manger – 573 See amid the winter's snow – 250 Hark the herald angels sing

**NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE – 31st December (Parish Communion for New Year's Eve)**

**8am** - Holy Communion

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

**6pm** – A short reflective service for the New Year

**TODAY'S MAIN NOTICES**

**THANK YOU SO MUCH TO EVERYONE WHO HAD A HAND IN THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME 2023 – what a marvellous journey we have had – more next week, but so many people experienced hospitality, joy and welcome as they came to St Peter's in so many ways – something for everyone!**

**CAKE SALE THANK YOU** – Thank you to everyone who supported Hannah's cake sale raising an amazing £180 in funds – bravo!

**CHRISTMAS HAMPER** – thank you for everyone who contributed and bought tickets and to Chris Wilkes for a beautiful hamper – we raised in the region of £155 – and the lucky winner was Jim Jeffery!

**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 Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year B

Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 7.1-11,16 (Pew Bible p.307)

<sup>1</sup>Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’ <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.’

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ <sup>8</sup>Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Reading 2: - Romans 16.25-27 (Pew Bible p.1146)

<sup>25</sup>To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Reading – Luke 1.26-38 (Pew Bible p.1031)

<sup>6</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.’ <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

### **Readings for Christmas Day**

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 52.7-10

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’  
<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.  
<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
<sup>10</sup> The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4

1Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 2but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. 3He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Gospel Reading – John 1.1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.