

**News Sheet – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December – the First Sunday of Christmas  
The Naming of Christ / New year's 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.**

**This evening at 6pm – a short, reflective service of readings, music & prayers for New Year's Eve**

**TODAY'S SERVICE – 31<sup>st</sup> December**

**8am** - Holy Communion

**10am** – Parish Communion for the First Sunday of Christmas – the naming of Christ / New Year's Eve

**6pm** – A reflective Service for New year's Eve

**Readings & Hymns:** There are **Pew Bibles** available to browse/follow the readings at the back of church

**Lectionary:** Isaiah 61.10-62.3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.15-21

**Hymns:** 213 God rest ye merry gentlemen – 35 Angels from the realms of glory – 574 See him lying on a bed of straw – Cm 313 infant Holy infant lowly – 229 Good King Wenceslas looked out

**The Collect for the First Sunday of Christmas - Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (The Epiphany)**

**8am** - Holy Communion

**10am** – First Sunday Service for Epiphany

**TODAY'S MAIN NOTICES**

**Thank you so much for those who helped with our Christmas Programme 2023**

*Christmas Hamper* – Chris W and all who contributed.

*Behind the scenes* – Rob & Sam (preparing the church) – Chris W (Admin)– Sue (Leverton Hall)

*Sanctuary and Candles* – Gerald M, Lizzy H, Chris G

*Flowers* – Chris G, Jill, Hazel, Wendy W, Jessica, Jenny E

*Christmas Tree Festival* – Wendy Coxell, Rob & Sam, Kathryn & all who helped with serving refreshments and making cakes, Vanda and John Bolton & the Farnham Ukes for All Band, David for practical help and playing carols on Sunday,

*Wreath Making* – Rob, Vanda, Chris W and Susan, Wendy & Nicky

*Christingle* – Jonathan, Carol and David – and the Duke of Edinburgh students for preparation

*Rowledge Community Choir Concert* – Rob, Kathryn, Myung-hye, Steven

*Farnham Brass Band/St Peter's School Christmas Concert* – Roz and Alex, Kathryn & Myung-hye

*Carol Service* – David (amazing music!), Sandy and all of the readers, Rob & Sam, Colin & Andy, Gerald and Carol, Kathryn, Philip and Jill, Myung-hye

*Nativity and Crib Service* – David, Nicky and Lizzy A

**Well done to all of us** for offering our community a warm and welcoming Advent and Christmas experience at St Peter's Church – and receiving our own spiritual nourishment and fun along the way.

**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...

**Sylvia's funeral will take place 1pm, Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 at Aldershot Crematorium followed by a Service of Memorial and Thanksgiving at St Peter's Church at 2.15pm – followed by refreshments in the Leverton Hall – people are welcome to attend either/both services and the reception..**

**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 First Sunday of Christmas – Year B**

**Bible Reading:** Isaiah 61.10-62.3 – Isaiah's prophecy of the good news of God's deliverance and the vindication of Zion

<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. **62** For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup> The nations shall see your

vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.  
<sup>3</sup> You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Second Reading – Galatians 4.4-7

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. 6 And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' 7 So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2.15-21 *The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus*

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. <sup>21</sup> After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.