

News Sheet for Sunday 15th December 2024 – Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

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

From Advent to Christmas Day there are no flowers in the church and so our flower team will have a well-earned break and we look forward to our glorious Christmas flowers – thank you so much!

Thank you to those who have provided hospitality this week – and to all who make up our **worship team** for this Sunday's service – we are blessed...

Today we will be welcoming Mel Sefton & the Wrecclesham Songbirds – and also the Junior Songbirds will make their debut....

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE – THANK YOU CHRIS for putting together the wonderful hamper – and to all who provided the goodies – **RAFFLE TICKETS NOW ON SALE - £1 A TICKET – DRAW AFTER CAROL SERVICE ON 22ND DECEMBER**

ROWLEDGE COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT - 7.30PM TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER — a free concert with retiring collection for church funds – followed by festive refreshments & raffle - & Christmas Hamper draw!

THANK YOU:

CHRISTINGLE –**Thank you to Carol and David** for leading our Christingle Service last week – over 35 adults and 30 children enjoyed making Christingles and supporting the Children's Society – total amounts will be confirmed soon ...

CHRISTMAS WASSAIL THANK YOUs – we thank **Robert & David** for the wonderful script and music – Rob's Rib Ticklers will be remembered...! – thank you to **Colin, Sandy and Carol** for festive readings and the Twelve Days of Christmas will never be the same again! If we can, we will show 'On the Twelve Days of Christmas my Vicar gave to me...' on the screen next week..., The food and hospitality was delicious thank you to **Chris & Frank** and a wonderful festive and cosy atmosphere thank you to **Rob & Sam's** interior designing ... Oh yes, and for any 'surprise' 'snow scenes' – please contact Rob's Snow Factory (behind the scenes...)

WREATH MAKING – we thanked Vanda and the team last week for our amazing Wreath Making 2024, but also to thank Vanda, Lizzy and Susan for taking a wreath making session into Ashton Manor – what a joy for the Ashton M community to be making their own wreaths

ST PETER'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME IS UP ON THE NOTICE BOARD

please note of dates/times as we spiritually journey through Advent and on into the glorious joy of Christ's birth

COMING UP:

- **6PM TUESDAY 31ST DECEMBER** - A SHORT, REFLECTIVE SERVICE FOR NEW YEAR'S - come along to herald in the New Year of 2025 with thoughts and prayers of hope and commitment to bear witness to the light and promise of peace and goodwill to all, and to bless our own lives, family, friends and communities as we begin this 2025 journey into the unknown in faith and trust.
- **3-5PM SUNDAY 12TH JANUARY 2025** - **Wildlife of Southern Britain: A talk by Ian Stone** – a light-hearted talk with quiz at the end – afternoon tea and cake will be served!

TODAY'S SERVICE – 15th December – Third Sunday of Advent

8am - Holy Communion

10am – Junior Nativity – plus welcoming guests Wrecclesham Songbirds – **Our wonderful impromptu nativity – dressing up and participation welcome! All wear your Christmas jumpers if you have one!**

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

Lectionary: Zephaniah 3.14-20; Isaiah 12.2-6; Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18

Hymns: 323 It came upon a midnight clear; 580 Silent Night; 53 Away in a manger; 250 Hark the Herald Angels sing

The Collect for Third Sunday of Advent – today's gathering prayer of the Church – full version

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.

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EVERY WEDNESDAY: 8AM ONLINE MORNING PRAYER (although Jacqueline is in person at St Peter's Church when she leads it – you are welcome to join her either in person or on zoom...)

Join Zoom Meeting - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87443605688?pwd=UYiMVbph9q6XaSTsxcawvA4ixebxjT.1>

Meeting ID: 874 4360 5688 - Passcode: 307447

FREE TICKET PASS FOR WESTMINSTER ABBEY – I have secured a pass that allows 6 visits for the year church family members to use – up to four people per visit- **there are three passes left for the coming year** – please see Jacqueline to reserve your pass

Please see Notice Board for up to date news / events / services

PRAYERS FOR:

Andrew Jones, Beryl Tate, 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 – Pat Wood - Pat contributed to the life of the Parish, St Peter's Church and a stalwart of Wrecclesham Mother's Union – please pray for Bridget and Nicholas as they mourn...

A Service of Thanksgiving will be held for Pat at 1pm on Friday 20th December at St Peter's Church

We remember all those dear to us whose years' mind falls around this time – Sylvia Ryder (RIP 16th): (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 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....

OTHER NOTICES

PCC

- **From April 2025 – vacancies for the service positions of Churchwarden and PCC Secretary** – we are aware that both Rob and Judith will be stepping down from their roles as Churchwarden and PCC Secretary. Do you think either might be something God is prompting you to think about – if so, please do come and have a chat with Jacqueline or, indeed, Rob or Judith in the first instance.
- **WRECCLESHAM FETE TEAM** – We would love two or three people to represent St Peter's when the planning for 2025 fete begins – this is to liaise with the wider fete team to keep up to date with plans and to help organise our own contributions. We always trust that help comes forward on the day, but the finer details of planning and ideas is something that a little group would be ideal to facilitate – **please do let Rob know if you can help...**

St Peter's School is looking to recruit a Foundation Governor to join them as they seek to bring the best school-life experience to our children. This is a volunteer role and if you are interested to discuss the role with a current governor or to know more, please do see the poster on the notice board with information and contact details - please email: info@stpeters-farnham.surrey.sch.uk

Farnham Assist – 2024 Programme now available by the notice boards – Farnham Assist reach out to older people who live alone or who are carers

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.

THIS WEEK'S THANK YOUs... Please see notice above – and 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! ☺

GENERAL NOTICES

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

Farnham Foodbank BASKET IS 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

Urgent : new food list (getting ready for Christmas orders): Christmas cake, Mince pies, Chocolate Selection boxes, Packets of custard - Items such as stuffing and gravy - thank you so much...

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 or call 07901 58153 visit our website farnham.foodbank.org.uk

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

Lectionary Readings – 15th December – Third Sunday of Advent

First Bible Reading Zephaniah Chapter 3:14-20

Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." "The sorrows for the appointed feasts I will remove from you; they are a burden and a reproach to you. At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you; I will rescue the lame and gather those who have been scattered. I will give them praise and honour in every land where they were put to shame. At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honour and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD.

Second Reading Philippians Chapter 4:4-7

Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends! I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Gospel Reading Luke Chapter 3:7-18

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely--be content with your pay." The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.