

News Sheet for Christmas Day & Sunday 28th December – The Holy Innocents

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 leading our worship - also to Chris Gray and the flower team, to Sam for offering hospitality on the 28th – all very much appreciated...

We wish you all a very Happy and Blessed Christmas

CHRISTMAS DAY

10am - Celebration Communion for Christmas – led by Rev Sandy Cavalier

Lectionary: Isaiah 62.6-end; Titus 3.4-7; Luke 2.8-20

The Collect for Christmas Day

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

PRAYERS FOR: Stephanie & Norman Robinson, Jenny Emberson, Tim Sturt, Gerald Martin, Andrew Jones and for all who are poorly, and give thanks for the healing and ongoing wellbeing of all recovering and on the mend from illness...

RIP We remember the families of John Danaher whose Funeral is here on January 5th at 10.30 and of Christine Paine who passed away on 18th December

We remember all those dear to us whose years' mind falls around this time

(please let Chris 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...

A VERY APPRECIATIVE ST PETER'S CHRISTMAS THANK YOU to all those who have helped run our Christmas Services - David, Carol, Lizzy, Vanda, Sue, Kathryn, Nicky, Myung-hye, Philip and Jill and all who have helped behind the scenes. We could not have put on the 'show' without them!! Also to Colin for ticket sales and Frank and Chris for putting the Luxury Hamper & prizes together - it raised £520 for Church Funds and Christingle raised £260

Changes to Clergy cover for some 8am Communion Services as listed in the Magazine as follows:

11th January 8am - Morning Prayer; 25th January 8am NO service.

UPDATE FROM THE PCC RE FINDING A NEW VICAR

"We continue to make progress, working with the Diocese to find a new vicar. It has now become clear that we will be unable to fund a full-time post and that to pay for a half-time vicar we will need to significantly increase our annual income. We believe this is achievable and we will be asking for your support in various ways over coming weeks and months."

Also – the Vicarage is NOT for sale! Estate Agents frustratingly leave "For Sale" signs for properties in Kings Lane on the corner outside

Bible Readings

Isaiah 62.6-end

Thus says the LORD: Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.' They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out,

Second Reading: Titus 3.4-7

When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Gospel: Luke 2.8-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' 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.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SUNDAY – 28th December - The Holy Innocents

8am – Morning Prayer - led by Steven Knowles

10am – Parish Communion – led by Rev Sandy Cavalier, refreshments in the Hall after

Lectionary: *Jeremiah 31.15-17; Psalm 124; 1 Corinthians 1.26-29; Matthew 2.13-18*

The Collect

Heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong: by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Bible Readings

Jeremiah 31.15-17

Thus says the LORD: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the LORD: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the LORD: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the LORD: your children shall come back to their own country.

1 Corinthians 1.26-29

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

Matthew 2.13-18

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

NEWS SHEET – please let **Chris Wilkes** know of any notices you would like included – **by Thursday lunchtime if possible**. Email: parishadmin@cofewrecclesham.org.uk – Tel/text: 07902 768597