

PEW NEWS

MILBORNE PORT, MILBORNE WICK, GOATHILL, CHARLTON HORETHORNE AND STOWELL.

Sunday 13th December 2020. 2nd Sunday of Advent

Dear friends

As we wait for Christmas, the birth of Jesus, I hope some of us will be able to take advantage of the small window we have been given to meet up with our families and take part in joyful celebrations with those we love. The prophet Isaiah calls us to rejoice because God will make the desert bloom and will call the people to return home on a great highway. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the angels brought 'Good news of great joy which shall be to all people. The good news of Jesus' birth and the promise of peace are still tidings of great joy for us today.

Isaiah says, 'Everlasting joy shall be on their heads'

Today we will light the third candle on our Advent wreathes in church. The third candle is rose coloured and reminds us of our joy in Jesus. Sometimes this Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday which is Latin for rejoice.

A prayer for this week

Thank you God for the gift of joy.
Help us to recognise those moments of joy in our lives
and to live joyfully so that others may be filled with the joy
that comes from knowing Jesus Christ. Amen

Milborne Wick Christmas Joy

Friday 18th 6pm

This will take place on the green in front of church so please wrap up warm. The service consists of readings of the Christmas story and some socially distanced carols. Please bring a torch.

Services this week

*All the usual caveats, these are subject to last minute changes.
Please don't attend if you feel poorly in anyway.*

Sunday 13th December Advent 3

1 Thessalonians 5. 16-24/John1.6-8,19-28

10.30 **Holy Communion** - Milborne Port

No evensong tonight

Services and events next week:

Thursday 17th

7pm: The last of our **Advent series** on zoom

Friday 18th

6pm: **Christmas Joy** - Milborne Wick.

Saturday 19th

4pm: **Blue Christmas** for those wanting to remember loved ones - Milborne Port

5.30pm Carol singing in **Stowell** starting at the church

Sunday 20th December Advent 4

Magnificat/Luke1.6-28

10.30am: **Christmas Communion** - Charlton Horethorne

4pm: **Christmas Service** - Goathill

6pm: **Candle lit Service** - Milborne Port (Ticket only)

Tuesday 22nd

6pm: **Candle Lit Service** - Milborne Port (Ticket only)

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings

Isaiah 61.1–4, 8–end

⁶¹The 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;

² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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.

1 Thessalonians 5.16–24

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

²³ 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. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Gospel Reading

John 1.6–8, 19–28

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

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ ²¹ And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ ²² Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ ²³ 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.

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

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Christmas Day

We will try our best to accommodate everyone who wants to come but we have to stick to the guidelines to keep everyone safe. If we exceed our numbers for social distancing at Charlton Horethorne at 9am we will move the service outdoors so, please wrap up warm. In Milborne Port there will be an overflow service taking place in Church House.

We are not insisting on booking for either place. It will be a case of first come first served.

Watch this space-worship in the waiting

Throughout Advent we will be holding a weekly gathering on Zoom on the theme of 'worship in the waiting'. Gatherings are held at 7pm on Thursday evenings. Come and join us

The last session is this Thursday

17th December: Hope-filled expectation

Joining details.

Topic: Advent meeting

Time: Dec 10th, 2020 07:00 PM London

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86279003669?pwd=SodQRGoxU2t5UkhZQXIUb2VkbIRXUT09>

Meeting ID: 862 7900 3669

Passcode: 211161

Christmas Eve 'Lighting the Way to Bethlehem'



As numbers are restricted in church this year we cannot hold our normal Christingle service and crib services. Instead we will need to do things differently but we hope that it will be equally awesome.

We want to encourage families and everyone to come and visit our outside cribs any time on Christmas Eve. This is an event for everyone. Bring with you a jam jar lantern decorated in some way, with a tea light inside to place by the crib. You may want to attach a prayer to the lantern.

Come back later in the day to see all the lights and prayers as we light the way to Bethlehem. This is an event for adults and children. It would be lovely if we could light up our churchyards for Christmas.

Children come between 2 and 4pm, bring a lantern and we will give you a Christingle bag to make a Christingle at home. This activity will take place in concurrently in both Charlton Horethorne and Milborne Port.

If anyone can source a life size baby doll for one of the cribs we will be grateful. Also if you can spare some time to decorate a jam jar so that we have lots that would be great too!

There are no midnight services in any of our churches.

Blue Christmas

Saturday 19th December at 4pm in St John's Church

The first Christmas after someone in the family has died is always difficult. This service is for those who have lost a loved one during the previous year or so and would like the opportunity to remember them in a special way at Christmas. The service consists of prayers, readings, music and silence, with the names of those who have died read out and candles lit. Families who have held a funeral service in the benefice will receive a personal invitation.

If you have been bereaved recently, we warmly invite you to attend. This year the service will be held in the main body of the church rather than in the lady chapel so that we can observe social distancing.

If you would like to come, please let Sarah know. We will have to restrict our numbers to 50 so it will help us to know how many people you wish to bring with you. You must book for this service.

We will be reading the names our loved ones who have died at this service. If you would like someone included, please put their name on the list at the back of our churches before the 19th or let Sarah know.

Candle lit service (carol service) Milborne Port

Sunday 20th and Tuesday 22nd at 6pm

There are still tickets available for both days. We are restricted to 60 people (this includes the choir and readers). Please let people know that they can be collected from the Vicarage. This is a free event. Collection will be in aid of Christian Aid.

After this Sunday we will make available what tickets are left and place some in Wayne's.

Please do not arrive at the last minute for these services as it will take some time for us to seat everyone. Please do not mingle around the door to chat. It won't be possible to stand near the door this year so please make sure you have a ticket.

Sunday 27th December

After all the Christmas services we plan to hold it is not fair to ask the good folk of Charlton Horethorne, Milborne Port or Goathill to give their churches a deep clean on Boxing Day. I'm afraid Milborne Wick and Stowell churches are just too small to hold everyone. Worship this Sunday will be via zoom. We will have a very short gathering at 10.30am for those that wish.

Joining details are below

Topic: Sunday service

Dec 27, 2020 10:30 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89855472512?pwd=SkVzVHQrbHpuM1dmeXc5aEtZc2dCQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 5547 2512

Passcode: 362692