

The Benefice of Foremark and Repton with Newton Solney
Fourth Sunday of Advent - 20th December 2020 – January 9th 2021

With the timing of the Sundays, and the Staff who produce the newsletter needing a break, today's copy is laid out slightly differently as it carries us through to the New Year and covers the week after the Feast of Epiphany to be celebrated on January 3rd.



**CHRISTMAS JUST ISN'T
CHRISTMAS WITHOUT
CHRIST**

Collects

Advent 4

Eternal God,
as we wait with Mary for the coming of your Son,
bring us through the birth-pangs of our present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christmas 1

God in Trinity,
eternal communion of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven here on
earth:
accept our heartfelt praise,
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

The Epiphany

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

With thanks for God's many Blessings during 2020. May we all be a blessing to one another in the year ahead.

All continuing to provide spiritual and pastoral care to our parishes and those within the wider community during this period of COVID-19.

All our Church, Messy Church and Youth Alpha families that they may continue to deepen their faith.

Those serving God, here and abroad: Nick Parish training for ordination, Sarah Attwood, home from Bosnia and soon to return to her teammates continuing with the church in Bosnia.

Those in need of long-term prayerful support: Andrew Pitchford, Lynn Wells, Ian Tennant, Samantha Taylor, Ted Weston, Alf Booth, Kay Howard, Claire Rose, Audrey Morris, Joan Taylor, Robin Nelson, Carl Baker, Shirley Wells, Philip Dutton, Lorna Griffiths.

Prayer requests: Nazanin & family, for all affected by the coronavirus and all seeking to contain & combat this pandemic, for all providing care and support at this time.

Those who have recently died and those known to us, R.I.P.: Colin Campbell, 'Nan'cy Barnes (NS), 'Pat'ricia Rogers (NS) and their families and friends who mourn them.

BENEFICE SERVICES AT ST WYSTAN'S & OTHERS

10.00am on SUNDAYS as well as The Crib Service and Communion on Christmas Morning

PLEASE NOTE LIVE-STREAMING WILL BE ON ZOOM

These are the instructions for joining

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7855049461>

Meeting ID: 785 504 9461

Telephone: 0203 901 7895

Enter the Meeting ID: 785 504 9461 when prompted. There is no password required.

The service will be uploaded to YouTube and Facebook afterwards.

REMAINING SERVICES THIS YEAR AND EARLY NEXT

Sunday 20 th	4.00pm	Carols in the Churchyard at St Wystan's, Repton
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Crib Service at St Wystan's
Christmas Day	10.00am	Benefice Communion Service
Sunday 27 th	10.00	Christmas Service [no communion] will take place in St Mary's for the people of Newton Solney and those who regularly worshipped there. <i>Children of any age are invited to bring a present along to show and for the Vicar to preach on</i>
	10.00	A pre-recorded Communion Service from St Wystan's will be streamed
Tuesday 29 th	12.45	Funeral St Mary's
Wednesday 30 th	12.00	Interment of Ashes St Wystan's
Thursday 31 st	2.00	Wedding @ St Wystan's Felicity Bryson and Richard Taylor of Repton
January 3 rd	10.00	Benefice Communion EPIPHANY Service in St Wystan's
January 10 th	10.00	Benefice Communion celebrating the Baptism of Christ at St Wystan's

TICKETS

To book places at the **Crib Service and Communion for Christmas Morn services**

Email – Rebecca our Administrator at de656fh@gmail.com

Include in your email: which service; the number and names of those attending; a contact telephone number [for Track and Trace]. Both Services will be on Zoom.

A **9 Lessons Service** is going to be pre-recorded and broadcast on **Repton Radio**.

The **CAROLS IN THE CHURCHYARD Service** at St Wystan's takes place this afternoon at 4.00pm.

These are open without the need to book. You will need suitable footwear as you may be on wet grass and bring a 'safe' lantern or torch to read the words by. You will be Track & Traced and have to socially distance in bubbles. **FOR THE CAROLS TO SING TO** – They are posted on the Facebook page and Website of the Repton Community Support Covid19 Group and several other local websites including our own. Some sheets of carols will be available. Please do not arrive before 3.40 – as we must have T&T recorders in place before allowing you in.

WINTER OPENING TIMES - CHURCHES OPEN FOR PRAYER – every day including Christmas and New Year

ST MARY'S [EVERY DAY] 10.00 – 3.00pm.

ST WYSTAN'S [WEEK DAYS] 10.00 - 4.00pm

St Wystan's is open on Saturdays 10.00AM – 3.00pm then it will be cleaned and set up ready for Sunday.

On **Sundays** the church will be cleaned after the service and then open for prayer until **4.00pm**.

The Church will not be open just before and after the Funeral and Wedding already organised [see the Services Diary].

DAILY PRAYER – will continue until [including] Christmas Eve. It will then start up again on Monday January 4th. It takes place at 9.00 using a Service Order from Iona Abbey. We 'meet' on Zoom and the telephone link works for this as well. If you wish to join us, then you are most welcome. Please ask Rebecca for a copy of the service order and a Zoom link.

REPTON COMMUNITY SUPPORT COVID19 GROUP

Increasingly more material is being uploaded onto **Radio Repton** which seeks to cover news and have articles of interest from Bretby to Willington, including all the communities in our Benefice. Go to www.radiorepton.info and have a listen.

CHRISTMAS CRIB FEST



Thank you to Brian Davies for create Crib Silhouette/Scenes for our churches. They look wonderful.

CHRISTMAS CRIB FEST

Ingleby, Foremark, Milton, Newton Solney & Repton

We hope the Cribs will be on display until well after Christmas because voting on them continues until January 2nd.

'Repton Community Group Covid19' are happy for you to place photos of your Crib on their Facebook site.

So that you can plan your routes to go and view them all we have published a list which is available in the Post Office – and also on local websites and social media sites. This will be updated on the 21st for late entries.

Information on how to vote in on the 'Tour' list.

I am very grateful to The Boot, The Bulls Head, Greedy Pig Butchers and The Spar for the prizes.
Martin the Vicar

TERRY BENNETT – Three Decades of Service and Services

After some 30 years as Organist and Choirmaster at St Wystan's, Terry has decided to accept the offer of a similar post at the much closer to his home, St Anne's in Derby. While we wish him all the very best in the future, we will welcome him back here to say goodbye properly at a special service once 'Covid' allows. I personally hope this service will see lots of those who have sung in the Wystan Singers over the years return for one last time that we might thank them also.

Terry will continue to play for weddings and funerals when required. His final service here in an official capacity will in fact be the wedding on December 31st – his final 'main' service being on Christmas morning. I am sure many of you will want to join me in wishing him well in the future.

From January 3rd Abigail Johnson [Abi] will act as interim organist allowing us time, as Covid lifts, to consider the shape and nature of services across the Benefice and the musical needs to support those services.

HOME COMMUNIONS

With the continuing spread and high infection rates of Covid19 the Vicar apologises to all those who might otherwise have had Communion in their homes this coming week in the lead up to Christmas. We will take the earliest opportunity that we can in the New Year to visit and share communion with those who normally receive it at home or wish to in the future.

Daily Readings Sunday 20th December to Saturday 9th January

Sunday 20th December (4th Sunday in Advent)

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

Monday 21st December Psalm 121, Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12, 2 Peter 1:1-15

Tuesday 22nd December Psalm 124, Isaiah 54, 2 Peter 1:16-2:3

Wednesday 23rd December Psalm 130, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, 2 Peter 2:4-22

Christmas Eve Psalm 45, Malachi 2:1-16, Matthew 19:13-15

Christmas Day Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-4, John 1:1-14

Saturday 26th December (St Stephen) Psalm 13, Jeremiah 26:12-15, Acts 6

Sunday 27th December (1st Sunday of Christmas)

Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:15-21

Monday 28th December (Holy Innocents) Psalm 36, Genesis 37:13-20, Matthew 18:1-10

Tuesday 29th December Psalm 19, Isaiah 57:15-21, John 1:1-18

Wednesday 30th December Psalm 113, Isaiah 59:1-15a, John 1:19-28

Thursday 31st December (John Wyclif) Psalm 102, Isaiah 59:15b-21, John 1:29-34

Friday 1st January (Naming and Circumcision of Jesus) Psalm 103, Genesis 17:1-13, Romans 2:17-29

Saturday 2nd January Psalm 18:1-30, Isaiah 60:1-12, John 1:35-42

Sunday 3rd January (Epiphany)

Psalm 126, Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

Monday 4th January Psalm 89:1-37, Isaiah 60:13-22, John 1:43-51

Tuesday 5th January Psalm 48, Isaiah 61, John 2:1-12

Wednesday 6th January Psalm 132, Isaiah 62, John 2:13-25

Thursday 7th January Psalm 99, Isaiah 63:7-19, 1 John 3

Friday 8th January Psalm 46, Isaiah 64, 1 John 4:7-21

Saturday 9th January Psalm 148, Isaiah 65:1-16, 1 John 5:1-12

THANK YOU FROM THE VICAR

Thank you to everyone who has already sent and who will send me a Christmas card. May I remind everyone that it has been my approach for a few years now to donate a sum of money to a charity instead of sending out cards – my chosen charity is Rainbows Children's Hospice – as they were not able to hold their Charity Concert in St Wystan's this year. A very Blessed and Peace-Filled Christmas to you all.

From a local Christian to a Friend [published with permission]

Dear -----,

I am sad to hear you have been diagnosed with idiopathic intracranial hypertension. It sounds as if you have been going through a horrible time and that's rotten but I have been very struck by your positivity.

As to how I have coped having a long term illness and being a Christian, I think the first thought that comes to mind is that I don't know how I would have coped if I hadn't had a faith! That said, there will be difficult times.

The big questions are why me and why doesn't God heal me. Christians have wrestled with these ideas for years.

I think we have to be clear that being a Christian doesn't exempt us from the realities of living in a broken world. Paul had his thorn in the flesh. Jesus knew that his dear friends would be tortured to death. Being a Christian doesn't give us a Get out of Jail free card! So I don't ask why me - I could answer that myself - why not me!

I find the harder question is why doesn't God heal me when the Bible tells us that healing is an integral part of Christian ministry. It is a mystery why some are healed but not all. I think sometimes God can use us despite our illnesses or disabilities and that sometimes he is able to use us more fully because of them. You may experience disappointment and frustration if church members pray for you, anoint you with oil even, but your physical problems remain. I would say two things - one, that healing comes in many forms. The strength to endure, the peace to stop raging against the feeling of helplessness, a good night's sleep, a decision on benefits that help stave off financial worries - or the appearance of someone in your life at the right time... words of kindness, a helping hand. So many ways God can answer prayer. The second point is timing. I am so much better than I was when I was in ----- . At my worst, I had a wheelchair that laid flat like a stretcher because there would be times when I didn't have the strength to sit up or to hold the weight of my head. I remember feeling so unwell and now I am enormously better than that. I don't use any walking aids at all which would have felt impossible 20 years ago. Healing can come when you least expect it.

Having said all of that, we are only human. When you are ill, or when I am ill anyway, the energy to keep faith burning brightly can be elusive. I used to think of my faith as being like a pilot light. Sometimes my faith would burn brightly but sometimes it only felt like the dimmest glow. But the thing about a pilot light is that that tiny light can burst into a strong flame when it's really needed and that was my reassurance.

Sometimes, at my worst, I would feel full of resentment that other people didn't seem to be suffering like this, that I didn't deserve this that my family didn't deserve to go through this with me. It helped to know that God is big enough to take on all my emotions - anger, sorrow, disappointment, resentment - the lot! The Psalms are full of these emotions and God wants us to know that's ok. That is our human nature - and He still loves us. I believe the Psalms are in the Bible so that we can see how someone like David can rail against God when times are hard and yet still be full of love and praise for God the creator. The Psalm show us how God lavished love on David despite the frankness of David's anger, disappointments and frustrations. I think God weeps when we weep and feels love and compassion for us when we suffer.

-----, you will find your own path through this. You have already shown extraordinary courage and fortitude. I do pray that you will be healed - because healing does happen - but I also pray you will know - and experience fully - God's love, his compassion and his sustaining presence as you find a way through this difficult time.

Big hug and much love