

# Beacon

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent



[www.beaconbenefice.org.uk](http://www.beaconbenefice.org.uk)

# Light

## Welcome

Welcome to the first Sunday of our New Church Year, the beginning of Advent. We start the season of preparation for the coming of Jesus, not just as the baby in Bethlehem but as our judge. Today we stay with the theme we've been hearing about for the last three weeks, being ready. In today's gospel reading, Jesus reminds us of the urgency of this – 'Keep awake!'

*Revd. Mike*

*Readings: Isaiah 64. 1-9 or 1 Corinthians 3. 1-9, Mark 13. 24-end*

## News of FestivALL - 17 May– 17 June 2018

*Sponsored by the Diocese of Gloucester*

FestivALL is a month of events bringing people closer together – celebrating local communities. Join with others locally to arrange events, as appropriate for your setting. FestivALL is all about coming together, talking, sharing and celebrating – but most of all, having fun, in and around Gloucestershire. FestivALL aims to break down barriers in our communities between culture, faith, ability, sexual orientation and gender and create opportunities for us all to discover more about the people, places and organisations in our area. *The website [www.festivall.org](http://www.festivall.org)* Visit the website regularly to find out what is going on and to gain inspiration.

*Launch events*

### **Thursday 17 May 2018 at Gloucester Cathedral (evening)**

The launch of FestivALL is a free public event open to everyone. Bishop Rachel will officially open FestivALL and then in the grounds of the Cathedral there will be street food, bands, dancing etc.

### **Friday 18 May 2018 at Gloucester Cathedral**

A day to learn more about local community and statutory organisations promoting inclusive community. Key speakers will give inspiring talks about the importance of community and will explore the theme of inclusion, what it means and how can we all get better at it. Workshops will be run on how people and organisations can be as inclusive as possible.

## Beacon People

Our prayers are asked for all who are sick, especially **Betty Barney, Helen Briggs, Glynnis Mayes, Laurie Smith, Will Tarbuck, and Paula Woodcock**. We also pray for all whose prayer requests are on our prayer boards. We remember before God all who have died recently and those whose anniversaries of death fall at this time.

Our thoughts and prayers go to the family and friends of **Andrew Bingham** of Sheepscombe, whose funeral is at St. Mary's, Painswick on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm. Also to the friends and family of **John Carlin**, whose funeral is at Pitchcombe on December 6, and to the friends and family of **Michael Shute**, of Painswick, whose funeral is at Cheltenham Crematorium on 5 December.

## MABEL (Mike's Adventures in BibleLand)

### Wiser still and wiser

The remaining three of the books of wisdom are very different from each other – except in that one feature we have found in every book – God! The book of Proverbs is intensely practical, being a collection of wise sayings about living as God's people, each one short and to the point. Some of them must have been old when the collection was put together, some are still current today. This is a book to dip into rather than read from end to end – why not try?

Ecclesiastes is perhaps the oddest book in the whole bible. It was written by 'the teacher' and its tone is mostly cynical and world-weary. It does have moments of beauty, though; chapter three starts with the most famous part, 'to everything there is a season.' For a Christian, it can be a worrying book to read but again you do find God here even if you have to go searching.

Then we have an absolute gem – the Song of Songs! Traditionally thought to have been written by Solomon, it is a series of love songs. Despite later attempts to find an underlying, theological theme, it is a celebration of spontaneous and physical love, quite erotic in places. It is wonderful and beautiful and, as we follow a God of love, perfectly appropriate. As physical beings, we express love physically and I'm sure God approves!

*Next week – Prophets*

## Notices

**Tomorrow Evening 7.15pm-8.45pm** at the Painswick Youth & Community Centre Pointless, The Chase, The Weakest Link. All of these shows TV shows have one thing in common, they test your bottle in a good old fashioned quiz. Why not test out your knowledge by coming along to the **Club Pulse Quiz**. Nibbles & Refreshments will be provided, and all teams will be sorted out on the night. (Any age) Cost £1.00 - Nathan Youlton [Nathan.youlton@psalms.uk.net](mailto:Nathan.youlton@psalms.uk.net)

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This week's **Community Lunch** will be held tomorrow **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December** - at the Ashwell Centre in Painswick from 12noon to 1.15pm and the hosts are **Christian Aid**. Come and sample their various vegetable soups. This is an ideal way to meet with friends (new & old). £3 and the money raised goes to local charities.

We are open for suggestions for 2 Charities to support. (Mary Sparks 01452 814169)

Looking ahead, our Hosts for future lunches will be:

|                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 11 <sup>th</sup> December    | Monday Walkers             |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2018 | Painswick Centre Trustees. |

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**Carols and Tea (and Cake!)** Come and sing with us on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2:30-4:30 at The Church Rooms Painswick. Phone Clare Irving if you need a lift (01452-814242)

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**Jennie Marsh Christmas Cards** remain on sale over the next few weeks. You can contact Frankie Marsh on 812829 who has a stock of them. The website is [jenniemarshtrust.org](http://jenniemarshtrust.org) to view this year's designs.

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**Samara's Aid** - Thank you all so much for your very generous donation of £125 towards humanitarian aid for Syrian refugees! Frances Watson has now filled a box for a needy family with your money. We are also hoping to fill another box if anyone still wants to contribute- please contact Frances Watson (812071) or Margaret Radway at the Benefice Office.

## What's on in the coming week

### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December

*Nicholas Ferrar*

9.30am Edge Prayer in Edge

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

*Nicholas*

9.00am Pitchcombe Holy Communion

11.00am Richmond Holy Communion

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December

*Ambrose*

9.30am Sheepscombe Morning Prayer

3.30pm Painswick Messy Church

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December

*Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

11.00am Pitchcombe Beacon Prayer

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

8.00am Painswick Holy Communion (*Traditional Language*)

9.30am Painswick Holy Communion – *Sharing in One Bread*

9.30am Pitchcombe 3 Parish Communion

11.00am Sheepscombe Parish Communion

4.00pm Cranham Christingle Service

### Benefice Carol Services in December:

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup>:** Resthaven, Pitchcombe 11.30am

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>:** Brookthorpe Hall Care Centre 2.00pm

Painswick Church Rooms, Carols & Tea, 2.30pm

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>:** St. John the Baptist, Pitchcombe, 5.00pm

St. John the Baptist, Edge, 6.00pm

St. John the Apostle, Sheepscombe, 6.30pm

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>:** St. Swithun's, Brookthorpe 7.00pm

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>:** St. John the Baptist, Harescombe, 7.00pm

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>:** St. Mary's, Painswick 4.00pm

### CONTACTS

The website [www.beaconbenefice.org.uk](http://www.beaconbenefice.org.uk)

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*Information for next week's Beacon Light to the Office by Wednesday 10am at the latest, please. To receive Beacon Light by email, please let the Benefice Office have your name and email.*