

Beacon

Sunday 10th December
2nd Sunday of Advent



www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

Light

Welcome

Welcome to our services today, whether you're a regular or a visitor. We hope you'll have an enjoyable and inspiring time with us. Our theme for this second Sunday in Advent is the prophets, those people God calls to be his messengers. May we always be open to hear the words they bring us whether they are of encouragement or challenge. *Revd. Mike*

Readings: Isaiah 40.1-11 or 2 Peter 3. 8-15a, Mark 1.1-8

Advent in Painswick in 1891

On Thursday, Dec. 18th, a special service was held in the Parish Church at 7 pm; when the sermon was preached by the Rev. W. H. Butlin, Vicar of Leonard Stanley. After the sermon, the first part of the Messiah was rendered by the Choir, assisted by other parishioners and friends. This portion of the grand and well known oratorio was chosen as specially appropriate to the Advent season, and the reverent and impressive manner in which all who shared in the work performed their task and the rapt attention with which the large congregation listened to the music, justified the remarks of the preacher as to the usefulness and fitness of the Parish Church as a place for rendering sacred music. We feel sure that the singers devoted their best powers in the offering of an act of praise, and we hope further that to very many the words of Holy Scripture set to music by Handel would carry messages of warning, comfort, and peace.

From the Parish Magazine

Beacon People

GOOD NEWS!



Many congratulations to Liz Butler and Hywel James on their engagement.

Jean Ryland is now at Charlton Lane Hospital, Willow Ward, Charlton Lane, Cheltenham GL53 9DZ. Visiting is from 2-5pm and 6-8pm. The hospital number is 01242-634141. Patients number 01242-634143. The family would love for friends to visit Jean.

Our prayers are asked for all who are sick, especially **Betty Barney, Helen Briggs, Glynnis Mayes, Jean Ryland, 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, and particularly for **Clifford Davis**, who resurrected and re-planted the churchyard garden last year, who passed away last week.

It is with great sadness we announce the death of **Revd. Michael Berkeley Cole**, former Associate Priest in Painswick. Michael died at home in Twyning, on 19 November after a short illness, and a celebration of his life will be held in Tewkesbury Abbey on 21 December at 11:00am.

MABEL (Mike's Adventures in BibleLand) - Prophets

The next section of books, and the last in the Old Testament, are the Prophets. However, before we look at the books it would be helpful to say something about prophets in general. The prophets were a part of Jewish society for centuries, sometimes listened to and admired but often ignored or even abused. There are 17 prophetic books but there were many more prophets than that; the most notable one without a book is Elijah who we met in 1 Kings.

As to what they did, the most important thing to notice is what they did not do, which was to prophesy the future. Their role was to pass on to people the word of God, simply that. It was not an easy calling as the voice was often one of challenge. When things were going well, and people were following God, there was no need of prophets. It was when there were problems or when people were turning away from God that the prophets' voices would be heard. And their voices were often strident, calling people back to God, condemning injustices, condemning the rich and powerful and offering a vision of the consequences if nothing changed. No wonder they were so often unpopular!

But they were and are a counter to a religion of vested interests and thoughtless rule-following. Even today, their voices challenge us to live better!

Next week – The Fifth Gospel

Notices

The final **Community Lunch for 2017** will be held tomorrow **Monday 11th December** at the Ashwell Centre in Painswick from 12noon to 1.15pm the hosts are **The Monday Walkers** Come and sample their various vegetable soups. £3 and the money raised goes to local charities.

Mary is still open to suggestions for 2 Charities to support. (Mary Sparks 01452 814169). If you have never been to a Community Lunch why not try it starting in 2018? We need to raise our numbers if the lunches are to continue. Looking ahead, to 2018 our Hosts will be:

8th January 2018 Painswick Centre Trustees.
15th January Yew Trees W.I.

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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 in The Church Rooms Painswick. Phone Clare Irving if you need a lift (01452-814242)

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Please note changed service times:

Wednesday 13 December 12:00 Holy Communion Service is

CANCELLED

Thursday 21 December – Brookthorpe Hall Carol Service is now on Thurs 14 December at 2pm.

Friday 22nd December 7.00pm Harescombe Carol Service

Saturday 23rd December 4.00pm Painswick Service of Lessons & Carols

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**More Carols-** An evening of Carols with The Filling Station- **Bishop Rachel, Guest Speaker – Admission Free** - Wed 13 December at 7:30pm. Royal Agricultural University, Stroud Road, Cirencester GL7 6JS.

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Next week, **Sunday 17 December**, is the last **full** edition of Beacon Light until Sunday 7 January 2018. The Christmas Eve edition will mainly contain details of services for the benefice over the Christmas and New Year period.

Please note that there will be services of **Holy Communion** at 9.am on December 26th (St. Stephen), 27th, (St. John) and 28th (Holy Innocents). The venues for these services will be confirmed before Christmas.

What's on this week

Sunday 10th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

4.00pm Cranham Christingle Service

Monday 11th December

11.30am Resthaven Carol Service

Tuesday 12th December

9.00am Cranham Morning Prayer

Thursday 14th December *John of the Cross*

9.30am Sheepscombe Morning Prayer

2.30pm Painswick Church Rooms – Carols and Tea

2.00pm Brookthorpe Hall Carol Service *(note change of date)*

Friday 15th December

11.00am Edge Beacon Prayer

Sunday 17th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

9.30am Painswick Parish Communion

9.30am Harescombe 3 Parish Communion

11.00am Cranham Parish Communion

5.00pm Pitchcombe Carol Service

6.00pm Edge Carol Service *(with Gospel Choir)*

6.30pm Sheepscombe Carols by Candlelight

Contacts

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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.