

Beacon

Sunday 17th December
3rd Sunday of Advent



www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

Light

Welcome

Welcome to our services today. As we move through Advent, our thoughts turn more towards Christmas and our Advent theme is John the Baptist, the one who points the way to Christ. He provides an example for all of us who call ourselves Christian, that we too should be pointing to Christ in our lives.

Revd. Mike

*Readings: Isaiah 64. 1-4, 8-end or 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24,
John 1. 6-8, 19-28*

Worship for Just Before ...

Next Sunday (the 24th) is both the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve which makes for a complicated day – and a busy one too! We have Crib services happening in the afternoon as well as Midnight Mass at 11.30pm in Cranham and Painswick together, of course, with all the services the following day – Christmas in case you'd forgotten!

That's why we are running fewer services in the morning on the 24th. In Sheepscombe and Pitchcombe there are the usual Communion services but in Painswick we have something different:

'Worship for Just Before ...'

Pretty informal, joyful but reflective too, this non-eucharistic service may be just the thing for preparing ourselves for the busyness of Christmas. That's why I've called it 'Worship for Just Before ...'

Come and join me, if you can.

Rev Mike



Beacon People: **CELEBRATION** Birthday greetings to Peggy Ward who will be 90 on Wednesday 20th December. There will be a party with tea to celebrate her birthday at Pitchcombe Village Hall from 2.30pm-4.30pm

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 anniversaries of death which fall at this time.

It is with sadness we report the death of **Betty Cope aged 101 ½**. Betty and her late husband John had lived in Painswick for many years, until she moved to a Care Home in Bagshot. She had been a very keen member of the M.U. Betty was very proud to say that “one of her sons (Peter) was a vicar, his wife was a vicar, one of her grand-daughters was a vicar, and *her* husband was a vicar”! The funeral service has been arranged to take place at St. Mary’s on Friday 22nd December at 1.00pm followed by burial.

MABEL (Mike’s Adventures in BibleLand) – The Fifth Gospel

The first prophetic book is Isaiah, not because it is the earliest but the longest! Isaiah is well-known to Christians and is quoted in the New Testament more than any other Old Testament book. Among his prophecies, Isaiah predicts the coming of the Messiah and quite a bit of what Jesus’ ministry would look like. Jesus seems to have been very familiar with Isaiah’s words. It is even possible to select passages from Isaiah which seem to tell the entire story of Jesus – hence the description as the fifth gospel!

But Isaiah is much more than this. The first part of the book is a condemnation of the then current corruption in Jerusalem with a warning of coming disaster. The disaster, of course, came in the form of the exile. The second part of the book, possibly written by a different prophet (second Isaiah), is addressed to the people in exile and is a message of hope; a promise of return and restoration. God may have allowed the people to be taken into exile, after all they had behaved pretty badly, but he had not abandoned them and still cared for them.

Finally (third Isaiah?) is a section addressed to those who had returned to Jerusalem after exile, encouraging them to build for a great future. And throughout, some of the most beautiful and inspiring poetry and imagery in the whole bible!

Next: – Major Prophets

Notices

Community lunches 2018 will re-commence on Monday 8th January, and the hosts will be **The Painswick Centre Trustees.**

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The carol service at Resthaven, postponed because of the snow, will now take place Monday 18 December at 2:30pm. There will be services of **Holy Communion** at 9.am at Painswick on December 26th (St. Stephen), 27th, (St. John) at Sheepscombe, and 28th (Holy Innocents) at Painswick.

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New sculpture at St Albans cathedral - The internationally-renowned sculptor, Rory Young, will be giving a talk on **Wednesday 3rd January at 2.30 pm in the Painswick Centre**, about a recent commission for seven new stone statues of martyrs inspired by the pre-reformation tradition of church art. This is a Cotteswold Naturalists' meeting and visitors will be most welcome. (£4) including tea and biscuits. Rory carved the Memorial Garden stone cross for St Mary's.

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The Club Pulse QUIZ Many thanks to everyone who came along to the Painswick Youth and Community Pavilion (PYCP) on 4 December. Thanks go to Liz Burge and the Mission Team for the delicious brain-food, and special thanks to Nathan Youlton and the young people of Club Pulse who dreamed up the questions and ran the evening very efficiently! £60 was raised towards the residential TRAC summer camp 2018. The Trophy was won by Beverley Butler, Joan Warner and their Team, "Oh to Be Well!". Congratulations!

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HELP! We need more snow scenes and Christmas church photos for the website especially from Edge and Harescombe! (parents' permission needed for children included) Send to the Lychgate Office!

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DASH *Delivering Aid to Stroud Homeless*). We have had a wonderful response to our appeal for warm clothing for the homeless and disadvantaged of Stroud. It arrived at exactly the right time as the cold weather set in and Marah has asked me to pass on their, and their clients, heartfelt gratitude. It's not too late to add to the stock as we may well have other cold spells. *Alison Robinson*

What's on this week

TODAY Sunday 17th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

5.00pm	Pitchcombe	Carol Service
6.00pm	Edge	Carol Service <i>(with Gospel Choir)</i>
6.30pm	Sheepscombe	Carols by Candlelight

Monday 18th December

2.30pm	Resthaven	Carol Service <i>(postponed from 11th)</i>
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Tuesday 19th December

7.00pm	Brookthorpe	Carol Service
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Wednesday 20th December

5.00pm	Painswick	Evening Prayer
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Thursday 21st December

9.30am	Sheepscombe	Morning Prayer
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Friday 22nd December

11.00am	Harescombe	Beacon Prayer
7.00pm	Harescombe	Carol Service

Saturday 23rd December

4.00pm	Painswick	Carol Service
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Sunday 24th December – 4th Sunday of Advent

9.30am	Painswick	Painswick Praise
9.30am	Pitchcombe	3 Parish Holy Communion <i>(BCP)</i>
11.00am	Sheepscombe	Parish Communion

Christmas Eve Services

3.00pm	Harescombe	Crib Service
4.00pm	Cranham	Crib Service
4.00pm	Edge	Crib Service
4.00pm	Painswick	Crib Service
4.00pm	Sheepscombe	Christingle Service
11.30pm	Cranham	Midnight Mass
11.30pm	Painswick	Midnight Mass

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.