

# Beacon

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Christmas Eve



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

# Light

*A Peaceful and Blessed Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year  
to Everyone!*

## Welcome

Welcome at Christmas to the Beacon Family of Churches, whether you are local or just visiting. The story we'll hear in church this week is well known to us - we know about Christmas. We know about Mary. We know about Joseph. We know about the star, about the angels singing "Glory to God in the highest", about the shepherds and about the wise men, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

But do we know the story behind the story? The story that God was reconciling the world to himself by becoming one of us in Jesus. The story behind the story is that God so loved the world, and so loves you, and so loves me. Have a peaceful Christmas, a happy New Year, and take that story behind the story with you into the world wherever you go from here.

### *Readings:*

*Advent 4: 2 Samuel 7. 1-11, 16 or Romans 16. 25-end, Luke 1. 26-38*

*Midnight Mass: Isaiah 9.2-7, Titus 2. 11-14, Luke 2. 1-20*

*Christmas Morning: Isaiah 52. 7-10, Hebrews 1. 1-12, John 1. 1-14*

*Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>: Isaiah 61. 10- 62.3, Galatians 4. 4-7, Luke 2. 15-21*

## Beacon People & Notices

Our prayers are asked for all who are sick, especially **Betty Barney, Helen Briggs** (*Helen has now moved into Resthaven*), **Glynnis Mayes, Jean Ryland, 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 especially Laurie Smith and those anniversaries of death which fall at this time.

The funeral for **Cliff Davis**, late churchyard gardener at St Mary's, who died last month, will be on Friday, 29 December at 11:30 am at Gloucester Crematorium. All are welcome.

## CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS



The collections at St. Mary's over the Christmas period will be divided between "Embrace the Middle East" and "Samara's Aid" (*Full details of each Charity will be in Church over this period*). Gift Aid envelopes will be provided.

## MABEL (Mike's Adventures in BibleLand) – Major Prophets

The books of the prophets are normally talked about in two groups, the major prophets and the minor prophets. This isn't about their importance, but the length of the books; the major prophets are much longer! We've already come across the first of the major prophets, Isaiah, but what about the others?

Next comes Jeremiah, another prophet from Jerusalem just before the exile, again warning of the impending catastrophe. His message is not popular and he finds himself in trouble repeatedly. However, once the disaster has happened he writes to those in exile urging them to stay faithful to God. Lamentations was traditionally thought to have been written by Jeremiah.

As its name suggests it is a poem lamenting the fall of Jerusalem. Ezekiel was a priest and one of the first to be exiled to Babylon. He has messages for those in exile with him and for those still in Jerusalem. It would be fair to say that he is one of the most eccentric of the prophets, prophesying through unusual actions as well as in words. Daniel is the story of an exile who rises to high position and struggles to balance his Babylonian role with his Jewish background. Some of the book consists of visions of the far future but overlaid with difficult to follow imagery.

*Next: – Minor Prophets*

## Christmas Worship in the Beacon Benefice

### Christmas Eve

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

### Christmas Day

9.30am	Painswick	Family Communion
9.30am	Sheepscombe	Parish Communion
10.00am	Edge	Christmas Praise
10.00am	Harescombe	Parish Communion
10.00am	Pitchcombe	Christmas Praise
11.00am	Cranham	Parish Communion

### Worship after Christmas

#### **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December** *Stephen*

9.00am	Painswick	Holy Communion
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#### **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December** *John*

9.00am	Sheepscombe	Holy Communion
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#### **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December** *Holy Innocents*

9.00am	Painswick	Holy Communion
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### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**

**10.00am**

Holy Communion

for the

Beacon Family of Churches

at St. Mary's Painswick.

This will be the

### **Farewell Service**

### **for Revd. Mike and Margaret**

Do please come along

to thank them and wish them well. Buffet lunch afterwards in the church rooms. All welcome

6.30pm	Cranham	Service of Lessons & Carols
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## Services in the New Year

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

11.00am Richmond Holy Communion

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January

9.30am Sheepscombe Morning Prayer

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January

#### Epiphany

9.30am Painswick Parish Communion

9.30am Edge 3 Parish Communion

11.00am Cranham Family Communion

11.00am Sheepscombe Morning Worship

6.00pm Edge Plough and Gardening Service

**The Plough and Gardening Service** at 6.00pm at Edge on January 7<sup>th</sup> traditionally marks the start of the new working year on the land as the Christmas season ends. A plough will be blessed as will the soil as we remember the farming community across our family of parishes and pray for their safety and for good crops in the coming year. We also remember at this service the many gardeners in our communities. Do come along from all our parishes to take part in this old tradition and bring your gardening tools to be blessed!

## 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.*