

Beacon



www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

Light

Online

...linking the Beacon Parishes

Sunday 5th December - 2nd Sunday of Advent

9.30am	Painswick	Holy Communion
11.00am	Cranham	Holy Communion
2.00pm	Painswick	Holy Baptism
4.00pm	Edge Village Hall	Christingle Service

*As mask wearing has now been re-introduced, we respectfully ask you to **wear a face mask in church**, unless you have a medical reason not to and **make use of the hand sanitiser** provided as you enter. Face coverings can reduce the risk of unknowingly spreading the virus to others. Thank you for making the effort to wear your mask and protect other people in our churches.*

Not-the-Rector

As we move into Advent we are in a season of new beginnings with an emphasis on preparation for the coming of Christ and on examining ourselves to grow in the way of Christ. Both nationally and in our own context in the Beacon Benefice we have been through difficult times this year, but we can be confident that God is with us as we grow in his love. It is in such times that we find God gives us the strength to do what needs to be done.

I have been so impressed with the number of people who have become involved in lay leadership in our worshipping communities this year. They have given their time and skills and would probably realise when they look back that, by contributing in this way, they have themselves grown and been strengthened by God's grace. Many are now confident to do things which they would not have considered doing maybe a year ago. As we move forward we shall continue to rely on such support and leadership in our ministry and worship as the Body of Christ in these villages.

As well as growing in our individual ministries, we also need to support each other. For that reason, your ministers and churchwardens have been considering for some time how we may all come together more frequently to worship and to meet as a benefice. We have now agreed that from January 2022 onwards, we shall meet for a Benefice Eucharist on the first Sunday of each month at 10am. This service will take place initially in St. Mary's where there is ample room for a larger congregation to be socially distanced. Members of each congregation will be asked to share in the service, perhaps by leading intercessions, reading lessons or greeting the congregation as they arrive. We shall have opportunities to get to know each other better and to discern how and where we can be useful. I am convinced that the building of a strong benefice community, linked together by faith, will enable us to support each other as we move forward and also serve us well for our longer term future.

Revd. Andrew

Readings

Collect

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

Psalm 75

We give thanks to you, O God;
we give thanks; your name is near.
People tell of your wondrous deeds.

At the set time that I appoint
I will judge with equity.
When the earth totters, with all its inhabitants,
it is I who keep its pillars steady.
I say to the boastful, 'Do not boast',
and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horn;
do not lift up your horn on high,
or speak with insolent neck.'

For not from the east or from the west
and not from the wilderness comes lifting up;
but it is God who executes judgement,
putting down one and lifting up another.
For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup
with foaming wine, well mixed;
he will pour a draught from it,
and all the wicked of the earth
shall drain it down to the dregs.

But I will rejoice for ever;
I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

All the horns of the wicked I will cut off,
but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.

The Gospel according to Luke 3.1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

This is the Gospel of the Lord

We must examine ourselves in light of Jesus' imminent return, and ask that God would give us grace with joy to make good on our baptismal repentance and renunciations, that he would help us make every crooked way straight, every prideful barrier low to receive his grace, every deficiency filled, and our roughness smoothed, so that we might greet Jesus with joy at his return.

- Do you find yourself wishing you had more time before Jesus returns, or can you say "Maranatha, come Lord Jesus" without hesitation?
- What crooked ways might our Lord want to make straight in you? What obstacles have you placed in front of him that he needs to remove so that you can more joyfully anticipate his return?

Beacon People

We welcome **Declan Banner** in baptism at St. Mary's this Sunday afternoon, together with his parents , godparents and family.

Our prayers are asked for all who are sick, especially **Richard Garrett, Frauke Hankamer, Andrea Linsell, and Jenipher Pritchard**. Pray for all those people, whether they are relatives or friends, who care for the sick and disabled in their own homes and for those undergoing cancer treatment at this time. We pray also for all the charities which this benefice supports, including Christian Aid, Marah, Sportily , Stroud Citizens Advice, Stroud Foodbank and The Vine Project and all from our churches and villages who work in the NHS and in care homes. We also remember before God all who have died recently, especially **Teresa Bodenham, Jennifer Gaugain, and Jane Jennings Taylor** as well as all whose anniversaries of death fall at this time.

Notices

If you are reading this before **Saturday 4th December, the Annual Christmas Celebration for the Cotswold Dogs and Cats Home** takes place that evening in St. Mary's at 5pm for 5.30pm. Hosted by Lisa Maxwell, it will feature Christmas music and readings. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served.

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**Painswick Community Hub @ the Town Hall:** Painswick Community Support volunteers will be serving tea, coffee and festive treats on **Friday December 10<sup>th</sup> 9.30-11am** at the Town Hall. This will be followed In the New Year with the tea, coffee and biscuits/cakes being served in the Town Hall **every Friday starting on Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup> 9.30-11am.** All are welcome so drop in for a coffee and a chat with friends.

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St. Mary`s Flower Guild will be decorating the Church for Christmas on Friday 10th December, when we shall decorate the windows and again on, Friday 17th December, when we shall make swags for the pillars. We need lots of greenery ! Please put any that you can spare, in the buckets of water placed, near the font, in advance, of these 2 dates .Many thanks, in anticipation, Freda Steed.

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**Carols and Tea makes a welcome return:** There will be the opportunity to sing Carols and enjoy tea in the Church Rooms on Tuesday 14th December between 2.30 and 4.30pm. All are welcome.

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Get **Tuesday the 14th of December** in your diaries! Sportily along with the Children and Young People will be running the **annual Christmas Quiz!** From 6:30-8pm in the Painswick Church Rooms. Everyone is welcome, whether a young person or elderly folk – so bring your family along. Please come along for a fun festive evening where the young people will be running the quiz rounds. Entry is £1 and you can either book here <https://bookwhen.com/sportilybeacon/> or just turn up on the night. Mulled Wine and snacks will be provided, with teams decided on the night – GET REVISING

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**News from Sportily:** Give thanks for Beacon Praise that ran over the weekend. It could very well be Nathan`s last service, and it was special to be able to share how God had moved over the past 4 years. Give thanks for Gods goodness in using all of us. Such lowly and flawed people, but in Gods eyes precious and of worth to him.

Please pray for the trip to Ninja Warrior , for safety with the older ones. Please pray for new members to come back as have been dwindling on numbers for sometime now, with only average 5-10 each week these days. There a lots of kids on the fringes, so pray they would have a desire to get back involved.

Nathan is having a meeting with the Head of Sheepscombe School this Thursday. Pray that we can restart working with the school and children from Jan onwards.

Pray for the Christmas Quiz planning to run on the 14th Dec, which some of the young people will be involved with. There is a lot still to organise and needs to be advertised, so please pray that it would be an event full of festive cheer as well as reference to Christs` birth, the true nature of Christmas.

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Sources of help :

Cranham Covid-19 Community Response Team: The initial contact for Cranham residents is: nigelrobincooper@gmail.com Tel: 07973 340227

St. Mary`s Pastoral Link system: Anyone who is self-isolating or unable to get out, we can help you by getting shopping, prescriptions etc. Please contact Delyth Allen (St. Mary`s Pastoral Link Coordinator) on 813182 or 07854262517 or email delyth_allen@hotmail.co.uk

Painswick Community Support: The Painswick Covid-19 Community Support initiative set up in March will be providing ongoing community support for Painswick with the same telephone number but an updated e-mail address. If you need support, please contact 07956 203087 or painswickcommunity@gmail.com

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## **Weekday Worship**

**Thursday weekly :** 9.30am Morning Prayer via Zoom from Sheepscombe  
*If you would like to join in or would like a copy of the service sheet please email Karen Riding [kriding07@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kriding07@yahoo.co.uk).*

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month:** 10.30am Holy Communion at Richmond Village  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month:** 11.00am Holy Communion at Resthaven

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Services next Sunday 12th December - 3rd Sunday of Advent

9.30am	Painswick	Holy Communion
9.30am	Pitchcombe	Morning Prayer
11.00am	Harescombe	Holy Communion
11.00am	Sheepscombe	Morning Worship
4.30pm	Cranham	Christingle Service

Contacts

Rector: Revd. Janet Turville

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Associate Priest: Revd. Andrew Leach Tel: 07564 448692 Email: ajpleach@gmail.com

Website: www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

Information for the next Beacon Light Online to ajpleach@gmail.com by **Tuesday 5pm at the latest**, please.

and Finally...

Seen in a pewsheet: "The service will close with Little Drops of Water. One of the ladies will start quietly and the rest of the congregation will join in. "