



Weekly Information Sheet

24 December 2017
Christmas

PLEASE TAKE THIS SHEET HOME WITH YOU as a reference source during the coming week.
Also check the website for any breaking news and for much more information.

There will not be a weekly information sheet for the week beginning Sunday 31 Dec.
The next WIS will be issued on Sunday 7 Jan.

DIARY DATES

Weds 27 Dec Noon Jan Church News deadline
Fri 5 Jan Morning Church Cleaning (Team B)
Thu 11 Jan 7.30pm Worship Bubble, 5 Spring Gardens

CHURCH OFFICE

Please note Church Office is now closed; it will re-open on 3 Jan 18.

CLERGY AVAILABILITY AFTER CHRISTMAS

There are NO clergy (permanent or retired) available after Christmas day until 3 Jan 18. In case of need please contact our ever present Church Warden' L'nora Olney (01225 859202).

PARISH DAY AWAY, SATURDAY 3 MARCH 2018

Please put this date in your diary, as we shall once again be spending the day (10.00am to 4.00pm) together at Ammerdown Retreat Centre. This time our theme will be 'Growing in God through Bible study' and we hope to have a guest speaker from the Bible Society with us. Please book the date now and look out for further information and a sign-up sheet early in the New Year.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Please let phly Fry have any boxes which require emptying before January 2018.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Items for inclusion in each Sunday's sheet should be submitted not later than
MIDDAY on the preceding Wednesday.

Email to: news@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk or
Post/deliver to: 1 Park Lane, Corsham. ☎ 01249 701783 (answering machine available).

If you would like to receive this Information sheet by email please send a request, putting **Weekly Info Sheet** in the subject line, to news@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk.

SERVICES FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS

Sunday 24 Dec - Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Communion led by Revd Andrew

Monday 25 Dec – Christmas Day

9.00am Holy Communion led by Revd Andrew
10.15am Short Family Service led by Revd Andrew

Sunday 31 Dec 17

10.30am Team Morning Worship at Lacock
(Please note there will be no other services in the Team this day)

Wednesday 3 Jan 18

10.00am Holy Communion led by Revd Andrew

Sun 7 Jan 18 – Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion led by Revd Andrew
10.00am Holy Communion led by Revd Andrew
6.00pm Evensong led by LLM Neil Pidduck

THE COLLECTS

Christmas Eve: Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

Christmas Night: Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **AMEN.**

Christmas day: Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. **AMEN.**

For More information:

Revd Dr Andrew Johnson - rector@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk ☎ 01249 713232
Church Office: Ted Davies - office@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk ☎ 01249 701720
Team Website: - <http://corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk>

PASTORAL VISITING: If you know of someone who is in need of pastoral care please contact L'nora Olney on 01225 859202 so that appropriate arrangements can be made. These might include a visit at home or in hospital and/or the provision of home communion.

Sunday 24 December 17 – Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE

Old Testament Reading – 2 Samuel 7:1-11,& 16 (NRSVA)

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’ ³Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.’

⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

New Testament Reading – Romans 16:25-end (NRSVA)

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Reading Luke 1:26-38 (NRSVA)

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ ³⁴Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ ³⁵The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.’ ³⁸Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 52:7-10 (NRSVA)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’ ⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

New Testament Reading – Hebrews 1:1-4 (NRSVA)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Gospel Reading John 1:1-14 (NRSVA)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

31 Dec 17 - Christmas 1

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21