



CHURCH NEWS



www.corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk

From the Anglican churches of Corsham, Gastard, Lacock with Bowden Hill and Neston

December 2017

Team Rector: Revd Dr. Andrew Johnson 01249 713232 Team Vicar: Revd Adam Beaumont 01249 730984 Team Curate: Revd Dr. Phill Harrison 01225 810839

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 3 Dec – Advent 1

Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-end

- 8:00 Holy Communion at Corsham
- 9:00 Holy Communion at Bowden Hill
- 10:00 Holy Communion at Corsham and Gastard
- 10:30 Morning Worship at Lacock
- 12:15 Baptism at Neston
- 4:00 Christingle service at Neston
- 6:00 Service of Light at Corsham
- 6:30 Informal Worship at Lacock

Sunday 10 Dec – Advent 2

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

- 8:00 Holy Communion at Corsham
- 9:00 Early Birds at Corsham
- 10:00 Morning Worship at Corsham and Neston
- 10:30 Holy Communion at Lacock
- 4:00 Christingle Service at Corsham and Lacock
- 6:00 Carols at Gastard and Neston

Sunday 17 Dec – Advent 3

Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-end; 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

- 8:00 Holy Communion at Corsham
- 10:00 Holy Communion at Corsham
Family Service at Neston
- 10:30 Family Service at Lacock
- 4:00 Carols at Bowden Hill
- 4:30 Sunday Club at Neston
- 6:00 Carols at Corsham

Sunday 24 Dec – Advent 4/Christmas Eve

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-end; Luke 1:26-38

- 10:00 Team Holy Communion at Corsham
- 4:00 Great Big Nativity at Corsham, Lacock and Neston
Crib Service at Gastard
- 11:00 Holy Communion at Lacock
- 11:15 Holy Communion at Gastard
- 11:30 Holy Communion at Corsham

Monday 25 Dec – Christmas Day

Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-4; John 1:1-14

- 9:00 Holy Communion at Corsham and Bowden Hill
- 10:00 Holy Communion at Neston
- 10:15 Family Service at Corsham
- 10:30 Holy Communion at Lacock

Sunday 31 Dec – Christmas 1

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

- 10:30 Team Morning Worship at Lacock
- Please note that there are no other services in the Team on this Sunday.

Midweek Services

- Wednesday 10am BCP Communion at Corsham (Weekly, not 27 Dec)
- Thursday 10am Holy Communion at Neston (1st Thurs of the month, not 7 Dec)
- Friday 3.30pm Messy Church at Corsham (1st Friday of the month)
(please note that the December Messy Church will be on 8 Dec because of the Corsham Town Lights Switch-on)

THE RECTOR WRITES

While shopping earlier this year I happened to notice that the till screens in one store provided some prompts to encourage staff to be welcoming to customers. As we are now entering the season of Advent when we are encouraged to think of others and welcome visitors to church events and services I thought it was worth sharing these tips with you.

Under the heading **Friendly** staff were encouraged to make eye contact, smile and say hello: simple advice perhaps, but it is so important that when people come into our church buildings the first contact they have is with a friendly person.

Under the heading **Interested** staff were encouraged to be listening and asking. People often come to church wanting to be listened to and engaged with, and it is good to develop the practice of listening and asking open questions that enable people to share something of their lives if they wish to.

Finally, under the heading **Willing** there was a prompt to be helpful and enthusiastic. If visitors come into our buildings and feel that no-one helps them to feel at home and that people are unenthusiastic about them being in church they may go away and never come back again.

These are very simple tips for being welcoming to the many visitors we receive in our churches at this special time of year, and we need to seize the wonderful and rare opportunity we have in Advent and at Christmas to engage in a welcoming and positive way with the wider community.

However, providing a friendly, interested and willing welcome is of course something that should happen throughout the year and is the job of all church members and not just those who are sidespeople or ministers involved in greeting people at the door.

Mary and Joseph struggled to find a warm welcome in Bethlehem before Jesus was born, but as his followers we are called not just to welcome Jesus into our hearts afresh this Christmas but also to share his love by welcoming others into our midst.

With love and every blessing for Advent and Christmas, Andrew

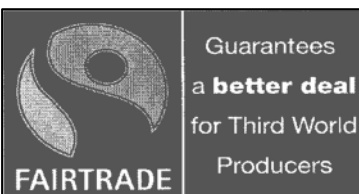
SERVICE CHANGES- DECEMBER

Please note there is no Team Service on 17 Dec this month.

The 10am Holy Communion at Corsham scheduled for Wednesday on 20 Dec will move to **Thursday 21 Dec**.

CHANGE TO RECTOR'S DAY OFF

The Team Rector's day off has now moved from Monday back to **Friday**, which means that the Team Vicar and Team Rector now have their days off on different days of the week. The Team Vicar and Team Curate continue to take their days off on Monday and Friday respectively.



Our parishes support
FAIRTRADE
wherever possible

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Items for the next issue should be submitted not later than **MIDDAY on WEDNESDAY 27 Dec 2017**.
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 every month then please send a request to the above email address.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S WALKING GROUP

Our 10 mile November walk took us to Box and back, twenty one walkers setting out on a glorious autumnal day, almost clear blue skies and crisp leaves underfoot. Our outbound route via Middlewick and the Macmillan Way was easy going, in contrast to our climb back to Corsham through Henley, Thorn Wood and Lower Rudloe. There was an option to do 5 miles by returning to our start at the Hare and Hounds by 'bus. One lady member of the congregation, who had thought that 5 miles would be enough, resolutely completed the whole 10 miles. A sterling effort!

Photos courtesy of Richard Thackeray are on the church web site, click on 'Activities' on the top menu and scroll down.

Our next walk will be on **Thursday, 14th December**, meeting at 10:00hrs in the rear car park of The Bell Inn, The Wharf, Bowden Hill, Lacock, SN15 2PJ for a walk of about 5 miles. An optional lunch is available choosing from either the Main or Christmas menus, both can be seen at www.thebellatlacock.co.uk. Please inform Charles Todd cwft60@gmail.com if you intend lunching at The Bell from either menu. If you will be choosing from the **Christmas menu** please notify him of your choice. All notifications to Charles by **5th December** please.

ST. BART'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

St Bart's will be holding its annual Christmas Tree festival from 1 -10 Dec 17. This year's theme is "God rest ye merry, Gentlemen". The festival will be open from 3pm on Fri 1 Dec for tea/coffee/mince pies then at 5.30pm we will be selling Mulled Wine and Mince Pies. There will be the popup market and craft stall. There will also be the opportunity to sit and sing carols from 6.50pm until 7.00pm.

From 2 – 10 Dec the festival will be open during daylight hours Mon – Sat and on Sundays from midday until 4.30pm.

MENS GROUP

There is no meeting of the Men's group in December. The group next meets on 22nd January 2018 at 8.00 pm in The Royal Oak when John Wilson will give us a talk entitled 'The Shetland Bus – A Tale of Norwegian Valour'. All men welcome.

CORSHAM CHURCHES FOODBANK– NOV 17 UPDATE

First of all a big thank you to all the Churches and local schools who were so generous at Harvest. Our cupboards are now well stocked for the nominations we will be getting to help local families over the Christmas period. Although there will still be some items we will need to buy, we can concentrate on getting the treats that will make such a difference at this time of year, especially to children. We now have our own website, developed by the husband of one of our volunteers, which you can visit at www.corshamchurchesfoodbank.org.uk to see how we operate. Happy web browsing and thanks again to you all.

light up a life
2017 Service of Light
St Bartholomew's Church, Corsham
6pm, Friday 8 December

DOROTHY HOUSE Hospice Care
caring when it counts
Registered Charity No. 275745

All services across the area begin at 6pm

Wednesday 29 November
St Peter & St Paul's, Shepton Mallet

Thursday 30 November
St Andrew's Church, Devizes
The United Church, Warminster

Monday 4 December
St Paul's Church, Chippenham

Tuesday 5 December
Bath Abbey, Bath
Market Cross, Malmesbury
Please note: this is an outdoor service

Wednesday 6 December
St James' Church, Trowbridge

Thursday 7 December
Wesley Chapel, Frome

Friday 8 December
St Bartholomew's Church, Corsham

MOTHERS' UNION

Wednesday 6 December 2017 - Chippenham Deanery Advent Service at 2pm in St Bart's church.

Our first meeting in 2018 will be on Wednesday 3 January at 2.30pm in Church House when we will be thinking about the MU theme for 2018 which is "In the footsteps of Mary Sumner".

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

St Cyriac's are holding a series of Advent reflections on Saturdays 2nd, 9th and 16th December 10am-2pm. A break from the hustle and bustle, a chance to relax over a cup of Fairtrade tea or coffee and cake, and to meet old and new friends in a friendly environment.



For More information:

Rector: Revd Dr Andrew Johnson - rector@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk
 Team Vicar: Revd Adam Beaumont - vicar@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk
 Team Curate: Revd Dr. Phill Harrison - curate@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk
 Team Administrator: Ted Davies - office@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk

Church Office: Church House, 3 Church Street, Corsham SN13 0BY
 ☎01249 701720 ✉ office@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk
Opening Hours: (Telephone answering machine/email available outside of these times)
 Monday 7-8pm; Wednesday 10-12.30 and 2-4pm; Saturday 10-11am