



CHURCH NEWS

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

corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk

December 2018

CHURCH SERVICES

For readings see over

Please note, there are several changes to the usual service pattern this month

Sunday 2 December—Advent 1

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Corsham
9.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Bowden Hill
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Corsham and Gastard
10.30 a.m. Morning Worship at Lacock
12.15 p.m. Baptism at Corsham
4.00 p.m. Advent Music and Readings at Lacock
6.00 p.m. Service of Light at Corsham

Sunday 9 December—Advent 2

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Corsham
9.00 a.m. Early Birds at Corsham
10.00 a.m. Morning Worship at Corsham and Gastard
Holy Communion at Neston
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Lacock
4.00 p.m. Christingle at Corsham
6.00 p.m. Carols at Neston

Sunday 16 December – Advent 3

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Corsham
9.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Bowden Hill
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Corsham and Neston
4.00 p.m. Christingle at Lacock
6.00 p.m. Carol Service at Corsham and Gastard

Friday 21 December

7.00 p.m. Carol Service at Lacock

Sunday 23 December – Advent 4

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Corsham
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Corsham (**Team Service**)
4.00 p.m. Carol Service at Bowden Hill

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day—see over

Sunday 30 December—Christmas 1

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (**Team Service**) at Lacock

Sunday 6 January—Epiphany

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Corsham
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Corsham and Gastard
10.30 a.m. Epiphany Celebration with Holy Communion at Lacock

Midweek Services

Wednesdays: 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) at Corsham (every week except no service on 26th Dec)
Thursday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Neston (1st Thursday of the month)

Messy Church—2nd Friday of the month, Church House Corsham, 3.30-6.00 p.m.

Team Rector: Revd Dr Andrew Johnson
01249 713232

rector@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk

Team Vicar: Revd Adam Beaumont 01249 730984
vicar@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk

Team Administrator: Fiona Draper (Church Office)

THE RECTOR WRITES...

When a user on parenting forum Mumsnet said her mother-in-law had decided to charge her family £17 a head to attend this year's Christmas dinner it sparked a mixed response, according to BBC News Business Reporter Katie Hope. Some thought it was fair enough given the cost, while others said it simply wasn't in keeping with the season's spirit of togetherness and generosity.

The authority on etiquette and behaviour, Debretts, the publisher of the *A-Z of Modern Manners*, is unequivocal that charging guests is unacceptable. "You have invited them to your home, and it therefore isn't appropriate to expect them to contribute monetarily to the cost of your dinner," said Managing Director Renee Kuo.

But there's no getting away from the high cost of Christmas. The typical family spends a whopping £750 on Christmas each year, according to Steve Nowotny, News and Features Editor at Money SavingExpert. "Throw in the pressure of catering for extended family too and it's little wonder rows can erupt," he says.

This all contrasts with the story of a lady who started offering a Christmas meal for free to people on Facebook a few years ago and has seen the initial response double each year to the point where she now intends to run an operation serving one thousand people this Christmas.

At the heart of the Christmas story is the free gift of something beyond price: the gift of God's only Son Jesus Christ to live on earth, to die on the cross so that we might be forgiven for our sin or wrongdoing, and to rise to life so we might experience everlasting life beyond the grave.

There's no charge for this wonderful gift, which God shares freely with all, and we have the privilege of offering the people of Greater Corsham and Lacock a free gift of God's love through our many services and activities over the coming month. Please do check out the details in this edition of *Church News*, come along yourself, and invite others to share in this wonderful gift at Christmas.

With love in Christ,
Andrew



Church Office: Church House, 3 Church Street, Corsham SN13 0BY Tel 01249 701720 or 07880 715551

Normal opening hours: Monday and Wednesday 10.45 to 12.30; Saturday 10 to 11am; and at other times by arrangement. Closed December 24th to 29th
office@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk

<p>Services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p> <p>4.00 p.m. Crib Service at Gastard Great Big Nativity at Corsham, Lacock and Neston</p> <p>11.00 p.m. Holy Communion at Lacock 11.15 p.m. Holy Communion at Gastard 11.30 p.m. Holy Communion at Corsham</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>9.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Corsham and Bowden Hill 10.00 a.m. Family Communion at Neston 10.15 a.m. Family Service at Corsham 10.30 a.m. Christmas Celebration with Holy Communion at Lacock</p>	<p>Ecumenical Carol Service Tuesday 18 December, 6.45 p.m. Please assemble in Corsham High Street at the Christmas tree outside Haine & Smith. If wet, in St Bartholomew's. Please bring a torch or lantern</p> <p>Carol Singing: Friday 21st at 6.30 p.m. at Katherine Park, Corsham (in front of the gateway to the green); Saturday 22nd in Lacock—meet at St Cyriac's at 7.30 p.m. All welcome, children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. We will be collecting for Dorothy House.</p>
<p>Lectionary readings for December</p> <p>December 2: Jeremiah 33: 14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-end; Luke 21:25-36 December 9: Malachi 3: 1-4; Philippians 1: 3-11; Luke 3: 1-6 December 16: Zephaniah 3: 14-end; Philippians 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 7-18 December 23: Micah 5: 2-5a; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45 Christmas Day: Isaiah 52: 7-10; Hebrews 1: 1-4; John 1: 1-14 December 30: 1 Samuel 2: 18-20,26; Colossians 3: 12-17; Luke 2: 41-end January 6: Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 1-12; Matthew 2: 1-12</p>	<p>Coffee morning at Gastard Village Hall, December 8th, 10 a.m. to 12 noon Raising money for the RNLI. Coffee & Mince pies . Plus Cakes Cards etc Speaker for RNLI Come along to help a worthy cause</p>
<p>St Bartholomew's Walking Group Some gorgeous autumn colours still lingered on our 9 mile November walk, though it was a 'coats on and off again' sort of day as sunshine and showers accompanied the 11 walkers. Our route took us from Box to Henley, South Wraxall, Lower Wraxall, Monkton Farleigh and Kingsdown. Photos (thank you Richard H) at http://corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk/?page_id=3898</p> <p>Our December walk will be on Friday, 14th, meeting 10:00hrs at The Bell Inn, The Wharf, Bowden Hill, Lacock, SN15 2PJ, for a walk of about 5 miles. Please use the rear car park. The walk will be followed by an optional lunch for a maximum number of 20 (first come, first served!). Further details from Charles Todd cwft60@gmail.com Colin 0757 044 2307</p>	<p>The Annual Christmas Tree Festival in St Bart's church will open between 5pm and 7pm on 7 December when mulled wine and mince pies will be available as well as a pop-up market; there will also be an opportunity to sing carols from 6.50 until 7pm. The Festival will then be open daily from 8-16 December. This year's theme is : "What Christmas means to me" Enquiries to L'nora Olney 01225 8592020</p>
<p>Corsham Food Bank—donations for Christmas food packages need to be received by 8 December please</p>	<p>Saturday 8th December</p> <p>Christmas Coffee Morning and Christmas Fayre 10.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. Lacock Village Hall Coffee, mincepies, hot dogs and cakes; Cake stall; Tombola ; activities and crafts for children in the Manor Room All proceeds in aid of Church funds</p> <p>Mothers' Union: 25 November - 10 December 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence- Campaign 2018 Wednesday 5 December 2pm in St Bart's: Deanery Advent Service followed by tea and mince pies.</p> <p>Advance notice: St Cyriac's Lacock will be closed during January and part of February due to major maintenance works on the church path and internally. Contact Fiona in the office for more information</p> <p>St Bart's Men's group—no meeting in December</p>

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: Items for the next issue should be submitted not later than **SUNDAY 30th December 2018.** Email to: news@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk or drop in to Church House, or leave a message on 01249 701720.

If you would like to receive Church News by email each month then please send a request to the above email address.