

The Greater Corsham and Lacock Ministry Team Contact details

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To receive this news sheet by email, please email Fiona@fionadraper.co.uk

Please note that the correct Payee for cheques is
PCC of Lacock with Bowden Hill



Please remember in your prayers:

Joyce B, George, Linda, Kate B., Madge, Mabel, Rosie and Alex,
Christopher, Colleen;
Family and friends of Cliff Fiander; of Malcolm Heath;
and of Rowena Foulkes

Collects for Christmas Day

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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.

Church maintenance update: St Cyriac's will be closed from 7th January for up to 3 weeks for the removal of asbestos. During this period there will be no access to the church or churchyard; we are sorry for any inconvenience. It's expected that the path work will start shortly afterwards, but this is not yet confirmed. Please check Pew News regularly for the latest information on access to the church and location of services.



If you are a visitor to our Church, we welcome you. Please do take this news sheet and our warmest greetings back to your own parish and congregation.

Wishing you all peace and joy at Christmas



PARISH OF LACOCK WITH BOWDEN HILL



A WARM WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP HERE

Services today, Sunday 23rd December

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Team Service)
at St Bartholomew's Corsham

4 p.m. Carols by Candlelight at St Anne's Bowden Hill

Services on Christmas Eve

4 p.m. Great Big Nativity

11 p.m. Holy Communion

Services on Christmas Day

9 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
at St Anne's Bowden Hill

10.30 a.m. Christmas Day Celebration
with Holy Communion



At Holy Communion we use wafers and fair-trade communion wine. If you have reason to need either gluten-free wafers or non-alcoholic wine please quietly say, 'gluten-free', or 'non alcoholic' to the person serving you at the rail and they will provide for you.



Services next Sunday, 30th December

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

We welcome friends from St Bart's Corsham, St John's Gastard and St Philip & St James Neston to this Team Service

Adam and the Churchwardens would like to thank everyone who has helped in so many ways to keep St Cyriac's and St Anne's open, functioning and beautiful in the last year, and to wish you all a very Happy Christmas



Please take this newsletter home with you and use it for your prayers and your reference during the week

Collect and Readings for Christmas Night

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *or*

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.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9: 2-7 Pew Bible p.487

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

New Testament Reading: Titus 2: 11-14 Pew Bible p. 845

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope - the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 1-14 Pew Bible p.723

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the

baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

Readings for Christmas Day

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10 Pew Bible p.519

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

Gospel Reading: John 1: 1-14 Pew Bible p.748

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.