



## The Greater Corsham and Lacock Team

The Church of England in  
Corsham | Gastard | Neston  
& Lacock with Bowden Hill  
[corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk](http://corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk)

### TEAM NEWS 61 - Christmas 2020

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ-child  
be ours this Christmas.



*Please note that due to current regulations, attendance at all services **must** be pre-booked. Please see back page for booking arrangements*

#### Services on Christmas Eve

**4.00 p.m.** Christingle service on Zoom

**7.00 p.m.** Service of Lessons and Carols on Zoom

**9.30 p.m.** Holy Communion at Corsham

**10.00 p.m.** Holy Communion at Gastard

#### Services on Christmas Day

**10.00 a.m.** Christmas Day Service on Zoom

**10.00 a.m.** Holy Communion at Neston

**10.30 a.m.** Holy Communion at Lacock

#### Online services

*(these can be watched at any time and do not need to be booked)*

Corsham Town Carols: <https://corshambaptists.org/town-carols-2020>.

or <https://corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk/corsham-town-carols/>

The Greatest Story ever told by Puppets—available from **4 p.m. on Christmas Eve**

at : [https://youtu.be/\\_sL-SRB5ma0](https://youtu.be/_sL-SRB5ma0) or via

<https://corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk/lacock-puppet-show/>

Early Birds Nativity: <https://youtu.be/Pilo1hsHP4Y>

*With Christmas Greetings  
from your Admin & Comms Team*

#### Contacts for service booking:

**Zoom services** (except Christingle): please contact Revd Victor at

[associateminister@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk](mailto:associateminister@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk)

**Corsham:** L'nora Olney on 01225 859202

**Gastard:** Sandy Fletcher at [sfletcher13@aol.com](mailto:sfletcher13@aol.com) or 01249 715006

**Neston:** Margaret Astell at [margaretastell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:margaretastell@hotmail.co.uk) or 01225 810586

**Lacock:** Fiona Draper at [office@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk](mailto:office@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk) or 01249 712935

**Christingle service on Zoom (Christmas Eve) — details and book at**

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/129320096891>

Your contact details will be requested for NHS Test and Trace purposes. Details will be kept securely and shredded after 21 days.

#### Guidance on attending church services—reminder on tier 2 restrictions

- there can be no “mingling” of households indoors. This means that although individuals, households and support bubbles can attend worship they must not mingle or interact with others and 2m social distancing must be maintained.
- The ‘rule of six’ still applies outside so six people from different households can still meet in the churchyard but 2m distancing must be maintained.
- Face coverings that fit securely around the side of the face are mandatory in church. Visors or shields may be worn in addition to a face covering but not instead of one, as visors or shields do not adequately cover the nose and mouth.
- Congregational singing is still not permitted so only recorded hymns and carols (and at Corsham, the church choir) will be used at all our services

**Please note that there will be no services in the Team on Sunday 27th December as Bishop Viv is encouraging all ministers to take time off after Christmas.**

You can find links to services to watch online at

<https://corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk/links-to-services/>

#### Clergy cover between Christmas and New Year

Revs Andrew and Mary will be taking the recommended Sunday and week off after Christmas, returning to work on Sunday 3 January – during their absence Fiona Draper will be fielding any funeral bookings that arise and Revd Victor Howlett (01225 819954) will be available for any urgent pastoral enquiries.

**Services on Sunday 3rd January** (subject to regulations then applying)

**10.00 a.m.** Zoom service

Holy Communion at Corsham and at Gastard

**10.30 a.m.** Holy Communion at Lacock

*The next Team News will be issued on Saturday 2nd January*

**St Bart's walking group:** next walk **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January**, meeting 10:00hrs, Box, for a walk of about 10 miles. Please do not attend if you have any symptoms of coronavirus, or have been told to self-isolate. Please contact Colin at [colincraddock@gmail.com](mailto:colincraddock@gmail.com) or 07570 442307 for full details and to book.

## Collects 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.

## 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.

*or*

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.

## Advent Candle Prayers—Christmas

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of peace: to you be praise and glory for ever. The new light of your incarnate Word gives gladness in our sorrow, and a presence in our isolation. Fill our lives with your light, until they overflow with gladness and praise. **Blessed be God for ever.**



God our Father, today the Saviour is born and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light. Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy, to live in the light of your Son and to share the good news of your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who has come into the world. **Amen.**

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord, Emmanuel.

*Words P. Brooks*

## Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52.7–10 (NRSVA) The Lord has comforted his people

<sup>7</sup> 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.' <sup>8</sup> Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. <sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup> The 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) The Son is superior to the Angels

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but 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. <sup>3</sup>He 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, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

## Gospel Reading: John 1.1–14 (NRSVA) The Word became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And 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.

**1 Corinthians Conversations Bible Study:** If you want to engage with the Bible afresh during 2021, why not attend a new Zoom Bible study on 1 Corinthians meeting weekly on Wednesdays at 11am, starting on 6 January? If you have not previously attended please email Revd Andrew at [rector@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk](mailto:rector@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk) for an invitation.