

St Mary - Ardley with Fewcott
St Olave - Fritwell
The Chapel - Heyford Park
St Mary - Lower Heyford & Caulcott
St James - Somerton
The Annunciation - Souldern
St Mary - Upper Heyford

Cherwell Valley Catch-up Dec & Jan 2023

Peace on Earth
& Goodwill to all



Hello Everyone

There are many things that we love about Christmas. I love Christmas music and how it expresses familiar aspects of the wider Christmas story. It fascinates me how Carols explore the thoughts and responses to the huge significance of the birth of the baby Jesus by the many characters in the Christmas story, not least Mary and Joseph. I love the way the musical arrangements – traditional and new - capture and convey the meaning of Christmas, the spiritual message.

One such example is the old favourite, *O Come all ye faithful* and the wonderful way the chorus gradually builds: *O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord*. We are now the visiting shepherds in the story. We share their anticipation and excitement at what the baby Jesus means for all time: God who is beyond us is now present in our total humanity. That really is something to sing about!

Singing is good for our mental health and wellbeing. Singing and music help us express where spoken and written words are inadequate. We sing Christmas Carols in the darkest and chilliest time of the year. So, they can lift our spirits. They inspire us with confidence that God accompanies us in the dark and cold times in our lives. God will work with us conquering all the powers of spiritual darkness and cold, not least death itself. The baby Jesus grew up to be crucified and then rise again. He was born to conquer death in all its forms and meanings. Our Christmas Carol Services across the Benefice will give us just the opportunity to celebrate that. See elsewhere in this edition for further details.

If you'd like to explore more about the deeper spiritual meaning of some Christmas Carols, we are running an Advent Course. It's on Wednesday mornings at the Chapel through the pre-Christmas weeks in December. Come and join us!

On behalf of myself and of my colleagues Revds. Helen and Lex, and Barbara, we wish you all love peace and joy at Christmas and rich blessings for the New Year.

The Revd. Andrew J Foran
Associate Priest

Fritwell Remembrance Service

The northern parishes of the Benefice were out in force to mark Remembrance Sunday this year, and it was wonderful to see the church so full at Fritwell. We had the Souldern choir robed and assisting the congregation in making a joyful sound during the hymns, for which I was very thankful to Clive Smith and the choir. We had a representative from each parish, Ardley, Fritwell and Souldern, read out the names of the fallen from the world wars during the act of remembrance, marked with a two minute's silence and laying of a wreath. It was wonderful to have many members of the Fritwell cubs and scouts present too, looking very smart in their uniforms. In total we had about 70 in the congregation and completely ran out of orders of service, which is a nice problem to have for such an important service! As is the custom a collection was taken for the work of the Royal British Legion, which we estimated to be about £200. Thank you to all who came to the service and helped to make it such a good event.

Somerton Service of Personal Remembering

The season of remembrance in the benefice was officially marked with our annual service of personal remembering, which this year took place at Somerton on the 29th October. We gathered as a congregation made up of regulars from throughout the benefice as well as those who had experienced a bereavement this year- who are specially invited. It was a service with a wonderfully calm and reflective atmosphere, with plenty of space for our own memories and reflections on loved ones we have lost. The names of those we wanted remembered were read out and there was an opportunity for the congregation to light a candle in remembrance and take a rose home. Far from being a sad service, I find these services full of the hope of our resurrection with loved ones in eternity.

Remembrance at Upper Heyford

We had a change to the service this year. Instead of the City of Oxford Silver Band marching down from the Village Hall to the cemetery, at the same time as the church service, the Band requested that they don't march any more but come into church to play for the service instead. It meant that the church was nearly full for the service, and the hymns were all the more poignant for being played by the Band. After the service we moved to the cemetery where we were joined by the uniformed children's and young people's groups and many other members of the community who had come to pay their respects. Wreaths were laid and the names of the fallen were read. The world stopped for the two minutes' silence until the trumpeter signalled the end. Refreshments were enjoyed in the Reading Room afterwards.





Benefice Christmas Services and Events



St Mary's, Ardley

- 12th December 6.30pm Carol Singing at Fewcott House
17th December 4pm Nativity Service with lessons & carols
22nd December 6pm (informal) Carols and Mulled Wine
25th December 9.30am Christmas Celebration with Communion

St Olave's, Fritwell

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- 17th December 5pm Service of Lessons & Carols
20th December 10am Fritwell School Christmas Service
23rd December 6.30pm Carols on the Green
24th December 11.30pm Midnight Communion
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Heyford Park Chapel

- 20th December 6pm Carols on the Green
25th December 10am Christmas Celebration with Communion

St Mary's, Lower Heyford

- 17th December 6pm Service of Lessons & Carols
22nd December 7pm Carols in Market Square
24th December 11am Christingle with Nativity—all welcome
25th December 11am Christmas Celebration with Communion



St James', Somerton

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- 12th December 6.30pm Bruern Abbey School Choir
—charge on entry
24th December 4pm Crib Service
25th December 9.30am Christmas Celebration with Communion
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ABVM, Souldern

- 23rd December 6pm Service of Lessons & Carols
24th December 3.30pm Community Carols in the Churchyard
25th December 11am Christmas Celebration with Communion

St Mary's, Upper Heyford

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- 10th December 5.30pm Christmas Carol Sing-a-long
at the Village Hall
16th December 6pm Service of Lessons & Carols
24th December 11.30pm Midnight Communion
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CVB Sunday Services – December 2023

Sunday Worship	3 rd Dec	10 th Dec	17 th Dec	24 th Dec	31 st Dec
Ardley w Fewcott	9.30am Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer (1662)	9.30am Family Communion	4pm Service of Christmas Readings & Carols	9.30am Family Service	10am Communion at Heyford Park Chapel
Fritwell	11am Service of Morning Prayer	8.30am Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer (1662)	5pm Service of Christmas Readings & Carols	11:30pm Midnight Communion	10am Communion at Heyford Park Chapel
Heyford Park Chapel **					10am Communion at Heyford Park Chapel
Lower Heyford and Caulcott	11am Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer (1662)	11am Family Service	6pm Service of Christmas Readings & Carols	11am Christingle with Nativity	10am Communion at Heyford Park Chapel
Somerton	6pm Evensong	9.30am Sunday Club	11am Matins with Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer (1662)	4pm Crib Service	10am Communion at Heyford Park Chapel
Souldern	10.30am Wild Worship	11am Holy Communion with choir (Common Worship)	9.30am Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer (1662)	3.30pm Carols on the Churchyard	10am Communion at Heyford Park Chapel
Upper Heyford	9:30am Family Communion Service (Common Worship)	5:30pm Carols in the Village Hall		11.30pm Midnight Communion	10am Communion at Heyford Park Chapel

** Service of Holy Communion at Heyford Park Chapel
at 10am on Wednesdays 6th & 20th December

Have you ever wondered about what your favourite carol actually means & where it came from? Find out! Once in royal David's City, Holly & The Ivy and Hark the Herald. Discussion and creative response.

Advent Course

Wednesday 6th/13th/20th

December 10:45am

Heyford Park Chapel



Carols by Candlelight



with the
Bruern Abbey Choir

Tuesday 12th December

St James Church, Somerton, Oxon

6.30 pm

Please join us for carol singing, mince pies, mulled wine, brownies and hot chocolate.

Tickets £10 (children free) on the door.

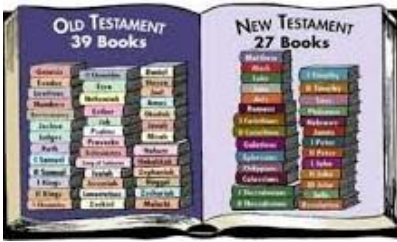
It would be good to know some numbers so if you can please text or ring Anna 07702511791 or Ruth 07967387514, otherwise just turn up.

Parking at Dovecote farm (you will be directed)

All proceeds for the fabric of the church and Red cross/ Red Crescent.



The Bible Book Club



Helping you to read the Bible, with your friends, one book at a time

Thursday's 1:45pm

via Zoom

To receive the link contact
helen.barnes@cherwellvalleychurch.org.uk

Mid Week Services in Church

Wednesdays

COMMUNION

(6th & 20th December)

10:00am at Heyford Park Chapel

Thursdays

MORNING PRAYER

9:15 at St Olave's Fritwell

Recorded Services

Tuesdays & Fridays

RECORDED MORNING PRAYER

The Cherwell Valley Benefice in the Diocese of Oxford

Rev Helen Barnes	07940 788 926	helen.barnes@cherwellvalleychurch.org.uk
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Parish Churchwardens & Contacts

Ardley	Angela Chamberlain	01869 345332
Fritwell	Jane White	01869 345396
Heyford Park	Rev Helen Barnes	07940 788926
Lower Heyford & Caulcott	Denise Ball Philip Boxall	01869 343364 07721 556 199
Somerton		
Souldern	Clive Smith	07783 367 258
Upper Heyford	Sally Anne Mildenhall	07778 431 165

