

1st Sunday of Christmas

Sunday 31 December 2017

when you have finished with this sheet pass it on to someone unable to get to church today

COLLECT

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 61.10 – 62.3

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. 1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. 2 The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. 3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

This is the word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD**



Responsorial Psalm 148

Response: Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.

Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights. Praise him, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.

R Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you stars of light.

Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. **R** Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded and they were created. He made them fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away. **R**

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps; Fire and hail, snow and mist, tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word; Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and birds on the wing; **R** Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; Young men and women, old and young together; let them praise the name of the Lord. **R** For his name only is exalted, his splendour above earth and heaven. He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia. **R**

SECOND READING Galatians 4.4–7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

4 When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. 6 And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' 7 So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

This is the word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD**

GOSPEL Luke 2.15–21

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
GLORY TO YOU O LORD

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. 21 After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This is the gospel of the Lord. **PRAISE TO YOU O CHRIST**

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:

help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LyCiG Prayer

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
in spiritual commitment to you,
and in service to our local community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**





THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The United Benefice of Sharnbrook, Felmersham and Knotting with Souldrop

St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook MK44 1HU, St Mary's Church, Felmersham MK43 7JP

All Saints Church, Souldrop MK44 1EX

www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org



Welcome today as we pray together on this last day of 2017

Worship in the Benefice today—Christmas 1

0830 Souldrop Holy Communion BCP

0930 Sharnbrook Parish Communion with Rise 'n Shine

1100 Felmersham Said Parish Communion

1800 Sharnbrook Taize and refreshments after

Monday—Naming & Circumcision of Jesus

12noon Sharnbrook Holy Communion

to mark the New Year & Feast Day

Tuesday—Lesser Festival- Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus,

Bishops, Teachers of the Faith, 379 and 389

Wednesday—feria:

0930 Sharnbrook Holy Communion 1st Wed BCP

Thursday—feria

0930 Felmersham Holy Communion CW

1030 Sharnbrook House Holy Communion

Friday—feria

Saturday—Principal Festival—The Epiphany

Next Sunday morning—Epiphany Celebration

1030 Sharnbrook Benefice Epiphany Sung Communion

followed by Bring 'n Share

pot luck lunch in SPR



1800 Sharnbrook Benefice Evensong for Epiphany

The Benefice Diary is online at www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org

Intercessions

The sick and in need: Barbara, Sally, Martin, Mary, Linda, Marjorie, Doreen, David & James,

The Departed: George Hogg, Iris Elliott, Janice Woodfield

Send the names of people who have asked to be remembered in our parish intercessions to the Rector

Pray for our churches as we look to a new year—May we look to Christ as our Light and guide.

Pray for peace amongst the Nations and for our PM & Queen

Pray for our Church Treasurers as they work on our end of year accounts



Christian Meditation Group

meets on Mondays 2000 in SPR—all welcome!

Leading Your Church Into Growth 2018

Doing LyCiG Local Study Course

Leaders Session 1: Wednesday 24 January 7:30pm The Rectory

Main Session 1: Saturday 3 February 2pm

hosted at Felmersham

Main Session 2: Tuesday 13 February 7:30pm

hosted at Souldrop

Main Session 3: Saturday 24 February 2pm-3:30pm

hosted in St Peter's Room

Leaders Session 2: Tuesday 27 February 7:30pm The Rectory

LyCiG Diocesan Day 3 March 9:30am-3pm

at The Rufus Centre, Flitwick MK45 1AH

– 10 places booked for the Benefice – cost free

Main Session 4: Friday 9 March 7:30pm

hosted at Felmersham

Main Session 5: Tuesday 20 March 7:30pm

hosted at Souldrop

Main Session 6: Saturday 21 April 2pm-3:30pm

hosted in St Peter's Room

Please bring food to share for our Epiphany Pot Luck Bring 'n Share lunch—no lists just bring something to add to the table

This study course is for all who come to church to help us work together in growing our churches.



Launde Abbey 2018 Retreat Programmes now in church to take the

LENT retreat: Be Radiant

is NOW FULL



Church Contacts

The Rector: Reuben Preston, The Rectory, 81 High Street, Sharnbrook MK44 1PE 01234 782000 07971 895897

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Lay Leaders of Worship: Rosemary Drewery 07792926004, Jane Templeman, Andrea Maffie 07881 046255

Churchwardens:-

St Peter's Church: Roland Carpenter 01234 781551

St Mary's Church: Jane Wells 01234 782462 &

Sue Whitehouse 01234 781300

All Saints Church: Nick Wells 07841 759497

Safeguarding Co-Ord: Rosemary Drewery 07792 926004

Items for inclusion should be sent to

sharnbrookbenefice@gmail.com by 0900 on Wednesdays.

To make arrangements for Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms/Christenings, Confessions, House Blessings etc. please contact the Rector

Sponsorship: In memory of late Iris Elliott—May she rest in peace

If you would like to sponsor this sheet please send you £5 donation to The Rectory along with details of the sponsorship (even if anonymous)