

Diary for this week 23rd – 28th December

Mon 3.30pm Learner Bell Ringers practice
Tues **CHRISTMAS EVE**
The Meeting Point will be closed until 7th January
4.00pm Crib Service
9.00pm Christmas Night Communion at St Bridget's
Weds **CHRISTMAS DAY**
10.00am Christmas Family Communion
Thurs
Fri
Sat 3.00pm Bell Ringers Peal Attempt

Morning Prayer if said, will be on Zoom Mon and Thurs each week – see weekly e-mail for the link.

Next Sunday: 29th December (1st Sunday of Christmas)

10.45am Benefice Eucharist St Andrew's

Giving to St Andrew's or St Bridget's To support our churches the easiest way is through bank transfer to Backwell PCC: sort code 60-14-49 account No. 41004027 (alternatively, try the contactless station); to Backwell PCC Missions & Charities: Sort code 60-14-49; Account no. 41004035; quoting "Sisters"; to St Bridget's to Chelvey PCC: Sort Code 60-14-49 account No. 05021715.

Advent Sermon Series Please use the accompanying leaflet for your daily reflections. Copies are in both churches and with the weekly e-mail. Do join us for a discussion of the series on 8th January at 9.30am on Zoom.



Christmas Services

Sunday 22nd December

10.45am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's
6.30pm	Carol Service	St Andrew's

Christmas Eve – 24th December

4.00pm	Crib Service	St Andrew's
9.00pm	Christmas Night Communion	St Bridget's

Christmas Day – 25th December

10.00am	Christmas Family Communion	St Andrew's
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Sunday 29th December

10.45am	Benefice Eucharist	St Andrew's
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Welcome to The Benefice of Backwell and Chelvey with Brockley

22nd December 2024

4th Sunday of Advent



Welcome to our services today

10.45am	Holy Communion	St Andrew's
6.30pm	Carol Service	St Andrew's

Coffee will be served after the 10.45am service.

Live stream for Sunday 22nd 10.45am:

<https://youtube.com/live/4YmouNsMOZw>

Live stream for Christmas Day 10.00am:

https://youtube.com/live/VwOoyugr_9k

Services and prayer during the week

Morning Prayer 9am Mon & Thurs on Zoom; also Tues at St Bridget's in person.

General Information...

St Andrew's and St Bridget's with St Nicholas'

<https://www.backwellchelveybenefice.org.uk/>

<http://www.stbridgetschelvey.co.uk/>

Rector

Vacancy – contact the Benefice Office (details below)

Ministry Team

Rev'd Canon Peter Bailey 01275 790611

Rev'd Joan Rowe 01275 463214

Mr Martin Canning 01275 790309

Mr David George 07532202786

Churchwardens

Backwell: Mr Andy Pitcher 07837281158

Mrs Cherry Leake 01275 462365 / 07708883075

Chelvey: Mr Roger Watson 01275 462821

Mrs Sue Bougourd 01275 853879

Administrator: Benefice office - **01275 463469**

Office open **Tues, Thurs & Fri 9.30-12.30**

admin@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk

Children's worker: Timi Booy – 07540 058609

Working days: Mon, Tues and Weds

childrensworker@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk

Please submit any notices for the weekly sheet by 9.30am on Thursdays.

Collect and Readings...

Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect for Christmas Eve Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect for Christmas Night 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. **Amen.**

Collect 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. **Amen.**

Readings for this week...

Sunday 22nd 10.45am:

Hebrews 10: 5-10 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Luke 1.5-19 In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He

must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.'

Christmas Eve 9.00pm:

Isaiah 9.2-7 & Luke 2.1-14; John 1.1-14

Christmas Day 10.00am: Luke 1.26-38

For your prayers this week...

In the Anglican Communion: We pray for The Church of the Province of Uganda

Zambia: We pray for our link church of St Andrew's, Ndola North, who began work on their second school classroom.

In this Diocese: Loving God, as we approach the celebration of the birth of your Son, we pray for families who are divided at the moment, for whatever reason. We pray that they will find the peace which is beyond human understanding.

In the Deanery: We pray for the Parish of Nailsea Holy Trinity & for Rev James Packman

Oct/Nov/Dec charity: The Sisters of the Church

December Prayer Cycle: Westfield Road, Westfield Close, Westfield Drive

Church Groups: During December we pray for Little Lambs toddler group, for Rhiannon Mark, its leader and for the older children now moving up.

December Baptism Anniversaries: Nathan, Grace, Lily

Backwell Junior School: We pray for our Pupil Chaplains, all Year classes, their teachers and classroom assistants.

Those who are sick or in need: Becky Jones, Estelle Wong, Jess Wong, Ed Hewitt, Grace Myahalaleel, Barbara Harland, Jenny Webb, Mike & Carol, Brenda Cooke, Lucy Goodland, Julian Barnett, Jane Hepburn, Alan, Judith Brown, Margaret Dagger, Christine Lawrence.

Those who we keep in our prayers: Sue Ashman, Zofia Matyjasik, Maureen Barnett, Vicky Dunscombe

Those who have died: Gerald Wilcox, Christopher Paish

Anniversary of death: Derek Guy

Office holiday The office will be closed from 12.30pm on Friday 20th December until 9.30am on Tuesday 7th January. Please contact the churchwardens or Ministry Team with any urgent matters during this time.

Christmas Card Exchange is now available in the Link for you to exchange Christmas Cards with people who are likely to be in church. Please note that this is an exchange and not a delivery service so please do check to see if there are any cards for you – and make sure that those you leave have been collected.