

The West Purbeck Benefice Prayer

Holy God we thank you that you have called us to be your people across the West Purbeck Benefice.

We praise you for the beauty that surrounds us,
the people who make up our communities,
the visitors whom we welcome

and above all for the gift of faith you have given to us.

Help us through prayer and worship to grow closer to you,
through service and care to reflect your love,

and through mission to share your Good News with all around us.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



**Sunday 5th January 2025
Epiphany**

Sunday 5th January - Epiphany

9am	Holy Communion by Extension	Wool
9am	BCP Holy Communion	East Lulworth
10.30 for 10.45am	Café Church	Winfrith Newburgh VHall
11am	Holy Communion	Affpuddle
4pm	Evensong	Bere Regis

Clergy Contact Details:

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Usual hours The Benefice Office is staffed Wednesday 9-12 and 12.30-4 and Friday 9-1.30.

For enquiries outside these times contact the Vicar.

Sunday 12th January - Baptism of Christ

9am	Holy Communion	Chaldon
10am	Morning Praise	Affpuddle
10am	Junior Church	Bere Regis
10.30am	Holy Communion	Wool
11am	Family Service	Bere Regis
11am	Holy Communion	Winfrith

MIDWEEK SERVICE - Wednesday 8th January

10.30am	Holy Communion	Bere Regis
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PLEASE BEWARE EMAIL SCAMS!

We are aware that scam emails are circulating. Any genuine email from Revd Richard Bartlett will have his email address vicar@westpurbeck.org.uk and the West Purbeck Benefice Logo in the signature. Please don't click on any links in suspect emails.

Collect for Epiphany

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
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**

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Post Communion Prayer for Epiphany

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12

Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reverend David Chillman writes:

What's really important?

By the time that you get to read this, I will have taken my last service and will be doing the last minute preparations for our move to Torquay. As we prepare to move, we are very aware of all the people who have made our time here in *[the Benefice]* such a pleasant experience. We have enjoyed getting to know people and joining in with so many events and activities, as well as appreciating the beauty of our surroundings. Walking to the top of Bindon Hill and looking out across the cove towards Weymouth has always been a great joy. And so we thank everyone who has made us feel so welcome and at home here.

The final thought that I want to leave with you all is about the supreme importance of love – of encountering the love of God for yourself and then sharing that love with everyone around you.

One of the lesser known parts of the Bible is the First Letter of St John. It may be not that well-known but it contains some words that I have increasingly found to be of great importance for myself and I hope for others.

'Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.'

'God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.'

'Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.'

At the end of the day and at the end of my ordained ministry, this is what is really important. As Jesus himself said, love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind strength and love your neighbour as yourself. There is nothing more important than this.

David Chillman

(from 'Parish News' January 2025)



Come and join us for Soup 'n' Pud
 The D'Urberville Hall, Wool from 12noon
 on
Wednesday 5th February

Donations welcome.
 We look forward to seeing you!



SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

The work of the Church: Please pray for The Church in Wales. Also please pray for the Church Mission Society and our Home groups.

This Benefice: We pray for all those who are isolating or not able to join in with worship at this time. We pray for all those volunteering in their community with transport, prescriptions and shopping, also the Youth clubs and children's uniformed organisations in Affpuddle, Bere Regis, Bovington, Chaldon Herring, East Lulworth, West Lulworth, Winfrith Newburgh and Wool. Pray for the residents of Hollow Oak, Hyde, Lane End, Lower Woodbury and Turnerspudde in Bere Regis; Shirley Close and Sunnyside in West Lulworth; Water Lane and Shilling Plot in Winfrith and East Knighton; Highwood, Holme Bridge and Holme Lane in East Stoke, Hillside Road in Wool.

Those who are ill or have asked for our prayers:
 We pray for Peter Wharf; Irene; Brian Horn; John Mitchell; Dawn Maple; Eric Maple; Annette Kessler; Amanda Tucker; Frankie; Karen; Liz Draisey; Revd Stephen and Lesley Coles.

We are pleased to pray for all those whom we are asked to pray for. In order to keep our prayer intentions up to date we will include names for one month. At the end of each month, if you would like either yourself or the person whom you have asked us to pray for to remain on the prayer list for a further month, please inform one of the clergy or the Benefice Office. If you are asking for prayer for someone else please remember to ask their permission for us to include them in The Link. Thank you for being a part of this important ministry of prayer.

We pray for the families and friends of those who have died in recent days: Jean Nommick, Irene Mayo; Christopher Ridley; Peter Lockyer; Robert Abbott; Colin Broadhurst; David Hyde; Gillian Richards
Also the families and friends of those whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

CRIB SERVICE

A few photos of St Andrew's Church following its preparation for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.



St Christopher's Church

Churchyard Working Parties



We have regular working parties to try and keep the two churchyards in good order. If you would like to join us please just turn up on Saturday January 25th, March 15th and April 26th. Our group of volunteers do their very best to maintain the churchyards but more help would be appreciated. We start at 9.30 am, refreshments provided. We look forward to meeting you, especially if you have family members or friends who have been buried in the churchyards.



CAFÉ CHURCH - WINFRITH VILLAGE HALL 10.30 FOR 10.45 ON 5TH JANUARY

'I am the Bread of Life'

John 6



At Café Church this Sunday we shall be thinking about how Jesus lives in us and we live in him by looking at John chapter 6 and His teaching on the bread of life. Come and join us for lively worship, drama and discussion as well as delicious refreshments.

BREAKFAST CLUB

We meet at Holme for Gardens on the second Wednesday every month at 10am (next meeting 8th January). **All welcome!** Please let Mary know if you are coming on 01929 556086

Thursday Tea and Toast at St John the Baptist, Bere Regis 8am until 11am Thursdays.

All ages are welcome; there will be some toddler-age toys available. Dogs and their owners are very welcome (including doggie biscuits!). For more information, please contact Pat Wharf at patswiftwharf@outlook.com or on 01929 472246.

www.westpurbeck.org.uk

Lulworth Players Present Ben Crocker's *Beauty & The Beast*



Bar & Raffle

TICKETS

ADULTS £10

CHILDREN £5

Tickets Online

Winfrith Village Stores

Finleys Cafe, West Lulworth

Friday 31st January 7:30pm

Saturday 1st February 2:00pm & 7:30pm

West Lulworth Village Hall BH20 5SG

Tickets available now

Don't miss this chance to book your seat for the magical performance of *Beauty & the Beast* by the Lulworth Players. Rehearsals have well under way. Costumes are being made. Lines learnt *ahem! Song and dance routines begun.

Tickets on sale NOW online (scan the QR code), from cast and usual shops.



CANZONETTA CONCERT

at Holy Rood
on 15th December



The Canzonetta 20th anniversary concert at Holy Rood was well attended and featured solos 'In the Bleak Midwinter' and 'O Holy Night' by Revd Richard Bartlett. Afterwards all enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies and a special anniversary cake. The collection for Holy Rood church was £375.95.

