

## Harbury Notices

**Morning Prayer**—there will be no meetings for the rest of December and January.

**The Collective**—there will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be on January 16th.

**Thursday communion**—there will be no meetings on 21st or 28th Dec. We resume on Jan 4th.

**Christmas Eve services**—Please refer closely to the times overleaf, Sunday morning services are cancelled due to special service times. There will be a morning communion at 10:30am on Christmas day in Harbury and Ladbroke.

**“Dress Up Nativity” at 3pm on Christmas Eve.** Come and join our short, family friendly service – dress up as your favourite character from the Nativity Story (adults are welcome to join in). Kings, Marys, Sheep, Stars, Angels – you name it, there is a role for everyone. We have some costumes available.



[administrator@allsaintsharbury.org](mailto:administrator@allsaintsharbury.org) to include messages in the pew sheet. Deadline for 24th and 31st Dec editions is **Thur 21st Dec**

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE RECTORY

*I came across this old seasonal joke recently - Why is the UK Parliament like 1st century Bethlehem? Because it takes a miracle to find three wise men there. That seems particularly appropriate at the moment after the furore surrounding the Rwanda bill, the resignation of the immigration minister, and the revelations coming out of the COVID enquiry revealing a government in chaos and at odds with each other. The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday reflecting the words from Philippians 4 - ‘Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice’, the Latin version of which reads ‘Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete’. Perhaps there are many people who don’t feel much like rejoicing at the moment, there is so much uncertainty, fear and worry about so much that is happening in the world around us. But the joy we hear in our passage from Isaiah today is based on a solid promise that things are going to change. People are going to be freed from captivity, people are going to be healed, people are going to be blessed. There is good news. We live in a damaged and dark world but we know it’s not going to be like that forever. Joy is a normal part of the Christian life, not something we have to muster up ourselves, but a gift of the Holy Spirit – something that bubbles up inside us, often unexpectedly and unbidden. So we don’t have to wait for Christmas to rejoice, Joy is integral to simply being a Christian – May we all discover that anew this advent and this Christmas.*

### Prayer

*Our God is a loving God, Much joy can be shared in the knowledge that he will always be with us. He will not leave us in darkness. Give thanks to the Shepherd, who never forsakes, who always abides, In our hearts and in our minds.*

## HARBURY, LADBROKE & UFTON CHURCHES



## Notice Sheet Sunday 17th December 2023 Advent 3

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare  
the way of your Son: give us courage to  
speak the truth, to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right, with  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

### THIS WEEKS SERVICES:

8:00am	Holy communion	Harbury
9:00am	Holy communion	Ladbroke
10:30am	All Age service	Harbury
4:00pm	Carol service	Ufton

## THIS WEEK

*Rev Andy will not be taking services for around 6 weeks due to his recovery.*

**Monday 18th December (Vicar's day off)**

**Tuesday 19th December**

**Wednesday 20th December**

2:00pm Connections Café THR  
6:30pm Carol service Ladbroke

**Thursday 21st December**

6:30pm Beers and carols Harbury  
*Starting at the Crown, Shakespeare, Gamecock*  
7:00pm Carols around the village Ladbroke

**Friday 22nd December**

9:30am School service Harbury  
8:00pm Bellringing Practice Harbury

**Saturday 23rd December**

10:00am Coffee morning THR  
PCC - All Saints Harbury

**Sunday 24th December**

No Morning communion services

3:00pm Dress up Nativity Harbury  
3:00pm Crib service Ladbroke  
6:00pm Candlelit carol service Harbury  
11:15pm Midnight Communion Harbury

**Any safeguarding concerns please contact safeguarding lead Amy Pedvin-Lewis or Rev Andy .**

**Churchwardens:**

**Harbury:** Elizabeth McBride  
Andy Dean

**Ladbroke:** Peter Rigby  
Sue Moore

### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Kate, Margaret, Christina, Tony, Judy, Carol, Charles, Bryan, David, Pippa, Ian, Sam, Joy, Chris, Caroline, Lee, Karen, Nora, John, Jacqui, Eveline.

All those who have lost a loved one.

## BIBLE READINGS

**Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11**

**61** The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup> For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.<sup>9</sup> Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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.

**John 1.6-8, 19-28**

<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.

**The Testimony of John the Baptist**

<sup>19</sup> This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' <sup>20</sup> He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.'<sup>21</sup> And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.'<sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' <sup>23</sup> He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. <sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' <sup>26</sup> John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup> the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.'<sup>28</sup> This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

**If you, or someone you know needs additional support, or would appreciate home communion please contact Rev Andy: [rev.andyb@gmail.com](mailto:rev.andyb@gmail.com) 01926 714295**