

THIS WEEK

Monday 15th December (Vicar's day off)

Tuesday 16th December

8:30am Morning prayer THR

10:30am Bumps & Bundles THR

Wednesday 17th December

10:30am Funeral J Perry Ladbroke

8:30am Morning prayer THR

2:00pm Connections café THR

Thursday 18th December

8:30am Morning prayer THR

10:00am Holy Communion Harbury

7:30pm House group Call 01926 613340

Friday 19th December

9:30am School service Harbury

7:30pm Bellingring practice Harbury

Saturday 20th December

10:00am Coffee morning THR
("Free" hosted by the Church)

Sunday 21st December

8:00am Holy Communion Harbury

10:30am Carols for Everyone Harbury

5:30pm Candlelit Carols Chesterton

6:00pm Carol service Ladbroke

Churchwardens:

Harbury: Bez Norton Andy Dean

Ladbroke: Peter Rigby Sue Moore

Any safeguarding concerns please contact Rev Andy, safeguarding lead Amy Pedvin-Lewis -01926716520 or Jenny Rigby -01926259985 (Ladbroke)

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

David, Gemma, Caroline, Kay, Margaret,
Nora, Karen, Barry, Maureen, Nathan,
Deanne, Christina, Bryan, David, Sam, Joy
All those who have lost a loved one.

BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 35.1-10

The Return of the Redeemed to Zion

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Matthew 11.2-11

Messengers from John the Baptist

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴ Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

Jesus Praises John the Baptist

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

Harbury Notices

Morning Prayer we will be meeting in the Tom Hauley Room at 8.30am Tue-Thur. All welcome.

"Free" coffee morning, Saturday 20th Dec

Hosted by the church to thank all the Saturday coffee morning regulars. Would those who can help on the day, provide mince pies and/or a small raffle prize please contact me - thank you. Liz McBride 01926 612421

Reading Rota: Please collect your new reading rota, and take any others you can kindly deliver.

Bible Study: Thursday 18th December, 1.45pm at 2 The Beeches. Looking at Luke 1:26–37. All welcome.

Church Decorating: Saturday 20th December from 9am. Foliage donations appreciated—and even more, helping hands to join the decorating for Christmas!

Ladbroke Notices

Carol Service – Sunday 21st December, 6pm

(Please note: there will be no 9am service that morning.)

Crib Service – Wednesday 24th December, 3pm

All welcome, whether dressed up or not, to hear the Christmas story.

Christmas Morning Service – Thursday 25th December, 9am

Chesterton Notices

Candlelit Carol Service, Sunday 21st December at 5:30pm. led by the Harbury Folk Club Choir. Afterwards, join us for mulled wine and mince pies as we celebrate together. All are welcome

Email: administrator@allsaintsharbury.org by Thur pm to include messages in the Pew sheet. Notices for 28th Dec need to be in by 18th Dec

REFLECTION FROM THE RECTORY

This 3rd Sunday of Advent is often called Gaudete Sunday – referring to the Latin word meaning ‘Rejoice’. And while there are many (particularly the young) who will be full of excitement and joy as Christmas draws nearer, there also those who will not feel able to join in with the festive celebrations, for a variety of reasons. Perhaps they might have lost a loved one, perhaps the financial strain is weighing heavily on them, maybe there are family crises or relationship breakdowns. Life is unpredictable and we never know when we might find ourselves in what the Bible often describes as a ‘desert place’. So this week, how can we be commanded to be joyful, especially when life is difficult? Well our reading from Isaiah 35 gives us some clues. The dry, desolate desert, a biblical symbol of judgment, suffering, and spiritual barrenness, is commanded to ‘blossom abundantly’ This is a promise that God does not just fix things; He transforms them completely. Where there was death, there will be life; where there was sorrow, there will be joy. This physical transformation is mirrored by a spiritual and physical healing of the people: Jesus echoed these promises as he healed and restored broken lives. Isaiah assures us that nothing is too broken for God's renewal, whether it is a physical body or a broken spirit. All of us are journeying on what Isaiah calls ‘The way of Holiness’ the path that leads us to the Lord, a place and a time where all ‘shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away’. So today rest assured that whatever trouble we may face God is creating that "Way of Holiness" to lead us through it and into joy.

Prayer

Lord kindle in us a joy that endures— a joy stronger than worry, deeper than sorrow, and alive even in moments of struggle.

Help us reflect Your light and hope to others.

HARBURY, LADBROKE, UFTON & CHESTERTON CHURCHES



Notice Sheet

Sunday 14th Dec 2025
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:

9:00am	Holy Communion	Ladbroke
10:30am	Holy Communion	Harbury
3:00pm	Messy Christmas	THR