

A reminder that the Christmas services then are:

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| Christmas Eve | 9:00 am | Morning Prayer at Ringland |
| | 5:00 pm | Crib service at Weston Longville (Pamela Garrett) |
| | 6:30 pm | Family carol service at Ringland with the Taverham Band |
| | 11:30 pm | Midnight Mass at Weston Longville |
| Christmas Day | 8:00 am | Holy Communion (1662) at Great Witchingham |
| | 9:00 am | Family Eucharist at Ringland (Canon Peter Halls) |
| | 10:00 am | Eucharist with carols at Swannington |
| | 12 noon | Wedding at Ringland |

Sunday 28th: THE HOLY INNOCENTS

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| 8:00 am | Holy Communion (1662) at Great Witchingham |
| 9:00 am | <i>Service at Ringland still to be confirmed</i> |
| 10:00 am | The Eucharist at Alderford |
| 6:00 pm | Evensong at Weston Longville |



Rejoice!



Sunday 14 December 2008

ADVENT 3

8:00 am Weston Longville

10:00 am Swannington

A reminder that on all the Sundays of Advent, during the introduction to the Eucharist, candles are lit on our Advent wreath. When the candles have been lit there is a prayer, to which the response is always **Blessed be God for ever**.

Collect:

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61, 1-4 & 8-11

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;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
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.
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.

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.
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.
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.
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.

Gospel: John 1.6-8 & 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' 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. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.



All weekday services this week will be at their usual times.

All this week we pray particularly for those who live in **King's Head Terrace** and **Lady's Row** in Great Witchingham.

Please continue to pray for the sick & those in need:

Alic Bowen; Sheila Crane; Edward; Vicky Skingley; George Williams

A special flyer, giving details of most of the important events and services all over our benefice during Advent and Christmas, has been distributed with the December issues of the Wensum Diary and the Pilgrim. There are a few more copies in each of our churches. In addition to all the events listed there, please note:

This week:

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| Tues | 7:30 pm | Great Witchingham Guides' carol service at Morton-on-the-Hill |
| | 7:30 pm | Swannington singers practise at The Firs |
| Wed | 7:30 pm | Wedding rehearsal at Ringland |
| Fri | 4:15 pm | Weston Longville choir practice in church |
| Sat | 10:00 am | Swannington church decorated for tomorrow |
| | 11:00 am | Benefice choir practice at Alderford |

Next Sunday: Advent 4

NB – no 8:00 am service at Swannington

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| 9:00 am | Holy Communion (1662) at Ringland (Archdeacon Martin Gray) |
| 10:00 am | Holy Communion (1662) at Great Witchingham |
| 10:00 am | Children's carol service at Swannington |
| 6:00 pm | Benefice service of Nine Readings and Carols at Alderford |