

Daily Bible Readings W/C 31 December 2017

Date	Psalm	1st Reading	2nd Reading
Sun 31 Dec, First of Christmas	132	Isaiah 35	Luke 2.41-52
Mon 1 Jan, Naming and Circumcision of Jesus	103	Genesis 17.1-13	Romans 2.17-29
Tues 2 Jan, Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops, teachers of the faith	18.1-30	Ruth 1	Colossians 2.8-end
Wed 3 Jan	127	Ruth 2	Colossian 3.1-11
Thurs 4 Jan	89.1-37	Ruth 3	Colossians 3.12-4.1
Fri 5 Jan	48	Ruth 4.1-17	Colossians 4.2-end
Sat 6 Jan, Epiphany	132	Jeremiah 31.7-14	John 1.29-34

SERVICES for Sunday 7 January 2018, The Baptism of Christ

8.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Inkberrow
9.30am	Family Communion <i>With Healing Prayers & Anointing</i>	St Paul's Church, Inkberrow
9.30am	Traditional Holy Communion	St Peter's Hall, Inkberrow
11.00am	Informal Worship	St Peter's Church, Inkberrow
11.00am	Morning Praise	St James's Church, Kington
1.30pm	Baptisms <i>of Tommy Blundell & Elsie Banner</i>	St Peter's Church, Inkberrow

CHURCH CONTACTS: www.cofe-inkberrow.org.uk

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The BENEFICE of INKBERROW with COOKHILL and KINGTON with DORMSTON

JOY TO THE WORLD

Newsheet and Readings from Christmas Eve through to and including 31 December 2017



SERVICES for Sunday 24 December, Advent 4

10.00am	Joint Crib Service	St Peter's Church, Inkberrow
4.30pm	Crib Service	St Paul's Church, Cookhill
6.30pm	Carols on the Green	Inkberrow Village Green
8.00pm	Communion by Candlelight	St Nicholas Church, Dormston
11.00pm	Candlelit Midnight Eucharist	St Peter's Church, Inkberrow

Readings for the 24 December (Christmas Eve)

Luke 1 26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.



Christmas Night Readings

Isaiah 52 7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

John 1. 1-14

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.'

⁵Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' ⁶Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

⁸Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' ⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

⁴ Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.
⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded and they were created.
⁶ He made them fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
⁸ Fire and hail, snow and mist, tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;
⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
¹⁰ Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and birds on the wing;
¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
¹² Young men and women, old and young together; let them praise the name of the Lord.
¹³ For his name only is exalted, his splendour above earth and heaven.
¹⁴ He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.

Galatians 4. 4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Luke 2 15-21

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. ²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived

SERVICES for Monday 25th December, Christmas Day

8.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Inkberrow
9.30am	Family Communion	St Paul's Church, Cookhill
10.00am	Family Praise	St James' Church, Kington
10.00am	Traditional Holy Communion	St Peter's Church, Inkberrow

READINGS FOR Sunday 31 December 2017 First Sunday of Christmas

Collect for First Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Post Communion for First Sunday of Christmas

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Isaiah 61.10-62.3

¹⁰I 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. ¹¹For 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.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God

Psalms 148

- 1 Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.
- 2 Praise him, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you stars of light.

Readings for Christmas Day

Titus 3. 4-7

⁴When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Luke 2 (1-7) 8-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds

PRAYER FOCUS

With Christmas upon us we pray for peace in the world. Lofty and perhaps seemingly unattainable it is right that we pray for even those things which we feel are impossible. To pray for these things means we acknowledge the problems in the world which helps to effect change. We pray for those who work in bringing peace.

We pray for the United Nations and nations of the world who dare to stand up for what is right and principled. Even the most powerful democratic nations of the world sometimes make bad decisions. The United Nations is there to protect the weak against the tyranny of the strong.

We pray for the new year. We pray that 2018 will bring hope to those deprived and depraved areas of the world. We pray for new beginnings particularly for Zimbabwe. We pray for progress in the Brexit negotiations, for wise decisions keep in mind the UK and EU27's economies as well as the prosperity of the people throughout all the 28 nations of the EU.

In this new year we pray for our localities and our churches. We pray for Inkberrow and Cookhill, Kington and Dormston. We pray for the people in all our villages that they may have health, prosperity but above all happiness.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Those bereaved of: Ron Gurden; David Perkins; Sheila Nicholson;

Those who are in special need: Sandy Carruthers; David; Maureen Dew; Eileen; Kathleen Hollis; Jamie; Ann; Graham; Anne; Bréda; Bob McCarthy; Reuben Bell; Noah; Peter Evans; Tim Beddall; Rosemary Biggs; Nick; Wayne Poulton; Gwynne; Elizabeth; Bill Grainger; Paul; Sally Satterley; Jill Dow;

Cycles of Prayer for the Wider Church:

- Stourport Deanery – Rural Dean: Mark Turner; Lay Chair: Andrew Quinn;
- Diocese of Yola (Nigeria): Bishop Markus Ibrahim;
- Diocese of Oslo (Norway): Bishop Ole Kvarme;
- Diocese of Durham: Bishop Paul Butler with Bishop Mark Bryant (Jarrow);
- Diocese of Moray Ross & Caithness (Scotland): Bishop Mark Strange;
- Diocese of Zululand (Southern Africa): Bishop Monument Makhanya;

Local Churches, Community and Daily lives:

- Alcester Methodist Church with Rev'd Richard Wilde and Stock Green Baptist Church with Rev'd Peter Cook;
- For all those who live and work in Alcester Road, Cockshot Lane, Bourne Close and Park Crescent, Dormston;
- Martin and Diane who were married yesterday at St Peter's Church, Inkberrow;

Daily Bible Readings W/C 24 December 2017

Date	Psalms	1st Reading	2nd Reading
Sun 24 Dec, 4th of Advent	144	Isaiah 7.10-16	Romans 1.1-7
Mon 25 Dec, Christmas Day	110	Isaiah 62.1-5	Matthew 1.18-25
Tues 26 Dec, Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr	13	Jeremiah 26.12-15	Acts 6
Wed 27 Dec, John, Apostle and Evangelist	21	Exodus 33.12-23	1 John 2.1-11
Thurs 28 Dec, The Holy Innocents	36	Genesis 37.13-20	Matthew 18.1-10
Fri 29 Dec, Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr	19	Jonah 1	Colossians 1.1-14
Sat 30 Dec	113	Jonah 2	Colossians 1.15-23

What's on week commencing 24 & 31 December 2017

Thurs 28	8.30am	Morning Prayer	St Paul's, Cookhill
Wed 3	10.00am	Morning Prayer	St Peter's, Inkberrow
Thurs 4	8.30am	Morning Prayer	St Paul's, Cookhill
Fri 5	12.30pm	Funeral of David Perkins	St Paul's, Cookhill
Sat 6	8.30am	Prayer Support	St Peter's Hall
Sun 7	11.00am	Junior Church	St Peter's Hall
Sun 7	1.30pm	Baptism of Tommy Blundell & Elsie Banner	St Peter's, Inkberrow

Notices: There will be no Holy Communion service on Wednesday 27th December. The next service on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 will be Morning Prayer.

Thank you to all those who helped clean St Peter's in preparation for the Christmas Celebrations, your efforts are very much appreciated.

Banns of Marriage: None to publish 24/12/2017 & 31/12/2017

Bishop Graham has rescheduled to preside and preach on the **7th January 2018. 9.30am at Cookhill and 11.00am at Inkberrow.** Please join us if you can. Refreshments will be available afterwards.