

# The Church in Warden Hill



The Church in Warden Hill  
(Anglican & URC)



# Welcome

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM REVD GARY

It's always nice to know that things are settled, or being done in a familiar way. So a change to the norm, or if things don't go to plan, can be stressful or even the 'breaking point' for fragile relationships. We don't like uncertainty or chaos, and yet this is what Christmas is all about.

- The Christ-child is born into an unplanned situation;
- There was a massive exercise in bureaucracy, whose purpose would have been lost on most;
- An unforeseen journey needed to be made to a distant place, where accommodation had not been arranged, and all that was on offer was rudimentary and dirty;
- Given the distance, friends and family were unlikely to be able to visit to support the mother during labour;
- And, money would need to be found to pay the newly imposed taxes!

At the heart of the incarnational mystery is Christ coming to us in the 'muddle and mess' of a set of unforeseen circumstances, and in all the tensions arising from it. Sound familiar? He comes as the Coronavirus devastates families, he comes amidst unexpected bereavements, and he comes amidst one of the largest economic uncertainties in known history. He comes in the inconveniences and postponements that these situations create, and he is particularly present when things are *not* the way they should be, or once were.

This *is* Christmas! This is the world that Christ, the 'Prince of Peace', was born into...a messy and chaotic world! At Christmas, should we not, therefore, recognise the chaos in our lives and *look* for that peace?

Where will you find *your* peace this Christmas? As you find these places and moments, find time to deposit the 'unrealistic expectations' that you have of Christmas and yourselves, and give them over to God.

This year above all years, we need to find that peace. That quiet certainty that Immanuel, God is with us. Amidst the busyness and chaos, it is Christ's humility and peace that gives 'meaning and purpose' to the season...it is the only present worth asking for. **Revd Gary.**

Arrangements for Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child, Baptism, Confirmation, Banns of Marriage, etc., should be made with Revd Gary Grady.

If you are aware of anyone who is ill, in hospital, or in need of a pastoral visit please contact Clergy, Elders or Readers.

If you have anything for the Grapevine please send it to: [grapevine@tcivh.org.uk](mailto:grapevine@tcivh.org.uk) by midday on Wednesday or call Brian Miles on 01242 862142.

Website: [www.tciwh.org.uk](http://www.tciwh.org.uk)

Safeguarding Officer: Debbie Cypher

## THE CHRISTMAS GRAPEVINE

### Christmas Day

10am Holy Communion

*Led by Revd Sarah McDonald-Haden*

### Sunday 27th December

10.30am Holy Communion

*Led by Revd Gary Grady*

### Sunday 3rd January

10.30am Morning Worship (Epiphany)

*Led by Roy McBane*

### Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer will be taking a short break after Christmas and will resume on Monday 4th January at 9am.

*This will continue to be live-streamed each day from [www.facebook.com/pipandjims](https://www.facebook.com/pipandjims) and [www.stpetersleck.org](http://www.stpetersleck.org).*

You can attend in person at St. Christopher's on a Tuesday or St. Peter's on a Thursday when either Revd Gary or Revd Jacqueline will lead the service.

### Open for Prayer

St. Christopher's will re-open to visit for prayer from 2-4pm on Wednesday 6th January.

*St. Christopher's will not be open for prayer between Christmas and New Year.*

# The Church in Warden Hill

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** a quiet week for our Team clergy and all who have kept the church buildings open and available for private prayer and worship.

**WE PRAY FOR** wisdom for leaders of national and local government throughout the world as they take decisions which affect their citizens; for health services as they face unprecedented conditions; for scientists as they seek effective vaccines.

**PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR** all who are sick in body, mind and spirit; those who mourn the loss of loved ones, especially at this time of year; and those who are now in God's nearer presence.

**FINALLY** as we approach a new year, please pray for peace throughout the world.

**R.I.P** Katherine Hiley, died on Friday 18th December, younger daughter of Martin and Sue.

## **WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK**

27th	Tamarisk Close & Wisteria Court	31st	Sissinghurst Grove & Ansell Close
28th	Rosehip & Camellia Courts	1st	W Hill, Bettridge & Belmont Schools
29th	Stancombe Grove and Azalea Dr.	2nd	Home & hospital communicants
30th	Bluebell Grove & Lavender Road	3rd	The Mothers' Union

## **COLLECT FOR 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 for ever. **Amen.**

## **LESSONS AND CAROLS**

You can revisit the service of lessons and carols which was live-streamed from St. Peter's on Sunday 20th December here: [www.stpetersleck.org](http://www.stpetersleck.org)

## **CHELTENHAM STREET PASTORS**

As you might be aware Cheltenham Street Pastors have resumed patrols following the lockdowns. Over this festive period our town needs prayer for people to make sensible and safe decisions about going out in the town at night, also for the homeless as it is now very cold, many are still being housed in accommodation but some are not.

# The Church in Warden Hill

## **NEW YEAR**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** those who are sick in body, mind or spirit; those who have died; and those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

**WE PRAY FOR** God's blessing on the New Year, that 2021 may bring us hope in the present circumstances of pandemic.

**PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR** agencies and charities which are helping those in adversity at this time: especially the food banks.

## **WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS FOR NEW YEAR**

4th	The Bellringers	8th	St. Andrew's, Ramallah
5th	Young people's groups	9th	Youth Worker
6th	Maintenance & Office staff	10th	Messy Church
7th	Housebound & Lonely	11th	All with mental health problems

## **BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES and CELEBRATIONS** let's celebrate together:

If you have a birthday over the next two weeks—have a happy day  
Mildred Wills has a birthday on 27th December, Pauline White has one on 28th December, Jan Cox on 29th December, Tamsyn Jenkins on 8th January and Carole Pennington on the 9th January. Happy Birthday to you all.  
Please let me know of any future birthdays that we can celebrate together.

**Brian Miles.**

**DOREEN JEWELL** would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards following her fall and illness. She wishes everyone a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.