



**Parish of Wiverton in the Vale:**  
**One flock, One Shepherd, Six Pastures**  
**Notices 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Advent 4, Christmas and Christmas 1/ Epiphany**

**DIARY FOR THE FORTNIGHT (correct at time of going to press)**

**SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> December CHRISTMAS EVE**

- 3.00pm - Crib Service** (St Giles, Cropwell Bishop)
- 4.00pm - Carol Service** (St Andrew's, Langar)
- 6.00pm - Carol service with choir** (St Giles, Cropwell Bishop)
- 8.00pm - Holy Communion** (St John's, Colston Bassett)
- 11.30pm - Holy Communion** (St Andrew's, Langar)



**MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> December CHRISTMAS DAY**

- 8.30am - Holy Communion** (St Michael and All Angels, Elton)
- 10.00am - Family Communion** (St Giles, Cropwell Bishop)

**WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> December**

- 9.00am - 11.30am – Coffee, Cake and Chat, with bellringers** St Giles, Cropwell Bishop

**FRIDAY 29<sup>th</sup> December**

- 9.00am - 11.30am – Baby Club**, St Giles, Cropwell Bishop

**SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> December**

- 10.30am - All Parish Holy Communion** (Colston Bassett Village Hall)

**WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

- 9.00am - 11.30am – Coffee, Cake and Chat, with bellringers** St Giles, Cropwell Bishop

**FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> January**

- 9.00am - All Parish Morning Prayer** (via Zoom)
- 9.00am - 11.30am – Baby Club** St Giles, Cropwell Bishop

**SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> January**

- 10.00am – 12noon Pop Up Cafe** St Andrew's, Langar

**SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> January**

- 10.30am - All Age All Parish Holy Communion** (St Andrew's, Langar)

## READINGS

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December** Hebrews 1.1-4, John 1.1-14

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December** Isaiah 61.10-62.3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4.4-7, Luke 2.15-21

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> January and 7<sup>th</sup> February – 7.30pm Open to Question.** In the new year Revd David is inviting people to join him for an hour in the Rectory over three evenings. Come with your questions, talk and listen together, get to know one another, and hopefully learn something in the process. Why not bring a friend?



**15<sup>th</sup> January – PCC meeting** 7.00pm at the Rectory. If you have anything you would like raising please let your warden / church representative know.

## CURRENT APPEAL – PLEASE HELP!

**Current Appeal – The Children's Society** – check the website, [www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/appeal](http://www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/appeal) for how to donate.



**The  
Children's  
Society**

## COFFEE, CAKE AND CHAT and BABY CLUB OVER CHRISTMAS

We'll be brewing up as usual in St Giles on 27<sup>th</sup> December, the day after Boxing Day. Most of the "regulars" will be busy elsewhere so if you fancy some Coffee (or tea), Cake and Chat and can come along and keep Angie and I company, then that would be great! Baby Club will also continue to meet 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> December and 5<sup>th</sup> January for anyone to come along. Looking forward to hearing all your Christmas stories.

*Vivien*

## FESTIVE MESSAGE FROM BISHOP PAUL

*'A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices. For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.'*

In his Christmas message, Bishop Paul reminds us that Jesus' birth restores hope to a weary world. You are warmly invited to watch Bishop Paul's Advent and Christmas message. ***O Holy Night***– watch now [southwell.anglican.org/bishop-pauls-christmas-message-2023/](http://southwell.anglican.org/bishop-pauls-christmas-message-2023/)



## **LETTERS From the Rectory and Beyond**

### **REFLECTIONS by Katharine Bacon**

In the passage from Matthew, we see Peter having a horrible time. He plummets from such a high point of having called Jesus “the Christ, Son of the living God” (16:16) and being praised by Jesus and told he will be the rock on which Jesus will build the church and he’ll have the keys to heaven.

All that rushes straight to his head – as it might any of us – and he feels he has a right to rebuke Jesus when he tells the disciples that he must suffer and die at Jerusalem to rise again. “God forbid, Lord!” (16:22). And then Jesus’ words, “Get behind me, Satan!” Devastating! But look at Jesus, fully human, fully divine. The temptation to step aside from God’s path, so attractive, so alluring, laid before him by the disciple he has called the rock, one of his closest disciples.

And it would be so easy. Forget the rejection, the dishonour, the excruciating pain, the separation from God, the death. Accept the human way that would simply lead to more violence and death.

But no, God’s upside down way leads to life, is the only route to life. To quote Jane Williams, “Really, we do know this. We have only to look around at the history of a world governed by a different definition of power, and we see that rulers are replaced by other rulers, that the governors die, just like the governed. No one can get their own way by force all the time. God’s life is the only real and lasting life that there is and he wishes to share it with us.”

We know that Peter did come to understand this and it is thanks to him and so many other Christians that we have a church family that helps us, step by step, to move closer to God as we follow Jesus.

## **PRAYERS**

Dear Lord

As we celebrate Jesus’ coming into the world as a tiny, helpless baby, taking on our humanity and stripping himself of his power, so that he could rescue us from ourselves, help us to follow in his footsteps and look forward to that glorious time when he comes again in power and might. Amen.

## PRAYER DURING THE DAY FOR ADVENT SEASON



*I invite you to join me in setting aside a short time for prayer each day during this season of Advent. Please feel free to use the simple structure on this sheet. Let us be praying together as a church as we await God's coming.*

*As you begin - pause to reflect on people or things for which you are deeply thankful. Then speak out the words below.*

My spirit rejoices in you, O God,  
My soul proclaims your greatness.

*Read this prayer with a moments silence in the middle.*

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Keep a minute's silence and focus on God being present to you*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever. Amen

*Read and reflect*

*2 Samuel 7.1-11,16, Magnificat, Psalm 89.1-4, 19-26, Romans 16.25-end, Luke 1.26-38*

*It is time to pray, in silence or speak your prayer out loud:*

*Prayers may include the concerns expressed below. Feel free to include any prayers for those you are particularly concerned about.:*

¶ *The Church, that she may be ready for the coming of Christ*

¶ *The leaders of the Church*

¶ *The nations, that they may be subject to the rule of God*

¶ *Those who are working for justice in the world*

¶ *The broken, that they may find God's healing*

*Think about what you are due to face this day [or the next].*

*Offer that up to God. Now, feel free to speak out the Lord's Prayer*

*The following prayers can be said to finish your time.*

God our redeemer,

Who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary

To be the mother of your Son:

Grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,

So we may be ready to greet him

When he comes again as our judge;

Who is alive and reigns with you,

In the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

Christ be with me, Christ within me,

Christ behind me, Christ before me,

Christ beside me, Christ to win me,

Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,

Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,

Christ in hearts of all that love me,

Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. Amen

*This prayer may be used on any day in Advent*

Eternal God,

as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,

so we wait for his coming in glory;

bring us through the birth pangs of this present age

to see, with her, our great salvation

in Jesus Christ our Lord.



# Open to Question



at the Rectory, 2 Dobbin Close,  
Cropwell Bishop. NG12 3GR

7.30pm - Wednesdays  
17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> January and 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024

*Join us!*

Christmas is about hope. There was an old prophecy that spoke of the coming of God into the world at Christmas.

*"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Luke 1:78-79*

I still believe that hope and it sustains me through the bleak news that we often see on our screens and read in the papers. This hope is not just wishful thinking – there is much substance to it, and many have found it leads to that peace that the prophecy speaks of.

After Christmas, as one of the ways of meeting people in the villages that the Wiverton in the Vale Parish represents, I am extending an invitation to our home for three evenings in January [one a week – for an hour] to join me for an opportunity to explore that hope in what I am calling "Open to Question". Please do feel free to come with your questions and we can talk and listen together, get to know one another, and hopefully learn something in the process. Why not bring a friend with you. We need, even more at this present time, to build and strengthen our community and renew faith in the things that really matter and will endure through the storms of this time. Do come and join me.

*Rev'd David Rowe*

## SAD NEWS

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Edna Marian Garner, aged 88. Marian was the wife of our reader Barry Garner. She died peacefully on 13<sup>th</sup> December. Her funeral will take place in Colston Bassett in January. Details to follow.

We are also sad to let you know that Bill Hanbury died peacefully on 13<sup>th</sup> December after a short illness. Please keep Liz and all the family in your prayers as they plan the funeral.

### KEY CONTACTS

**Rector:** Revd David Rowe

phone: 07935 257 763 email: [rector@wivertoninthevale.co.uk](mailto:rector@wivertoninthevale.co.uk)

address: 2 Dobbin Close, Cropwell Bishop, NG12 3GR

**Parish Administrator:** Jane Travis

phone: 07708 631 623 email: [admin@wivertoninthevale.co.uk](mailto:admin@wivertoninthevale.co.uk)

Working hours: 10am-2pm Tuesday & Thursday

**Pastoral Care Coordinator:** Hilary Tabron RLM

phone: 0115 9894836 email: [hilary.tabron@wivertoninthevale.co.uk](mailto:hilary.tabron@wivertoninthevale.co.uk)

**Parish Treasurer:** Phil Stephenson:

phone: 07790 036573 email: [treasurer@wivertoninthevale.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@wivertoninthevale.co.uk)

address: 10 Kinoulton Road, Cropwell Bishop, NG12 3BD

Any concerns regarding a safeguarding issue should be directed to:

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Rosie Dulwich

phone: 07786 961399 email: [rosie.dulwich@wivertoninthevale.co.uk](mailto:rosie.dulwich@wivertoninthevale.co.uk)

**Further information and contact details can be found on the parish**

**Copy deadline for items to be included in the next two weeks' Notice Sheet:  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024, to the Parish Administrator.**



## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**



### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

- 3.00pm Crib Service, St Giles', Cropwell Bishop
- 4.00pm Carol Service, St Andrew's, Langar
- 6.00pm Carol Service, St Giles', Cropwell Bishop
- 8.00pm Holy Communion, St John's, Colston Bassett
- 11.30pm Holy Communion, St Andrew's, Langar

### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

- 8.30am Holy Communion, St Michael and All Angels, Elton
- 10.00am Family Communion, St Giles', Cropwell Bishop

*On behalf of Revds David and Pixie Rowe, all our service leaders and those on the Wiverton in the Vale PCC we would be delighted to see you at some of the services over the Christmas period. We wish you and those for whom you pray a peaceful, joyful and safe Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

