## OUR CHURCHES' DIARY

**TODAY 28th November**
**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Great Chesterford & Little Chesterford** | 11.00 am | **HOLY COMMUNION** Alex Jeewan |
| **Wendens Ambo** | 9.30 am | **HOLY COMMUNION** Alex Jeewan |
| **Littlebury** | 11.00 am | **HOLY COMMUNION** Angela Want |
| **Littlebury Green** | 9.30 pm | **HOLY COMMUNION** Angela Want |

**THIS WEEK**

Monday 29th November
10.30 am Meeting Point Coffee Morning
3 Haggers Close, Gt Chesterford

Tuesday 30th November
5.00 pm Evening Prayer Zoom

Wednesday 1st December
9.30 am Holy Communion Saffron Walden
9.30 am Building Blocks Great Chesterford
5.00 pm Evening Prayer Zoom

Thursday 2nd December
5.00 pm Evening Prayer Zoom

Saturday 4th December
7.00 pm Youth Alpha All Saints, Great Chesterford

**NEXT SUNDAY SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Great Chesterford** | 11.00 am | **MORNING PRAYER** |
| **Wendens Ambo** | 9.30 am | **HOLY COMMUNION** |
| **Littlebury** | 4.00 pm | **CAFÉ CHRISTINGLE** |
| **Little Chesterford** | 9.30 am | **MORNING PRAYER** |

*Holy Communion readings:*
Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

## ACCESS

**Live streamed services from Great Chesterford**
Go to
https://www.facebook.com/camvillages churches
Just before the service time and look out for the post which will say "CamVillages Churches is live". Click on the video in the post to watch the live stream.
**Services on Zoom**
Email Alex at vicar.camvillages@gmail.com or Gillian Hopton at website.camvillages@gmail.com for an invitation with the access codes.

## MINISTRY TEAM

Team Vicar:
Revd Alex Jeewan 01799 531153
email: vicar.camvillages@gmail.com
Revd John Risby
Revd Angela Want
Elizabeth Marshall 01799 530265

Team Rector: Revd Jeremy Trew 01799 500947
Rector's Secretary:
Email: secretary@stmaryssaffronwalden.org
Parish Office 01799 506024
Email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

**SAFFRON WALDEN & VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY**

# The Grapevine

***COVERING THE CHURCHES OF***
***GREAT & LITTLE CHESTERFORD, LITTLEBURY WITH LITTLEBURY GREEN, & WENDENS AMBO***

## Welcome to our services today
## *The First Sunday of Advent*

### Collect
Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### First Reading *1 Thessalonians 3.9-13*
How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

### Gospel *Luke 21.25-36*
Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

### Post Communion
O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## *PLEASE PRAY FOR:*

**Those who are unwell:**
Jenny Sweet and Michelle Thomson (Littlebury Green)
Christine King, Margaret Reed, Valerie Clift and David Lilley (Great Chesterford)

**Those who need our support:**
Betty Dowsett (Littlebury Green)
Lucy Maskell (Great Chesterford)
Jan Godfrey (Little Chesterford)

**Friends and families of those who have died:**
Sylvia Lowe (Great Chesterford)
Those whose anniversaries are this week

**Other topics for your prayers**

- Those leading courses this Advent
- Our care of the world and stewardship of its resources
- The people of Afghanistan living under the Taliban
- Lives and livelihoods affected and destroyed by conflict, natural disaster and oppressive regimes
- Those risking their lives to escape from the latter
- The threat of famine in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Yemen and Madagascar
- The continuing rollout of vaccines so that the worst outcomes of Covid-19 may be contained
- Those missing loved ones who have died

## OUR CHURCHES

**Giving to our churches**
If you wish to make a donation to our churches we are now able to do offer online giving. Just visit the **'Giving'** section of our website (www.camvillages.org.uk) and follow the instructions. Thanks, too, to those who have chosen to commit to regular planned giving.

**Website**
Keep up to date with all that's going on by visiting our website https://camvillages.org.uk

**Children's Work**
There are activities for young people of all ages on the website prepared by our children's ministry team.

**Access**
On page 4 you will find details of how to access the services that are going to be live streamed together with Zoom services.

**Following the lifting of government restrictions**
the team is suggesting the following - but each church may like to have its own variation. Bearing in mind that we still want everyone to feel safe:

1. It will be up to individuals to decide whether or not to wear masks.
2. If singing is allowed for the congregation, we will wear masks to sing.
3. Choirs won't have to mask if they social distance and/or are 6 or less.
4. We will create a separate space in our churches for those who want to social distance.
5. Test and trace will continue.
6. We will no longer use one-way systems.

We won't share the common cup until, at least, spring. This is to see how winter affects the virus.

## NEWS

**ADVENT COIURSE**
The Revds Andy Colebrooke and Caroline Currer are planning to lead an Advent Course exploring the four songs in the Christmas story. These are the songs of Zechariah (the Benedictus); of Mary (the Magnificat); of the angels (the Gloria) and of Simeon (the Nunc Dimittis). There will be four sessions via zoom, on **Thursday 2nd, 9th, 16th** and **23rd December**. It is hoped to run one group in the afternoon 4 - 5 pm, led by Caroline, and one in the evening 7.30 - 8.30 pm, led by Andy. If you are interested in either the afternoon or the evening group, please contact Caroline (c.currer@btinternet.com) stating which time you would prefer.

Carol Services and Christingles
in the 5 Churches
*Sunday 5th December*
Littlebury Café Christingle at 4 pm
*Sunday 12th December*
Wendens Ambo Christingle at 9.30 am
Littlebury Green Carols/Christingle at 4 pm
Great Chesterford Carol Service at 6 pm
*Sunday 19th December*
Little Chesterford Carol Service at 3.30 pm
Great Chesterford Christingle at 4 pm
Littlebury Carol Service at 4 pm
Wendens Ambo Carol Service at 6.30 pm

**FAMILY WORSHIP**
From September the **Cam Villages Churches** will offer families a greater choice of services in the course of each month:
1st Sunday **Café Church** 10.00 am at Littlebury
2nd Sunday **Family Service** 9.30 am at Wenden
3rd Sunday **iChurch** 9.30 am at Great Chesterford
3rd Sunday **Family Service** 9.30 am at Littlebury Green

'**Building Blocks**'
Building blocks is a toddler church with a difference. Please join us for fun, stories and music every Wednesday during term time.
Each session begins at 9.30 am for tea, coffee, squash and biscuits and playtime, and then the activities begin at 10 am.
Just come along and join in the fun!

**NOEL**
Granta Chorale, our local a cappella choir is giving a concert in All Saints Church, Great Chesterford, on **Wednesday 15th December** at 8 pm.
Tickets £12 (concessions £5) from their website https://www.grantachorale.org.uk/ or at the door
Refreshments will be served