



St Lawrence Church
LECHLADE-ON-THAMES

Vicar's Letter – Monday 21st November 2022

Advent Resources

It is hard to believe that the year has rolled round again, so that we are soon to enter the seasons of Advent and Christmas. It is easy to let this time of expectation and joy just wash over us, without really thinking what it is all about. Here are some resources to help us all this year.

PARISH ADVENT BOOK – *'The Radiant Dawn'* by Tom Parsons

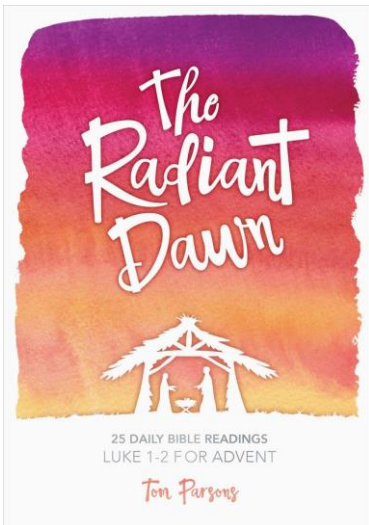
25 readings from Chapters 1 & 2 of Luke's Gospel. A great little book to fire our imagination and encourage us to discover who Jesus really is and why he matters.



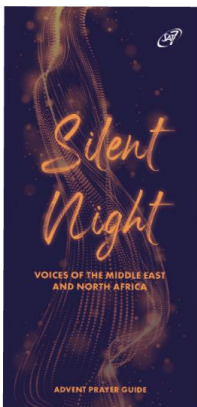
Look out for daily videos that Gareth Griffith, our talented curate, will produce over Advent. They will appear on our parish Facebook page (you do not need an account to watch them!) Watch them and share around.

SPECIAL DEAL

£2 for 2 books – buy one for yourself and give one away to a friend!



ADVENT PRAYER GUIDE



On Sun 20 November we welcomed Martin Thomas as our speaker. Martin works for SAT-7, a Christian broadcaster to the Middle East and North Africa.

For several years we have been blessed with their excellent prayer resources and this year's Advent Prayer Guide is called 'Silent Night'. Many Christians cannot share their faith openly and have to remain silent. As Christians in the UK we should always give thanks to God for our freedom and commit ourselves to prayer and practical help for persecuted Christians around the world.

PICK UP YOUR FREE PRAYER GUIDE AT THE BACK OF CHURCH

Christmas concert- mince pies

Sat 10th Dec – 7.30pm in church
Christmas concert for the whole church family.

Come and join us for a wonderful evening of Christmas music with plenty of opportunities to join in!

Tickets £10 on the door include mince pies & mulled wine.

To join the singers please contact Colin Dowdeswell tel. 01367 615304, or email c.dowdeswell @ hotmail.co.uk (Rehearsals on 20th & 27th Nov, 4th & 10th Dec).

CAN YOU MAKE SOME MINCE PIES FOR THE CONCERT?

We would love to hear from you- please contact the Parish Office or vicar 😊



'Discipleship Explored' – new small group

Wednesdays 7:30- 9pm, Church Cottage

Contact Gareth Griffith for further details



Discipleship Explored helps followers of Jesus turn up the gospel soundtrack to their lives.

It goes beyond simply teaching the right moves - go to church, pray, read the Bible, share the gospel - and focuses on the music which drives discipleship: the love of Christ. The greatest love anyone can ever know.

This eight-session journey through Paul's letter to the Philippians is ideal for believers at any stage of the Christian life. It features brand-new documentary-style films and inspiring real-life stories from around the world, Bible studies and weekly reading plans, and a beautifully redesigned Handbook.

Sermon series- New Year 2023

-Pssst!... Want to get ahead of the game and stretch yourself spiritually?



-Want to discover how the New Testament builds on the foundations of the Old?

-Fancy uncovering the pattern of promise and fulfilment in the whole Bible?

In the New Year we will start a new sermon series looking at the tabernacle in the book of Exodus and how it leads us to Jesus Christ.

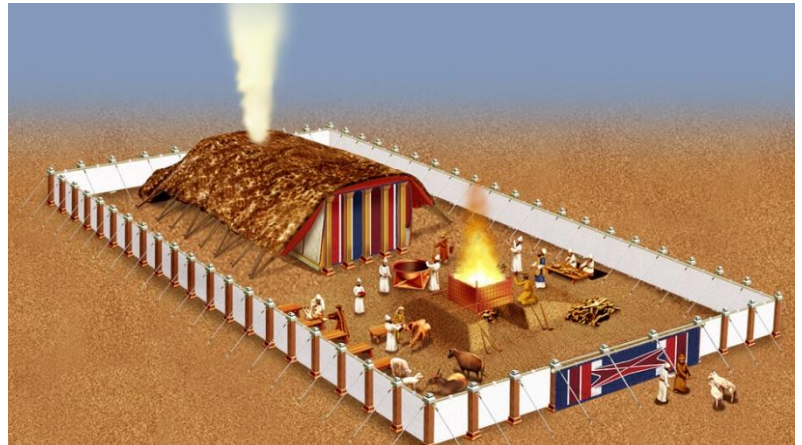
Why not read ahead and pray that God would help you love his Word given to us?

>> Here's a helpful online article:

[6 Reasons Christians Should Study the Tabernacle \(ligonier.org\)](https://ligonier.org/6-reasons-christians-should-study-the-tabernacle/)

OR, try out this series:

[Exodus Scroll Podcast Series | BibleProject™](#)



Book on her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

'A Life of Grace' – a book on the late Queen Elizabeth II, published by LICC.

If you would like to buy a copy, please sign the sheet at the back of church. The cost depends on the numbers ordered but it likely to be around £2.00.



FROM THE PUBLISHERS:

What made Queen Elizabeth II so loved and admired around the world? Her character – marked by a profound sense of duty, but also by kindness and warmth – was rooted in her deep Christian faith.

A Life of Grace, written by Mark Greene, highlights how that faith shaped her vision for her role, and empowered her to be the inspiring servant and example she was, and remains.

A Life of Grace explores the Queen's faith and how she lived it out in every sphere of her life. Its ten chapters unpack how her faith showed itself in her home life and in her public role as a monarch, and shaped her into the person who became an inspiration to millions. The book is perfect to share with friends, family, and colleagues who are curious about the Queen's faith, and to point them to the King this servant queen followed.

And finally...

Please do pray for all our services and events during Advent and Christmas 2022 and for the distribution of our parish card.

This year the Church of England has produced lovely invitations with reflections for the Christmas season. Why not use them to invite others to a service?

It will be a tough and anxious winter for many. Economic hardship and falling standards of living will be a recurring theme, but let's pray that the message of hope in Jesus, God with us, will also be proclaimed and heard in our community and across our nation.



Andrew Cinnamond

Vicar

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| 27th November | Advent Carols | 5.00pm |
| 4th December | Family Christingle Service# | *4.00pm |
| 8th December | Carols at The Trout Inn | 7.30pm |
| 11th December | Town Carols, Memorial Hall# | 4.00pm |
| 18th December | Nine Lessons & Carols | 7.00pm |
| Christmas Eve | Crib Service# | 4.00pm |
| 24th December | First Communion of Christmas | 11.15pm |
| Christmas Day | Holy Communion (BCP) | 8.00am |
| 25th December | Family Communion# | 10.00am |

#Services especially suited to families *Come from 3pm to make your Christingle