

THE WROXHAM BENEFICE

17th December 2023 Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday Services

Christmas Services listed inside

Dec 17 th	8.30am	Hoveton St John	Said Communion
	10am	Hoveton St John	Carol Service
	10am	Hoveton St Peter	Morning Worship
Dec 24 th	10am	Hoveton St John	Holy Communion
Dec 31 st	10am	Hoveton St Peter	Benefice Communion for New Year's Eve

Hymns – St Peter

- 66 Be thou my vision
- 140 Come thou long expected Jesus
- 700 The angel Gabriel
- 692 Tell out my soul

At the lighting of the Advent Candle

God our Father,
you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age
a son called John. He grew up strong in spirit,
prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,
and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.
Help us, who have been baptized into Christ,
to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,
and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

Christingle Making

Liz will be in Wroxham Church on Saturday 23rd from 10am for an hour or so making Christingles for the Christmas Eve service. If anyone would like to help, please let her know.

For Home Communions, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please contact the Rector, Revd Elizabeth Jump 01603 784150 rector@wroxhambenefice.org
Liz's rest day is usually Monday, ***but this week will be Wednesday!***

For our Prayers

All those who ask for our prayers

Archdeacon Steven Betts, Ros Durrant, Alyssa, Simon, Bonnie Davies, Helen Dellar, Bob Shaw, Christine Goodhew, Pauline Willis, Joan Willis, Lilian Pointer, Richard Wilson, Edward Minster, Mark, Carole, Janet Faircloth, Guy

All who have died recently

Owen Shorten, Malcolm Bourn

All whose anniversaries occur at this time

Edward Shadbolt, Laura Sharman, Joy Fenton, Joan Hidgkiss, Margaret Wheeler, Eleanor Moore, Doris Barrall

Prayer for the parishes

Will take place at 6pm at the Vicarage this Tuesday evening. This is a time of music and silence, held within the framework of Celtic Evening Prayer from the Northumbria Community. All are welcome.

Please note that this will NOT take place on either Dec 26th or Jan 2nd

Christmas Events and Services

17 th	10am	Carol Service at Hoveton St John
17 th	3pm	Carols and Christingle at St Peter, Belaugh
18 th	5pm	Uniformed Organisations Christingle, Wroxham
22 nd	7.30pm	Carols by Candlelight at St Mary, Wroxham
24 th	10am	Christmas Eve Communion Hoveton St John
24 th	4pm	Crib and Christingle at Wroxham
24 th	11.30pm	Midnight Mass at Wroxham
25 th	10am	Christmas Communion at Hoveton St John

COLLECT

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Old Testament Isaiah 61.1–4, 8–11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
I 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.
For 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.

New Testament 1 Thessalonians 5.16–24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Gospel John 1.6–8, 19–28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ He said,

‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
“Make straight the way of the Lord” ’

as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, ‘Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’ John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.