

Together

in the churches of
St Mary the Virgin Dodford,
St Mary Everdon,
St Peter & St Paul Weedon Bec



December 2023

Benefice website can be found at

www.wedchurches.com

Priest-in-Charge: Revd Barbara Gallagher 01327 340585

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If you would like to be included in the e-mail distribution of this newsletter, please email Revd Barbara.

Worship:

Sunday Dec 3 rd <i>Advent Sunday</i>	9.30am Weedon 11.00am Dodford 4.00pm Weedon	Holy Communion Holy Communion Christingle
Wednesday Dec 6 th	10.30am Weedon	Holy Communion and Bible Time
Sunday Dec 10 th Advent 2	9.30am Weedon 11.00am Everdon 6.00pm Dodford	Holy Communion Holy Communion Daventry Brass Carols
Sunday Dec 17 th <i>Advent 3</i>	9.30am Weedon 11.00am Dodford 4.00pm Weedon	Holy Communion Holy Communion Carol Service
Wednesday Dec 20 th	10.30am Riverside Court	Prayer and Praise
Sunday Dec 24 th <i>Advent 4 & Christmas Eve</i>	9.30am Weedon 11.00am Everdon 4.00pm Weedon 6.30pm Everdon 11.45pm Dodford	Holy Communion Holy Communion Crib Service Carols by Candlelight Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	9.30am Weedon 11.00am Everdon	Holy Communion Holy Communion
Sunday Dec 31 st	11.00am Weedon	3 Parishes Holy Communion

Morning Prayer is said in Weedon church Mon-Sat at 9am.

Readings:

Dec 3 rd	Isaiah 64.1-9	Mark 13. 24-end
Dec 10 th	Isaiah 40. 1-11	Mark 1.1-8
Dec 17 th	Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-end	John 1. 6-8, 19-28
Dec 24 th	Luke 1. 46-55	Luke 1. 26-38
	Midnight Isaiah 52. 7-10	John 1.1-14
Christmas Day	Titus 2. 11-14	Luke 2. 1-20
Dec 31 st	Galatians 4. 4-7	Luke 2. 15-21

It is not Christmas yet! This, I admit, is what I want to shout as I visit shops or see the adverts on the TV. December is not all Christmas. As the Carol tells us, Christmas is 'A great and mighty wonder, a glorious mystery: a virgin bears an infant who veils his deity.' Christmas is when we remember that God was ready to send his Son to live alongside us experiencing all that we experience. Before that we have our season of Advent when we prepare ourselves for Christ's coming into our lives, both remembering that first event and looking forward to the time when Christ will come again.

On the Sundays of Advent we will look at those who looked forward to that first coming. The patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, had the very real HOPE that God would guide them. The prophets of the Old Testament, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and many others promised us that a Saviour would come to bring PEACE. John the Baptist called people to the way of LOVE to prepare for the coming of Jesus. Then, God called Mary to be the mother of Jesus. He turned her fear of the angel into JOY at the coming of Jesus. May we take time this Advent to walk with the patriarchs, prophets, John the Baptist and Mary that we too may experience HOPE, PEACE, LOVE and JOY so that we may be filled with awe at the great mystery of God with us in the person of his Son on Christmas Day.

Prayers:

- For Rt Revd Debbie Sellin as she prepares to become bishop for this diocese. For all who lead Christ's Church both overseas and in this country.
- For Peace throughout the world, especially in Israel-Palestine and in Ukraine. For all who lack food and shelter throughout the world.
- For those who will remember loved ones who will be absent at the Christmas festivities.
- For all who are struggling with the rising cost of living. May we be ready to support them through the Food Bank or in other ways so that none may be hungry or cold.
- For all who are suffering through illness or disability.

PCC meetings:

There are no PCC meetings in December

Please pray for all those who have volunteered their time and expertise to administer your Church.

Social events and groups around the benefice:

Tues Dec 5 th 2-4pm	Craft 'n Chat	Weedon Chapter House
Sat Dec 9 th	Weedon Christmas Fayre	Church & Chapter House
Tues Dec 12 th 2pm	Mothers' Union	Weedon Chapter House
Mon-Fri 18 th -22 nd	Nativity Trail	Weedon Churchyard
Weds Dec 20 th 9.30	Church cleaning	Weedon Church
Sat Dec 30 th 8.30am	Men's breakfast	Weedon Chapter House

Regular Events

Bellringing practice is on Wednesday evenings at 7.45pm – newcomers welcome.

The monthly clean of Weedon Church happens on the last Wednesday of the month — at 9.30am. All help is gratefully accepted.

Please check dates and times before attending – sometimes they are changed.

Something to think about –

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and all science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead: his eyes are closed.

Albert Einstein