



The Meon Bridge Benefice  
Corhampton & Meonstoke, Droxford  
and Exton with Preshaw

<http://www.bridgechurches.org.uk/>

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Four Beautiful Churches - Three Parishes – One in Christ

## Meon Bridge Benefice Pew Sheet

### 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018 – Advent Sunday – Year C

### ALL WELCOME

**Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019**

#### **BENEFICE TOY SERVICE & ST ANDREW'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL**

With bagpipers – back by popular request!

10.30 am, St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke

*Please bring wrapped presents for homeless Children in Portsmouth.*



#### **BENEFICE ADVENT SERVICE OF CAROLS AND LESSONS**

Followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies  
with grateful thanks to the Stewarts

6.30 pm, St Mary and All Saints' Church,  
Droxford

**Many thanks** to all those who organised, ran or supported the Pre-Christmas Sale at Exton Church last Saturday It was a great success. **THANK YOU**

**NOTICE of Combined PCCs** to meet on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 in Droxford at 7.30 pm.

Agenda: Christmas Giving; Future Benefice Events; Financial Procedures; Common Policies for review; Brief review of likely Year End Finances and budget priorities, followed by individual PCC meetings if required.

#### **An Advent and Post-Christmas Course - Talking about Jesus**

Six Practical Sessions – 7.30 pm on Wednesdays – Meonstoke Church

**Session 1** – *Everyone talking Jesus* 5<sup>th</sup> December

**Session 2** – *What motivates us?* 12<sup>th</sup> December

**Session 3** – *Living Distinctly* 19<sup>th</sup> December

**Session 4** – *Our Story* 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019

**Session 5** – *God's Story* 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**Session 6** – *Go on talking Jesus* 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019

RSVP to the Rector please





## Advent

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement.

The Four Last Things – Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell – have been traditional themes for Advent meditation, additionally the Patriarchs, the Prophets, John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary may each be remembered in turn during the four weeks of Advent. The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Cor 16:22). Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour.

The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour amid the restrained atmosphere of Advent (*Gaudete* or 'Rose Sunday'), which sometimes leads to confusion surrounding Mary, but it is John the Baptist who is remembered on that Sunday. The last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations.



### Meon Valley Food Bank - PLEASE HELP

Thank You so much for all your kind donations, but stock always needs to be replenished so all donations are very gratefully received.

The ongoing benefit changes mean the number of people turning to the MVFB for help continues to rise. *Please donate!* The items needed for the coming week are tinned cold meats (spam and corned beef), tinned spaghetti, long-life UHT Milk and cake bars, and Christmas goodies. Follow MVFB on twitter [@MeonValleyFB](https://twitter.com/MeonValleyFB) or at [www.meonvalleyfoodbank.co.uk](http://www.meonvalleyfoodbank.co.uk).

## CONTACT DETAILS

RECTOR: Fr Tony Forrest (01489) 877422 [rector.meonbridge@btinternet.com](mailto:rector.meonbridge@btinternet.com)

usual rest day is Monday.

CURATE: The Revd Samantha Martell, 232041 [RevSamantha@alpha-omega.me](mailto:RevSamantha@alpha-omega.me).

Usual rest day is Friday.

Assistant Priest: The Rev'd Canon Anthony Hulbert 878289

### LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

Reader: Cathy Mathews 877804

Reader emerita: Pauline Quarendon 877392

### CHURCH WARDENS

DROXFORD: Sheila Matthissen 877867

EXTON: Hugh Parry 878860 & Richard Pepys 878035

MEONSTOKE WITH CORHAMPTON: Angela Peagram 878725

WEDDINGS: Mrs Sue Wells 01329 834130 - [sjwells@meonwood.co.uk](mailto:sjwells@meonwood.co.uk)

SAFEGUARDING: Dr Jane Beardmore - [jane.l.beardmore@gmail.com](mailto:jane.l.beardmore@gmail.com)

**Droxford Community Hub and Heritage Centre**  
*Community and Church working together*  
**Exhibition and Gift Day**  
**Droxford Church**  
**TODAY~ Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - 2pm – 6pm ~ TODAY**  
**Tea and Cakes**

Drop in and see how you can be part of an exciting project which will help to shape our community and church for the next generation.

The Rector and the Project team will be on hand to answer any of your questions and to receive pledges towards our £75,000 Appeal target.

- The Project
- The Appeal – Progress and pledges
- The Future of the Church in Droxford
- Heritage Centre
- Volunteering – Wilfrid's Café

**CHRISTMAS TREES mark the 2018 Big Christmas Thank You to everyone who helps to support our Communities and Churches!**

Becky Evans is organising the Christmas Tree Festival at St Andrew's Church, Meonstoke. This event is held every 2 years and is an opportunity for local groups and organisations to sponsor a tree in the church.

The trees are supplied through Meonstoke Post Office and Village Stores - who will also be decorating a tree!

All the trees will need to be decorated in the week 3-7 December in preparation for a 'Christmas Thank You' event that will be held at 4pm on Saturday 8 December to which you and your families are all invited. The trees remain in the Church until early January.

You will need to supply your own base for the tree and lights, also decorations, where you can be as creative as you like. Most people decorate their tree along a theme associated with their group.

Please can you let Becky know if this is something that you could support. It's definitely a case of the more the merrier! The aim is to fill the Church with decorated trees through the festive season so that everyone can come and enjoy them, to say thank you to all the wonderful people across the Benefice and to having fun informally singing carols and enjoying some refreshments.

Becky needs to know numbers for the trees so please can you let her know if you would like to take part.

Thank you for your support and please feel free to contact her with any questions you may have ([rebeccaevans730@btinternet.com](mailto:rebeccaevans730@btinternet.com); 07867 511936; 01489 877608).



**First Sunday – 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Advent Sunday & Meonstoke Patronal** The Season of Advent and Liturgical Year C begin on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December

<b>First Sunday</b>	8.00 am	Droxford	Holy Communion (BCP) Black Book p.229
Advent		Readings:	I Thess 3.9-13; Luke 21.25-36
2Dec18 St Andrew, Toy Service Advent Sunday	10.30 am	Meonstoke Hymns HONS	Family Communion (In Booklet) 178 For all the saints 347 Jesus calls us 480 O Come, O come Emmanuel 633 The advent of our King 405 Lo he comes with clouds descending
Advent Sunday	6.30 pm	<b>Droxford</b> Hymns AMNS	Advent Carols & Lessons 26 O come O come Emmanuel. 25 The Advent of our King. 484 Long ago prophets knew 483 Lift up your heads. 178 Thy Kingdom come 27 On Jordan's Bank 422 Tell out my soul 28 Lo he comes

Tues 4Dec18	8.30 am	Exton	Morning Prayer - Red Book p. <b>198</b> Ps 80, 82; Is 43.1-13; Rev 20
Wed 5Dec18	8.30 am	Meonstoke	Morning Prayer - Red Book p. <b>198</b> Ps 5, 7; Is 43.14-end; Rev 21.1-8
	5.00 pm	Droxford	Evening Prayer - Red Book p. <b>205</b> Ps 76, 77; Is 28.1-13; Mat 12.38-end
Thurs 6Dec16	10 am	Droxford Nicholas	Holy Communion p.1/ 166; Euch Prayer: E p.30/ 196 Is 61.1-3; I Tim 6.6-11; Mk 10.13-16

<b>3 December</b>	
<b>Francis Xavier</b> , Missionary, Apostle of the Indies, 1552	
<b>4 December</b>	
<b>John of Damascus</b> Monk, Teacher of the Faith, c.749	<b>Nicholas Ferrar</b> , Deacon, Founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637
<b>6 December</b>	<b>7 December</b>
<b>Nicholas</b> Bishop of Myra, c.326. (see below)	<b>Ambrose</b> Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith, 397. (see below)

## Second Sunday – 9<sup>th</sup> December – Second Sunday in Advent

<b>Second Sunday</b> Advent 9Dec18  Second Sunday in Advent	8.00 am	Meonstoke	Holy Communion (BCP) Black Book p.229 Readings: Philippians 1.3-11; Luke 3.1-6
	10.30 am	Droxford	Holy Communion (CW); Black Book p.166; EP: B p.188 27 On Jordan's bank 31 Come thou long-expected Jesus 470 Hills of the north rejoice 24 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding 28 Lo, he comes with clouds descending Readings: Mal 3.1-4; Phil 1.3-11; Luke 3.1-6
	3.30 pm	Corhampton	Evensong: Black Book p.72 Psalm 75; Isaiah 40.1-11; Luke 1.1-25

Tues 11Dec18	8.30 am	Exton	Morning Prayer - Red Book p. <b>198</b> Ps 56, 57; Isaiah 46; 1 Thess 2.1-12
Wed 12Dec18	8.30 am	Meonstoke	Morning Prayer - Red Book p. <b>198</b> Ps 62, 63; Isaiah 47; 1 Thess 2.13-end
	5.00 pm	Droxford	Evening Prayer - Red Book p. <b>205</b> Ps 10, 14; Isaiah 31; Matthew 15.1-20
Thurs 13Dec16 LUCY	10 am Ember Day	Droxford	Holy Communion p.1/ 166; Euch Prayer: E p.30/ 196 Wis 3.1-7; 2Cor 4.6-15; Mt 11.11-15

### 13 December

**Lucy** - Martyr at Syracuse, 304

**Samuel Johnson** - Moralists, 1784

### 14 December

**John of the Cross** - Poet, Teacher of the Faith, 1591

### Some dates for your diaries:

**FOMS Christmas Fair** - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 10.30- 12.00

**A Christmas Thank You** – Carols, Christmas Trees and A Christmas Thank You

St Andrew's, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 4.00 pm

**Soirée on the Bridge: Wednesday Sunday** 9<sup>th</sup> December

Make a **Christmas Wreath** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am – 1.30pm DVH

**Carols in the Barn** - Sun 16Dec18 at 5.15pm in the Barn at Hill House, Meonstoke.

Meonstoke & Corhampton and Exton **Church Fete** - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019

## **St Nicholas** Bishop of Myra, c.326 (Festival - 6 December)

Nicholas, one of the most popular saints in both Greek and Latin churches, is something of a mystery. All that can be said for certain is that he was Bishop of Myra, Lycia (in Modern Turkey) at the beginning of the fourth century. He was buried outside of his city, facing towards the sea. His legend says that he was imprisoned during the Diocletian persecution of 303/4, and was one of the signatories of the Council of Nicaea, although there is no record of his name on any of the lists of Bishops at the Council.

Nicholas is the patron saint of Sailors, and of children – hence our Toy Service. His legend speaks of him giving three girls a dowry to prevent them having to enter prostitution when their family fell on hard times. He delivered the gifts at night to avoid detection. He is also believed to have raised to life three drowned boys, and saved three unjustly convicted sailors from death.

Nicholas was honoured from early after his death, being buried in an artistic mausoleum, which became a place of pilgrimage. His legend can be traced back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century and was embellished in the mid-9<sup>th</sup> century. His remains were translated to Bari in 1087, and his cult became popular in the west from that time onwards. His relics are still held in Bari.

He is especially popular in Russia. In Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the Flemish speaking part of Belgium Nicholas is customarily known as the provider of gifts to children on the 6 December (his feast day). Dutch settlers in North America merged this legend to Nordic folklore that tells of a magician who punished naughty children and rewarded good ones, to create the modern figure of Santa Claus (Dutch for Saint Nicholas).

## **Ambrose** - Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith, 397 (7 December)

Born in Trier 337/9 and brought up in a Christian family, Ambrose was recommended as bishop in 374. Although he was a Christian he had not yet been baptized. After he accepted the position Ambrose received baptism, ordination and consecration as bishop within a single week. His election as bishop is a testimony to his ability in government and his personal integrity. The Church in Milan was torn between two opposing theologies concerning the nature of Christ. The Arian party denied the full divinity of Christ, whilst the anti-Arian (or orthodox) party affirmed it. The two parties could not agree on a candidate for bishop and the argument spilled over into civil unrest. Ambrose was the only candidate both parties could agree on.

A prolific hymn writer, Ambrose became known as the founder of liturgical hymnody in the Western Church.

Ambrose's 'Hymn for the time of Advent' shows how he could combine doctrine and song to produce images of theological beauty:

Redeemer of the nations come,  
That we may taste the virgin's fruit  
And every age in wonder gaze  
On such a birth, worthy of God!  
No earthly father's seed played here,  
But mystic Breath touched holy virgin womb:  
The Word of God took human form  
And human flesh blossomed divine.  
*Hymn for the Time of Advent*

Ambrose had many disagreements with the Emperor, Theodosius. Although a Christian, Theodosius had difficulty ruling his empire in a Christian manner, often blindly following the advice of his largely pagan court and occasionally over-reacting in a violent manner to quell public unrest.

Ambrose was a staunch defender of the Church in a time of theological unrest and debate. He was unwilling to compromise the Church's position in society. He was also willing to act for the State, making several peace missions, and intervening in civil unrest on more than one occasion. Ambrose demanded integrity in leadership from the governing class, and from the Emperor in particular. He stated quite plainly that *'the Emperor is in the Church, not over it'*.

## Buildings updates:



### Meonstoke Lychgate

The repair and restoration of the roof of Meonstoke war memorial lychgate, generously funded by the War Memorials Trust (WMT), has now been completed in readiness for Remembrance Sunday 2018. Our thanks go to the WMT and to Jerry Pett, Ian Ellis and Julian Livingstone for seeing this project through.

**Re-dedication by the Archdeacon – 1030 Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

### Droxford Church Buildings

The construction of the annexe to include toilets, a small meeting room, an office and a kitchen to support the setting up of the community room in the north chapel is underway. The piles and the raft (the concrete base of the building) have been completed and the new boiler installed. The target sum which will enable us to begin construction is in sight but needs your help to achieve it in a timely way. Please come to our information and gift afternoon on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December to learn more.

The work will begin on the North Chapel ceiling after interim roof repairs. The plans for the north aisle, the re-siting of the organ and choir, and a better arrangement around the font have been available for the last month and these follow the excellent feedback at our open meeting April 2016.

Thank you for all your help, support and encouragement to ensure our beautiful church remains a 'living hub' of activity for this generation and that we will pass it on as such for the generations which will follow.

### Prayers

In the morning, we pray for the day and its tasks; the world and its needs; and, in the evening for peace; individuals and their needs.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Bishop, Christopher Foster and our archdeacon, Gavin Collins. Please see (<https://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/news-and-events/prayer-diary>).

At this time of year, we also pray for the Church, that she may be ready for the coming of Christ; for 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; and, the broken, that they may find God's healing.

We pray for people affected by recent, violent crime at home and abroad, for the people of Indonesia, the Yemen, Syria and all other places of violence, disaster and destruction.

We pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in Ghana, especially in the Diocese of Wiaswo in western Ghana and linked to our deanery, and for our brothers and sisters in the Deanery of Hackney and our deanery link. We pray for our local Street Pastors on the streets of Portsmouth.

For those married in 2018 and those planning to be married 2019. For those recently baptised (Max Gray, Olive Cantan and James & Louise Fenner) and confirmed (Carlisle Martell), and for those preparing for baptism (Jasper Ellis; Jarrah Diment; and, their families).

For Ruth, Edward and Annabel as Ruth prepares for Ordination and the family prepares to move to their new benefice.

For those recovering from operations or undergoing treatment or who are unwell in mind, body or spirit, including Rosie Minors, Mthr Samantha, The Rev'd David Henley (back at home, but unable to receive visitors – messages by post only please: 2 Beauchamp Gardens, Hatch Beauchamp TA3 6SD), Jackie Woollard, Rosemary Denham, Tony Farnell and James Whitehead and all those with long-term or degenerative conditions. For all those who grieve; for the recently departed including Gervase Hulbert, Nigel Higgins, the Rev'd Valerie Howse, Penelope Maxse and Patricia Howe; and all in the year's mind, including Trevor Quarendon. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.