



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

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Four Beautiful Churches - Three Parishes – One in Christ

Meon Bridge Benefice Pew Sheet

ALL WELCOME

16th December 2018 – 3rd Sunday of Advent – Year C

Rest in Peace

It is great sadness that I have to report the death of one of our dear organists, **Dr Alan Hibbert**, on Friday, 14th December. Alan played the organ in many churches from his boyhood and so the worship of thousands of people over the years has been lifted heavenwards by his huge contribution to church music. Alan and Jackie came to Droxford with their children over 40 years ago and quickly became active members of the community. In his professional life, Alan was an academic and a world authority in his sphere. We shall miss Alan for his cheery smile, his wit, his modesty and for a life guided by firm principles. As we pray for the repose of his soul, we also pray that God will hold the whole of Alan's family and his many friends and former colleagues in his care.

Dear friend, rest in God's peace.

It is with equal sadness that I report that **the Rev'd Canon David Henley** died on Monday, December 10th at 1.20 pm at home with Liz his first wife after fighting against his cancer with such courage for so long. Anthony Hulbert arrived at David's home soon afterwards and was able to pray over him with Nicola and Liz.

David had seen all his family including the grand children over the weekend and was deeply thankful to be home and out of a very noisy hospital ward.

David was so grateful for all the cards and messages of goodwill that he received. The support and love of so many and his deep faith sustained him to the last.

The funeral arrangements are that his funeral service will take place in Broad Chalke parish church at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday December 20th, followed a few days later by a private cremation service.

There will a Service of Thanksgiving on February 16th at 2.30 pm in Droxford Church. Please pray for David's family, not least his grandchildren, and his many friends and former parishioners.

Dear friend, rest in God's peace.

Some dates for your diaries:

Carols in the Barn - Sunday 16Dec18 at 5.15pm in the Barn at Hill House, High Street, Meonstoke.

Carols in the Square – Tuesday 18Dec18 at 7.00 pm in The Square, Droxford

Soirée on the Bridge: Wednesday Sunday due on 9th December has been postponed until **20th January at 3.30 pm.**

Meonstoke & Corhampton and Exton **Church Fete** - Saturday 7th July 2019



Many Thanks to all those who arrange flowers, clean the churches, look after the buildings and churchyards, assist in services, sing or play music, visit the sick or isolated, and to all the other unsung heroes that make church and community what they are. **THANK YOU!**

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

Many thanks for all the toys brought to the **Benefice Toy Service** & St Andrew's patronal festival.

Many thanks to all those who supported **Benefice Advent Service** of Carols and Lessons and for the Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

Many thanks for the **CHRISTMAS TREES** and the **2018 Big Christmas Thank You** to everyone who helps to support our Communities and Churches! ...And not least, Nell in the Corhampton and Meonstoke Post Office and Village Stores for sourcing the trees and to Becky Evans for organising the event and to all those who have decorated trees. The trees remain in St Andrew's until early January.

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' with its rose coloured candle which sometimes leads to confusion around that Sunday and 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. You might like to include them in your prayers between now and Christmas.

O Sapientia (17 December)

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other mightily,
and sweetly ordering all things:

Come and teach us the way of prudence.

cf Ecclesiasticus 24.3; Wisdom 8.1

https://youtu.be/8ngcQDQfhIA?list=PLM_BPPe3btzjYhja2ufL8ffepQLsk3KQ8

O Adonai (18 December)

O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel,
who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush
and gave him the law on Sinai:

Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm. *cf Exodus 3.2, 24.12*

O Radix Jesse (19 December)

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;
before you kings will shut their mouths,
to you the nations will make their prayer:

Come and deliver us, and delay no longer. *cf Isaiah 11.10, 45.14, 52.15; Romans 15.12*

O Clavis Jesse (20 December)

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel;
you open and no one can shut;
you shut and no one can open:

Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house,
those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. *cf Isaiah 22.22, 42.7*

O Oriens (21 December)

O Morning Star,
splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness:
Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death. *cf Malachi 4.2*

O Rex Gentium (22 December)

O King of the nations, and their desire,
the cornerstone making both one:
Come and save the human race,
which you fashioned from clay.

cf Isaiah 28.16; Ephesians 2.14

O Emmanuel (23 December)

O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver,
the hope of the nations and their Saviour:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

cf Isaiah 7.14



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 6th January 2019

Droxford Church Buildings – Good News!

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 target sum which enables us to begin construction on the concrete raft (already in place) has just been reached so work will begin in the New Year. There is further to go to achieve the full project, however. The new boiler is installed and running.

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.

Third Sunday – 16th December – Gaudete Sunday, the 3rd in Advent

Third Sunday <i>Gaudete</i> 16Dec18 Advent 3	8.00 am	Exton	Holy Communion (BCP) Black Book p.229 Readings: Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18
	9.45 am	Droxford	Informal Service: Advent Calendar & Christmas Carols



*Gaudete in Domino semper:
iterum dico Gaudete*

Rejoice in the Lord always,
and again I say **Rejoice!**

Philippians 4:4

16Dec18 O Sapientia (BCP)	10.30 pm	Corhampton AMNS Carol Sheet	Mattins with Carols Black Book p.62 26 O Come, O Come Emmanuel 17 Ding Dong Merrily on High 11 Joy to the world 7 While shepherds watched 8 See amid the winter's snow 10 Hark the herald angels sing Venite and Benedictus No Psalm or <i>Te Deum</i> Isaiah 35; 1Corinthians 4: 1-5
Tues 18Dec18	8.30 am	Exton	Morning Prayer - Red Book p. 198 Ps 70, 74; Isaiah 50; 1 Thess 5.12-end
Wed 19Dec18	8.30 am	Meonstoke	Morning Prayer - Red Book p. 198 Ps 75, 96; Isaiah 51.1-8; 2 Thess 1
	5.00 pm	Droxford	Evening Prayer - Red Book p. 205 Ps 25, 82; Isaiah 39; Matt 17.14-21
Thurs 20Dec16	10 am	Droxford	Holy Communion p.1/ 166; Advent Booklet Isaiah 54.1-10; Luke 7.24-30

Fourth Sunday – 23rd December – Fourth Sunday in Advent

Fourth Sunday Advent 4 23Dec18 Fourth Sunday in Advent	8.00 am	Corhampton	Holy Communion (BCP) Black Book p.229 Readings: Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45
	09.30 am	Meonstoke	... unwrapped Informal Service
	10.30 am	Exton	Holy Communion (CW) Advent Booklet Carol Sheet 12 O Come, All Ye Faithful (v 1-3) 5 The First Nowell 7 While Shepherds Watched 10 Hark the Herald Angels Sing Readings: Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45
	6.30 pm	Exton	Carols by Candlelight <i>Special Order of Service</i>



24Dec18 Christmas Eve	3.30 pm	Meonstoke	<i>Messy Christmas</i> – Christmas Crafts and Fun – come as your favourite character in the Nativity Story
	11.30 pm	Droxford & Meonstoke	Midnight Mass Hebrews 1: 1-4; John 1: 1-14
25Dec18 Christmas Day	8.00 am	Exton	Holy Communion (BCP) Titus 3.4-7; Luke 2.8-20
	10.30 am	Droxford & Meonstoke	Family Service Holy Communion available afterwards Isaiah 9: 2-7; Luke 2: 1-120



Wed 26Dec18	No clergy led services but churches available for private prayer		
Thurs 27Dec16 St John	10 am	Droxford	Holy Communion p.1/ 166; Euch Prayer: E p.30/ 196 1 John 1; John 21.19b-25

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>).

In this the season of Advent, we 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.

We pray for the members of the 'Talking Jesus' course and for our growth.

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 (including Jarrah Diment and Jasper Ellis) 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 Maurice King undergoing surgery this week, Rosie Minors, Mthr Samantha, 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 Alan Hibbert, David Henley, Gervase Hulbert and Nigel Higgens; and all in the year's mind. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

At Christmas, we shall pray for the Church, especially in places of conflict; the Holy Land, for peace with justice, and reconciliation; for refugees and asylum seekers; for homeless people; and, for families with young children.



CHRISTMAS



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, tinned potatoes and cake bars., and Christmas goodies. Follow MVFB on twitter @MeonValleyFB or at www.meonvalleyfoodbank.co.uk.

The Christmas / New Year's Eve opening hours for the Meon Valley Food Bank will be: **Monday 24th December and Monday 31st December from 10-1.**

If you are bringing donations to the Food Bank can we have them before 12-30 at the latest please. **Thank You for all your support.**

CONTACT DETAILS

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

usual rest day is Monday.

CURATE: The Revd Samantha Martell, 232041 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

SAFEGUARDING: Dr Jane Beardmore - jane.l.beardmore@gmail.com

