



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

23 December 2018 (Advent 4) – 12 January 2019 (Epiphany)

WELCOME

The celebration of Christ's incarnation at Christmas is the first great feast of the Christian year. The wonderful mystery of God's dwelling among us in the fullness of humanity, as Emmanuel, foretold by the prophets and born of Mary, provides the material for our liturgy.

Christmas is even more than the celebration of Jesus' birth, and neither of the great Christmas morning readings (Hebrews 1 and John 1) is taken from the infancy narratives. The task of the Christmas liturgy is to recall us, amid all the joyful customs and celebrations of Christmas, to this central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation.

Christ's nativity does, of course, provide the occasion for this festival of the incarnation, and has done since the end of the third century. The Christmas crib and the nativity play can both be said to descend from the tableau of Christ's birth that Francis of Assisi arranged when he celebrated Christmas at Greccio in 1223.

The Christmas season was, and often is, celebrated for twelve days, ending with the Epiphany. We are re-learning the tradition, in which Christmas lasts for a full forty days, ending with the Feast of the Presentation on 2 February (Candlemas).

The days around 25 December are a principal holiday in the secular calendar of Britain, and commercial pressures have led to much of Christmas celebration being displaced into Advent. It is an even greater challenge to celebrate the saints of the Christmas season: Stephen, who first paid with his life for following the incarnate Lord; John, who was believed to have lived to great old age in profound meditation on the Word made flesh; and the Holy Innocents, who draw our attention to the plight of children in a world where the implications of the birth of the Christ-child are not yet manifest.

This prayer may be used on any day in the Christmas Season: *Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*



Welcome Everybody – Everybody Welcome

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. Alan's funeral will take place in **Droxford Church on Wednesday, 16th January at 11.30 am.**

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, 10th December 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.

David's funeral service took place in Broad Chalke parish church on Thursday, 20th December. There will a Service of Thanksgiving on **16th February 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:

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

PCC Meetings Spring 2019

	C&M	Exton	Droxford
PCC	Weds 30 Jan 19	Tues 12 Feb 19	Tues 5 Feb 19
Standing Cttee	Weds 13 Mar 19	Tues 12 Mar 19	Tues 19 Mar 19

Many Thanks to all those who arrange flowers, clean the churches, look after the buildings and churchyards, assist in services, sing or play music especially at Christmas. **THANK YOU!**

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.

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	<i>Presents Unwrapped</i> 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



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Wed 26Dec18	No clergy led services but churches available for private prayer Feast of St Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr		
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

28Dec18: The Holy Innocents

29Dec18: Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr 1170

5th Sunday – 30Dec18 – Christmas Season

Fifth Sunday Christmas I 30Dec18 1st Sunday of Christmas (Holy Family)	8.00 am	Exton	Holy Communion (BCP) Black Book p.229 Readings: Col 3: 12-17; Luke 2: 41-end
	10.30 am	Corhampton	Holy Communion (CW) [Black Book] 39 Angels from the realms of glory 41 It came upon a midnight clear 42 In the bleak mid-winter 33 Of the Father's love begotten 35 Hark the herald angels sing Readings: Col 3: 12-17; Luke 2: 41-end



31Dec: John Wyclif, Reformer 1384

HAPPY NEW YEAR

1Jan19: The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus



Wed 2Jan19	8.30 am Basil & Gregory	Meonstoke	Morning Prayer Red Book p.198 Pss 127-8, 131; Ruth 2; Col 3.1-11
Thurs 3Jan19	10 am	Droxford	Holy Communion p.1/ 166; Euch Prayer: E p.30/ 196 1 John 2.29-3.6; John 1.29-34

1st Sunday – 6JAN19 – The Epiphany

First Sunday The Epiphany 6JAN19	8.00 am	Droxford	Holy Communion (BCP) Black Book p.229 Readings: Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12
	10.30 am Epiphany & Re-dedication of War Memorial	Meonstoke Hymns: HONS CHOIR Readings:	Family Communion (In Booklet) 552 O worship the Lord 724 We three Kings of Orient are 49 As with gladness 729 What child is this 85 Brightest and best Isaiah 60.1–6; Matthew 2.1–12
	6.30 pm	Choral Exton	Evensong Black Book p.72 Ps 72; Bar 4.36-end of 5; Jn 2.1–11



The Epiphany

Tues 08Jan19	8.30 am	Exton	Morning Prayer Red Book p. 214 Ps 46; Isaiah 64; I John 4: 4-7
Wed 09Jan18	8.30 am	Meonstoke	Morning Prayer Red Book p.198 Ps 148; Isa 65: 1-16; I John 5: 1-12
	5.00 pm	Droxford	Evening Prayer Red Book p. 220 Ps 67; Bar 3: 1-8; Matt 20: 29-end
Thurs 10Jan19 William Laud	10 am	Droxford	Holy Communion p.1/ 166; Euch Prayer: E p.30/ 196 I John 4: 19- 5:4; Luke 4: 14-22

11Jan: Mary Slessor

12Jan: Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx 1167;
Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, 689

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 the Christmas season starting with Midnight Mass in Droxford and Meonstoke, we pray for: the Church, especially in places of conflict; the Holy Land, for peace with justice, and reconciliation; refugees and asylum seekers; homeless people; families with young children.

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 (Jarrah Diment, Max Gray, Olive Cantan and James & Louise Fenner) and confirmed (Carlisle Martell), and for those preparing for baptism (including 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 Higgins; and all in the year's mind. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.



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 stock cubes, packet soup, mixed herbs,

cooking sauces and shower gel, and Christmas/ New Year goodies. Follow MVFB on twitter [@MeonValleyFB](https://twitter.com/MeonValleyFB) or at www.meonvalleyfoodbank.co.uk.

The Christmas / New Year's Eve opening hours for the Meon Valley Food Bank are: **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

