



Advent

*A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
cf John 1.23*

PARISHES
OF
ELSTEAD.
THURSLEY.



SHACKLEFORD.
PEPER HAROW

**Parishes of Elstead,
Thursley, Shackleford and
Peper Harow**

What is Advent?

Advent is the first season of the Church's year, and always has four Sundays in it.

In Advent, we wait in hope and longing for the arrival of Jesus Christ. During this time we try to deepen our faith and draw closer to God in prayer and worship. Advent is a time of preparation. During this time we get ready to celebrate the arrival of Jesus - his birth in Bethlehem on Christmas Day.

We have an Advent Wreath of four candles, one for each Sunday of the season, with a white candle in the centre for Christmas Day. Each of the Advent Candles has a different meaning. The first Advent Candle is for all of God's people and is the candle of hope. The second Advent candle is for the Old Testament prophets who foretold Jesus' birth and is the candle of peace. The third Advent candle is for John the Baptist who asked us to prepare our hearts to welcome God, so it is also the candle of love. The final candle is for Mary, the mother of Jesus, who joyfully carried the Saviour, so it is the candle of joy. Four candles representing hope, peace, love, and joy.

During Advent, we pray:
Come Lord
Come down
Come in
Come among us
Amen

Parishes of Elstead, Thursley, Shackleford and Peper Harow

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000)

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*We hope we have something for everyone! Come
and see....*

Services in the Parishes



St James, Elstead

1st Sunday of the month:

10am, Holy Communion Service

2nd Sunday of the month:

8am, Traditional language Holy Communion Service

10.30am, Informal Family Service with a worship band, craft and activities

4th Sunday of the month:

10am, Holy Communion Service

St Michael's and All Angels, Thursley

3rd Sunday of the month:

9.30am, Holy Communion Service

4th Sunday of the month:

8am, Holy Communion Service

St Nicholas, Peper Harow

3rd Sunday of the month:

8am, Traditional language Holy Communion Service

4th Sunday of the month – Alternating with Shackleford:

9.30am, Holy Communion Service

St Mary's Shackleford

1st Sunday of the month:

8am, Traditional language Holy Communion Service

4th Sunday of the month – Alternating with Peper Harow:

9.30am, Holy Communion Service

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to all who dwell in darkness and the shadow
of death,

and to guide our feet into the way of peace

Luke 1:78,79



The Gathering

Please stand for the opening hymn

Hymn

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!

Mary hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected,

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!.....

Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlehem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
unborn Son of Mary,
Savior, do not tarry!

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Sending Out

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Blessing and Sending Out

Hymn

Please stand for the closing Hymn

We have a gospel to proclaim,
Good news for men in all the earth;
The gospel of a Saviour's name,
We sing His glory, tell His worth.

Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,
Not in a royal house or hall
But in a stable dark and dim,
The Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of His death at Calvary,
Hated by those He came to save,
In lonely suffering on the cross,
For all He loved His life He gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn,
Empty the tomb, for He was free.
He broke the power of death and hell
That we might share His victory.

Tell of His reign at God's right hand,
By all creation glorified,
He sends His Spirit on His Church,
To live for Him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name Him King,
Jesus is Lord of all the earth,
This gospel message we proclaim,
We sing His glory, tell His worth.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!*

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

Please be seated

Words of welcome and notices are given

Advent 4

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth
as a burning and shining light.
May we your servants rejoice in his light,
and so be led to witness to him
who is the Lord of our coming kingdom,
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.
Amen.

The fourth Advent Candle is lit

Advent Song (tune: The Holly and the Ivy)

All sing:

*The holly and the ivy
are dancing in a ring,
round the brightly burning candles
and the white and shining king.*

*Four is for the prophets
and for the light they bring.
They are candles in the darkness
All alight for Christ the King.*

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.
Amen.**

Confession

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

cf 1 Corinthians 4.5

After a short silence

Heavenly Father,
you have created a universe of light:
forgive us when we return to darkness.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The Lamb of God

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink
in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

Prayer after Communion

Silence may be kept

*The weekly post communion or another suitable prayer is said.
All may say the following prayer*

**Lord, we have broken your bread
and received your life.
By the power of your Spirit
keep us always in your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Please be seated

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our Saviour taught us

**Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day
our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Lord Jesus,
you are the light of the world:
cleanse and heal our blinded sight.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you give us light in our hearts:
renew us in faith and love.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins,
open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will
and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Collect

The Collect is a short prayer that collects all our thoughts, dreams and prayers before God.

A period of silent prayer is introduced with the words

'Let us Pray'

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.

Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

Please be seated

Reading/s

At the end of the reading the reader may say:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Please stand for a hymn before the Gospel

Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to You.
Make us Your own, Your holy people
Light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light ...

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light ...

may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious
ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and
thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of [N and] all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

From the 17 December until Christmas Eve

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.
John the Baptist was his herald
and made him known when at last he came.
In his love Christ fills us with joy
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.
And so, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your glory,
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine

Please remain standing for the Gospel

Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

cf Isaiah 40.3-5

Alleluia.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Profession of Faith

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from
heaven,
he became incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the
Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray

God of love,
Hear our prayer
Or
Lord, hear us
Lord, graciously hear us

Merciful Father,
**Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Please stand

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace by saying "Peace be with you".

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered
Together from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom.
Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Please sit or stand during the Eucharistic Prayer

*All are welcome to come to the altar to receive
communion or a blessing. Gluten free wafers are available please
indicate if you require this option.*