

Seven Towers Benefice



Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do and he will show you which path to take.

Proverbs 3.5,6

Sunday 31st December 2017
Christmas 1

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A very, warm welcome to today's service. If you are visiting or here for the first time, please make yourself known to our sidesmen and women who will be pleased to chat and introduce you to others.

Today's Collect and Readings:

Collect

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life,
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

First Reading Isaiah 61.10-62.3 (NIV)

¹⁰ I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the soil makes the young plant come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. ² The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. ³ You will be a crown of splendour in

the Lord's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Second Reading Galatians 4.4-7 (NIV)

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.' ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Gospel Reading Luke 2.15-21 (NIV)

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. ²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

Services on 7th January, Christmas 2

Sandhurst	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Twigworth	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Down Hatherley	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer
Norton	11.00 am	Holy Communion
The Leigh	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Staverton	9.30 am	Holy Communion

Readings for Christmas 2

1 st Reading:	Isaiah 60.1-6
2 nd Reading:	Ephesians.3.1-12
Gospel:	Matthew 2.1-12
Psalm:	72.10-15

What's On

The next Morning Prayer will be on 10th January.

5th Jan. **Friendly Friday** 10.30 am at Down Hatherley Village Hall

6th Jan. **Ladies' and Men's Breakfasts**
8.30 – 10.00 am

Dates for the Diary

Friendly Friday at Down Hatherley Village Hall from 10.30 am – noon on 5th January. Come and enjoy coffee, cake and conversation – everyone welcome, toys and games available for children. No charge, but a donation for coffee is always appreciated.

Monthly Breakfast Together:

January Men's Breakfast on January 6th is at the home of Graham Limbrick. Please contact Graham if you will be joining him. (tel: 01452 731257)

Ladies' Breakfast is at the home of Helen Nicol on January 6th. Please let Helen know if you will be attending. (tel: 01452 730025)

Home groups in the New Year

Our 3 new home groups will meet 3 times in the New Year before Ash Wednesday on February 14th.

We will be looking at issues surrounding our faith.

Everyone is welcome, and you do not have to have previously attended a home group.

Revd Suzanne's group will meet on Jan 8th, 22nd and Feb 5th.

Revd Katie's on Jan 10th, 24th and Feb 7th.

Revd Philippa's on Jan 11th, 25th and Feb 8th.

Canon David's group will continue as usual.

The next **Sandhurst Film Night** is on Wednesday 10th January starting at 7 pm in the church. The film being shown is Queen of Katwe, a movie based on the true story of a young Ugandan girl, whose life changes forever when she discovers she has an amazing talent.

Everyone welcome. Entrance free. Light refreshments available for a small donation.

Samara's Aid Collection. Another collection is planned for the weekend of 20th/21st January. Norton Church will be open for donations from 10 am - 5 pm each day.

We are looking to collect the best winter clothing, bedding etc we can offer to send to displaced people in the Middle East particularly in Syria and Iraq. Sending items that are in immaculate condition and spotlessly clean, will show that we value these people as much as ourselves, and sends a message of love, encouragement, and hope.

If you might like to help with the sorting and packing, Samara has prepared some videos to watch, so please join us for one of our gatherings (with some food) to see them. We'll be meeting at Nature in Art at

7.00 pm on Friday January 12th and

7.00 pm on Tuesday January 16th.

If possible, please get in touch to say you can come on one of these evenings or can help in any way. It will assist us greatly with our planning!
(simontrapnell@gmail.com or 07774 903177)