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**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS** 29 December 2024

**Sung Eucharist:** Mass of Ss Peter & Paul (John Ridgway) **Voluntary:** Improvisation-Sortie (John Ridgway)

**Hymns at PC**: NEH 36, 39, 25, 21

**Hymns at HT:** NEH 36, 31, 39, 25, 21

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

**Saturday 28 December** No service

**Sunday 29 December** **THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

8am Eucharist (Parish Church) *Preacher: Nicholas Cheeseman*

9.15am Sung Eucharist (HT) *Preacher: Nicholas Cheeseman*

10.30am sung Eucharist (PC) *Preacher: Mary Harwood*

**Monday 30 December-Saturday 4 January****:** No services

**Sunday** **5 January**  **EPIPHANY**

*Preacher at all morning services: the Curate*

8am Eucharist (Parish Church)

9.15am Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity)

10.30am Choral Eucharist (Parish Church)

5pm Epiphany Carols (Parish Church)

**Around Table** is taking a Christmas break and will resume on 8 January.

**Weekday and Saturday services** resume from Monday 6 January.

READINGS & PRAYERS

**Collect**

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 in 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.**

**First Reading****: 1 Samuel 2:18-20 & 26**

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, ‘May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord’; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

**Psalm 148:7-end**

**Response: Praise the Lord from the heavens and praise him in the heights.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps;

Fire and hail, snow and mist,

tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word; **R/.**

Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars;

Wild beasts and all cattle,

creeping things and birds on the wing; **R/.**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,

princes and all rulers of the world;

Young men and women,

old and young together;

let them praise the name of the Lord. **R/.**

For his name only is exalted,

his splendour above earth and heaven.

He has raised up the horn of his people

and praise for all his faithful servants,

the children of Israel, a people who are near him.**R/.**

**Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-17**

As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Gospel: Luke 2:41-end**

Alleluia

**Alleluia**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

And we have seen the glory

**Alleluia**

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, ‘Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.’ He said to them, ‘Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?’ But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

**Post-Communion Prayer**

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**For Your Prayers:** Sarah Clark, Lizzie, Beth Hirst, Natalie, Rowland Jenkins, Sirma, Sybil Smith, Phoebe, Mary, Chris, Sharon, Glauce, Steve West, Pat and Dave, Amanda, Angela, Martin.

**RIP:** Joy Dullforce, Jessie West

**Please also pray for:** all the new Parish groups and initiatives starting in the New Year.

**Readings & Hymns for next Sunday**:

4pm/8am: Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29

Acts 8.14-17, Luke 3:15-17 & 21-22

Hymns at PC: NEH 36, 39, 25, 21

Hymns at HT: NEH 36, 31, 39, 25, 21

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PARISH CLOSURE:** There will be no services until Sunday 5 January 2025. The Parish Office is closed until Thursday 2 January.

**DISCIPLESHIP DAY: Baptism of Christ, Sunday 12 January**. As we go into a new (calendar) year, we will take the opportunity to renew our own baptismal commitments as well as praying for those preparing to take that step. As part of our 9.15 and 10.30 services, the **discipleship encouragers** will be guiding us through exploring our ‘gifts for everyday faith’, and there will also be the chance to learn more about opportunities in this Parish, both to support us in our faith and also to use our skills and gifts.

**BAPTISM, FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION:** Preparation classes will begin in January for children, teenagers and adults, leading to baptism and first communion at Easter and/or confirmation with the Bishop in May. If you or your child are interested in taking the next step of commitment in the Christian faith, or you would like to find out more, please contact the Vicar.

**NEW GROUPS** coming up in the New Year! **Weekly home group** hosted by Andrew and Caroline Haines please email candahaines@gmail.com **“Fully Booked” monthly book club** please contact David Richardson dcrwantageparish@gmail.com and **Beer & Bible** please contact Laurence Price laurence@wantageparish.com. Please have a think this Advent about whether you would like to get involved with any of these.

**T BAR 2025: Feed your faith!** Regulars at Holy Trinity’s monthly coffee afternoon have been sharing an appetite for study/discussion as well as cake. We will be discussing further what this might look like at the next T Bar on **Friday 10 January from 2pm**. If you would like to be involved in that conversation, please come along on 10 January, or contact Ann Gregory ann\_m\_gregory@hotmail.com.

**AREA DEAN:** The Revd John Durant (formerly Vicar of Grove, now based in Ardington) has agreed to continue as Area Dean of Wantage for another year. Our Vicar, Katherine, will be working alongside him as **Associate Area Dean** during 2025.

**OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE STUDY GROUP**: Will resume after the Christmas break on Tuesday mornings at **9.30am from 7th January**. Please note the change of location to Felicity’s house: 24 Smith’s Wharf, Wantage, OX12 9GQ. We look forward to seeing you all there and welcome **NEW MEMBERS.**

**AROUND TABLE:** Work has been underway at Holy Trinity to improve facilities for Around Table. A new floor has been laid in the kitchen to meet hygiene standards, and extra storage has been installed in the Vestry, paid for by the Council’s Food and Warmth Grant. This will help Holy Trinity continue to meet the needs of worship, our various ministries and outreach, and community groups who hire the space.

CONTACT DETAILS

**Vicar:** Revd. Katherine Price (Rest Day: Thursday) 01235 768806 vicar@wantageparish.com

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**Parish Assistant**: James Clarke james.parishasst@wantageparish.com

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Matt Godfrey safeguarding@wantageparish.com

**Director of Music:** Phil Johnson music@wantageparish.com

**Personal Discipleship Plan:** Susie Lapwood pdp@wantageparish.com

**Parish Website**: www.wantageparish.com