

## The Week Ahead

<b>Tues 18</b>	<b>9.15 am</b>	<b>Collective Worship St M School</b>
	<b>7.15 pm</b>	<b>Home Group Bible Course David &amp; Peggy 80283154</b>
<b>Weds 19</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion and coffee in Nondescripts</b>
	<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>Bellringing AS</b>
	<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Carols at The Oak Bank</b>
	<b>8.00 pm</b>	<b>Carols at The Swan Inn</b>
	<b>9.00 pm</b>	<b>Carols at The New Forest Inn</b>
<b>Thurs 20</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Bell Ringing AS St M</b>
	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Home Group in Church AS</b>
<b>Fri 21</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>Minstead Trust Service AS</b>
	<b>3.00 pm</b>	<b>Kneeler Group AS</b>
<b>Sat 22</b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Carols by Candlelight St M</b>

### Next Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December Advent 4

9.30 am	Advent Holy Communion CC
10.30 am	Coffee then Crib Service St M
6.00 pm	Christmas Reflections AS

Micah 5 2-4A	GNB OT 881
Hebrews 10 5-10	GNB NT 271
Luke 1 39-45	GNB NT 71

*Please note St M is St Michael's Lyndhurst  
AS is All Saints Minstead CC is Christ Church Emery Down*

## December

### 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve

4.30 pm	Nativity Service AS
11.00 pm	Midnight Holy Communion AS CC St M

### 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day

9.00 am	Morning Worship St M
10.30 am	Morning Worship CC AS

### 30<sup>th</sup> December

9.30 am	Holy Communion CC
10.30 am	Coffee then Morning Worship St M
10.30 am	Service of the Word AS

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND in

LYNDHURST & EMERY DOWN & MINSTEAD

Trusting Christ Transforming Church Transforming Community

## Advent 3 16<sup>th</sup> December

Welcome to our service today!

If you wish to know more about the activities of our churches, please talk to one of the welcomers, call the Benefice Office (8028 3175) email us [benefice@newforestparishes.com](mailto:benefice@newforestparishes.com) or look us up on Facebook, or the website [www.newforestparishes.com](http://www.newforestparishes.com)

## Today's Services

11.00 am	Holy Communion & coffee St M
4.00 pm	Readings and Carols AS
6.00 pm	Sunday at Six Crib and Carol Service CC

## Collect

**O Lord Jesus Christ,**  
**who at your first coming sent your messenger**  
**to prepare your way before you:**  
**grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries**  
**may likewise so prepare and make ready your way**  
**by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,**  
**that at your second coming to judge the world**  
**we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;**  
**for you are alive and reign with the Father**  
**in the unity of the Holy Spirit,**  
**one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## Today's Readings

**Zephaniah 3. 14-end** GNB OT 892  
 A powerful and apocalyptic vision of the approaching day of the Lord.  
**Philippians 4. 4-7** GNB NT 238  
 Paul encourages the Philippians to rejoice, not to worry and to have faith in the peace of God, which passes all understanding.  
**Luke 3. 7-18** GNB NT 75  
 John the Baptist preaches to the crowds and baptises them with water. He prophesies that Jesus will baptise them with the Holy Spirit and fire.

## Thought for the week

What is the sum of a human being? Is it birthright, ancestry, heritage, pedigree, bloodline or lineage? The sheer number of words that exist to describe this hint at how important it is considered, even to this day. There is no doubt that a stable family situation can have a grounding influence, but it's when we start to think that our heritage raises us above others that we come unstuck. It's easy to see how it happens, when so much that is valued in society is down to our circumstances of birth. Genetically we inherit our looks and intelligence from our parents, while their material circumstances may dictate whether we live in a safe area, eat nourishing food, have a sheltering roof over our heads and access to a decent education and healthcare. All of these things may help, but they do not bring us one step closer to God.

During Advent we prepare to approach the Bethlehem stable, to greet a child who was born in the humblest of circumstances to a young unmarried woman. So in everything we do – in our prayer, our worship, our mission and all our dealings with other people – let us remember that each of us is priceless in God's eyes, regardless of background or heritage.

## Christmas Services

Benefice Christmas services Please see flyer for details Information available on noticeboards. Please pass leaflets to neighbours and friends

## Christmas reading

Beginning on the first Sunday in February we will commence a journey together in search of JOY! So, in preparation for this adventure, David asks that you read through the New Testament Letter of St Paul to the Philippians. Reading the whole letter should take no more than 10 mins! Happy Reading!

## .David's contact details:

[david.potterton@newforestparishes.com](mailto:david.potterton@newforestparishes.com) 07468527820.

Please remember that David's day off is Monday.

## Intercessions

**In the name of Jesus we pray for healing for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, and for those who care for them.**

**We remember those who have died recently, and pray for their families and friends.**

## This week's Bible Text

So John said to all of them, "I baptize you with water, but someone is coming who is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire".

Luke 3 v 16

## The Prayer

Glorious God, You have taken hold of us and made us Your own. In the power of Your Spirit give us grace to press on in Your purposes, loving one another, learning together and living the mission of Him who calls us onwards, Jesus Christ our Lord.