

Benefice of Heyford with Stowe-Nine-Churches
and Flore with Brockhall

Our Mission Statement

SERVICES SCHEDULE AND NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2024



Rector: Revd Stephen Burrow 01327 344436

Sunday 1st December – Advent Sunday

10.00am	Holy Communion Service	Church Stowe
11:00am	United First Sunday Service	Flore Church
6:00pm	Deanery Advent Carol Service	Braunston Church

Sunday 8th December – Advent 2

10.00am	United service of Holy Communion	Flore Church
3:00pm	Christmas Get-together	Heyford Church

Saturday 14th December

2:00pm	Messy Church Christingle	Flore Church
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Sunday 15th December – Advent 3

10.00am	Holy Communion	Heyford Church
10.00am	Instant Nativity Service	Flore Chapel
6:00pm	Holy Communion	Upper Stowe

Friday 20th December

6:00pm	Carols on the Green in Nether Heyford	
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Sunday 22nd December – Advent 4

10:00am	Partnership Holy Communion	Flore Church
3:00pm	Crib Service	Upper Stowe
6:00pm	Carols by Candlelight	Heyford Church
6:00pm	Carol Service	Flore Chapel

Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

6.00pm	Village Carol Service	Flore Church
8:30pm	Holy Communion for Christmas	Church Stowe

Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day

10.00am	Holy Communion for Christmas	Heyford Church
10:00am	Partnership Service for Christmas Morning	Flore Chapel
10:00am	Family Christmas Service	Upper Stowe
11:15am	Holy Communion for Christmas	Brockhall Church

Sunday 29th December

10:00am	United Service of Holy Communion	Flore Church
10:00am	Service of Lessons & Carols	Upper Stowe

Midweek Services:

Holy Communion at 10:00AM every Thursday at Flore Church (Not 26th Dec).

Flore Church is open for private prayer on Thursday 19th December between 2:30PM and 3:30PM

Morning Prayer on Zoom every Friday morning at 9:00AM (not 27th Dec). Please contact the Rector for details

Prayer for our villages by street: During December we shall be praying for people living in Winston Close, Roberts Field and Ridgeway Furlong in Heyford, Nether Lane and Thornton Close in Flore, The Green in Church Stowe and The Old Rectory, Rose Cottage and Western Cottage in Brockhall.

Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends

Can you imagine J K Rowling entering Hogwarts as a schoolgirl? Or J R R Tolkien being born as a hobbit in the Shire? The idea of an author entering his or her own creation seems a bit far-fetched. Yet that is what we prepare for through Advent and celebrate at Christmas; God in Jesus Christ enters into the world he has created. The almighty creator of all things becomes human and stands in solidarity with us. God knows what it is to live our lives. He has gone through the whole human experience, from impoverished birth to cruel death. He has known the minor irritations of family life, the effects of hard work and lack of money, through to horror and humiliation, pain, despair and death. As Dorothy Sayers puts it, 'He was born in poverty and died in disgrace, and thought it all worthwhile'. God has lived by the rules he commands us to keep, he has suffered the same pain, anxiety and struggle we all face in the world he has created. But all this is only possible if we hold together the belief expressed in our creeds, that Jesus is both fully God and fully human - at the same time, without confusion or separation.

If we let go of the 'fully God' part, we are left with a religious teacher who may offer moral guidance, or encourage holiness, or even speak with the voice of God, but we don't have the Creator entering and experiencing his creation as we do. If we let go of the 'fully human' part, then we have the supernatural appearance of the one who made us. God might direct the way we live, or instruct us in the way we worship him, but he has not shared our condition. He has not felt hungry, angry or sad. By holding together these two truths that seem to be impossible to grasp, we find the power, beauty, love and truth of God meeting the suffering, pain, hope, joy and longing of all humanity.

As we prepare to celebrate the incarnation, I pray you have a peaceful, reflective Advent and a very blessed Christmas.

With love and blessings,

Rev Stephen (Tel: 01327 344436)

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Following the publication of the independent review by Keith Makin into the Church of England's handling of allegations of serious abuse by the late John Smyth, and the subsequent resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Bishop of Peterborough, Bishop Debbie has made the following statement.

'The Makin Report makes for harrowing reading and leaves me with a feeling of deep sadness and shame for the way in which victims of such horrific abuse have been let down by our Church. I am deeply grateful to those who have been brave enough to speak up and to share their stories and wish to assure them of my prayers. In resigning, the Archbishop of Canterbury is demonstrating his personal and institutional responsibility for the safeguarding failures and I admire him for doing so. I am thankful for his ministry and recognise the efforts he has made to ensure that the Church of England continues to develop its work in safeguarding practice. I am committed to continuing this work in the Diocese of Peterborough to ensure that the Church is as safe a place as it can be.'

I echo Bishop Debbie's sentiments and recognise that recent events demonstrate the fundamental importance of making our churches safe places. The churches of this benefice and I stand in solidarity with all victims of abuse and express our profound sorrow at what has happened. We are committed to following the diocesan safeguarding policy, and to delivering a welcoming, safe church for all. We are working towards a culture of safeguarding in all our churches, recognising that we all have a part to play in ensuring our church communities are safe spaces. Clearly, there is more to be done and we will continue to implement, improve and monitor our safeguarding practices to ensure that all who take part in the life of our churches can do so in safety.

Rev Stephen