



SHERBORNE ABBEY with CASTLETON,
SAINT PAUL'S, LILLINGTON and
LONGBURTON

*To know God and to make Him known
in wonder, love and praise*

Founded by St Aldhelm AD 705

**Sunday 26 November 2023 – Sunday next before Advent/
Christ the King/Toy Sunday**

THE ABBEY

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion	Celebrant:	The Reverend Martin Lee
9.30 am Parish Eucharist	Celebrant & Preacher:	The Reverend Martin Lee
	Deacon:	The Reverend Rebecca McDonnell

Collect: Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King; keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: Ezekiel Ch 34: v 11 – 16, 20 – 24; Matthew Ch 25: v 31 - end

Hymns: 345 & 398 (395), 452, 272, 373 (Coe Fen)

6.00 pm Choral Evensong Officiant: The Reverend Martin Lee

CASTLETON CHURCH

11.15 am Mattins Officiant: The Reverend Robert Green

LILLINGTON CHURCH

9.30 am Morning Service Officiant: The Reverend John Townend

LONGBURTON CHURCH

10.00 am Said Holy Communion Celebrants: The Reverend Pene Kennedy
The Reverend Brenda Phillips

STPAULS@THEGRYPHON (*Theme: Little Book, Big Message - Malachi*)

10.30 am Morning Worship Leader & Speaker: The Reverend Jim Edie

Don't forget Crafts and Carols at St Paul's Church this Sunday from 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm – all welcome!

The Abbey - Weekday Services

Every Monday – Saturday at 8.30 am – Morning Prayer - The Sepulchre Chapel

Every Monday at 9.00 am – CW Holy Communion - The Lady Chapel

Every Tuesday at 12 noon – CW Holy Communion - The Sepulchre Chapel

Every Wednesday at 10.30 am – Holy Communion with Homily – The Lady Chapel
(alternates CW and BCP)

Every Thursday at 12 noon – BCP Holy Communion - The Lady Chapel

Every Friday at 9.00 am – Ecumenical Holy Communion - The Sepulchre Chapel

1st Friday of the month at 9.00 am – Requiem Holy Communion - The Sepulchre Chapel
(next service on Friday 1 December 2023)

The Abbey - Weekday Services continued

3rd Friday of the month at 11.00 am – Remembering the Fallen (next service Friday 15 Dec 2023)

Every Saturday at 9.00 am – CW Holy Communion - The Sepulchre Chapel

Sunday 3 December 2023 – 1st Sunday of Advent

THE ABBEY

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion	Celebrant:	The Reverend Martin Lee
9.30 am Parish Eucharist	Celebrant & Preacher:	The Reverend Martin Lee
	Deacon:	The Reverend Rebecca McDonnell
1.30 pm, 2.30 pm, 3.30 pm	Shoppers' Carols	<i>(part of Sherborne Festive Shopping Day)</i>
5.00 pm Advent Carol Service	Officiants:	The Reverend Martin Lee The Reverend Rebecca McDonnell

CASTLETON CHURCH (*Fellowship Sunday*)

11.15 am Mattins	Officiant:	The Reverend Hugh Bonsey
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LILLINGTON CHURCH

9.30 am Family Service	Officiant:	The Reverend Hugh Bonsey
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LONGBURTON CHURCH

10.00 am Village Communion	Celebrants:	The Reverend Lesley McCreadie The Reverend Jim Edie
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STPAULS@THEGRYPHON (*Theme: Advent/Christmas*)

10.30 am Morning Worship	Leader:	Mark Greenstock
	Speaker:	John Crossman

Thought for the Day

Today marks the end of the Christian Year as we prepare for Advent next Sunday. The Feast of Christ the King is deeply important to many of us; in past years in the BCP, it was noted as Stir up Sunday. In many ways, the two titles are coterminous, stirring us up to prepare for the arrival of the King of Kings in the form of a tiny babe in Bethlehem. So, celebrating this as the Feast of Christ the King is most appropriate. We see the kingly values that Jesus showed us in the all-powerful God who gave us His Son to be King of the Jews. For many of us, the language of kings conjures up specific pictures of opulent houses, beautifully fine clothes and images of people doing obeisance to a human figure.

The kingly figure we acknowledge today is that of a man who acted in a way far from that of any king that we might think of; in fact, he was the King who washed the feet of his friends, kissed the man who betrayed him, showed us how to forgive and exemplified what it is to love by opening his arms upon an instrument of torture which would lead to earthly death. A King of beautiful humility, a King of Service, and a King who showed us the purposes of God for us in his world.

We might want to look at those in positions of power and authority in our world and see a slightly different understanding of the use of power either given to them democratically or caused by other means. The two are, I might suggest, very far apart. Abusing power and using such positions leads the world into very dark places of conflict, and I do not need to spell that out as we see horrific pictures of terrible human suffering on our screens.

To the suffering world and those in authority, Christians, once again, prepare to celebrate a King who came to show us the way forward of light and hope, how to care, forgive and, most importantly, love. May the light of Christ the King shine brightly into the depth of darkness, bring

hope to the little ones who are so vulnerable, comfort those whose pain in grief is beyond description, and allow peace to grow in our world, which is in great need of the stirring transforming power of his love.

The Reverend Martin Lee

Notices

Visiting Hours: The Abbey is open to visitors (free of charge) on Mondays to Saturdays (8.00 am – 5.00 pm) and on Sundays (11.00 am – 5.00 pm). The Abbey may close when private services are taking place. *Rehearsals – Tuesday 28 November (9.00 am), Thursday 30 November (1.00 pm), Saturday 2 December 2023 (9.00 am & 2.00 pm), Monday 4 December (9.30 am), Tuesday 5 December (9.00 am & 4.00 pm) Wednesday 6 December (3.00 pm) & Thursday 7 December (9.30 am & 1.00 pm). Carol Services – Tuesday 4 December (2.30 pm), Thursday 7 December (4.00 pm). Funeral – Wednesday 13 December (midday).*

Regular Guided Tour: Please note that, due to organ tuning, the tour on Friday 1 December at 2.00 pm will not take place.

Harold Clarke, Head Tour Guide

Service Music: *Parish Eucharist:* Setting: Darke in E; Anthems: O taste and see, Vaughan Williams; Father, hear the prayer, arr Vaughan Williams; O Lord, increase our faith, Loosemore. Hymns 345 & 398 (395), 452, 272, 373 (Coe Fen). *Choral Evensong:* Introit: O most merciful, Wood; Responses: Smith; Psalm: 12, Goss; Canticles: Stanford in A; Anthem: Let all the world, Vaughan Williams; Hymns: 376, 378.

James Henderson, Director of Music

2023 Abbey Choir CD: The new CD, A Sherborne Christmas, is now available in the Abbey Shop (£10.00). Amongst many favourites is Howells' A Spotless Rose, Rutter's Sans Day Carol, Darke's In the Bleak Midwinter plus an arrangement of Silent Night. Is this the ultimate stocking filler?!

Organ Recitals: On Mondays at 1.30 pm, retiring collection, all welcome:

Monday 27 November 2023 – Arthur Hope-Barton, Organ Scholar, Sherborne Abbey

(This is the final recital in this series; the recital planned for Monday 4 December 2023 has been cancelled due to time pressures with a service in the Abbey at 2.30 pm which would have seen the congregation arriving during the recital; a new series will begin in January 2024.)

Prayer List: *The Sick:* Harry Bond, Bridget Hill, Chris Smallbone, Alan Gillard, Robert Harris, Judith Spelman & Florence Bachelor. *Departed:* John West, Myra Clear & John Eccleston.

Toy Sunday: This Sunday is **Toy Sunday**, the day when all of our churches welcome gifts of toys, books and games for children and young people, plus toiletries/PJs for the mums (to make up 'pamper hampers'), who would otherwise have a lean time of it at Christmas. The recipients are North Dorset Women's Refuge and other local charities. **All** gifts must be **new** and also **unwrapped** (except for their original packaging, of course). Single bedding is also welcome, again must be **new**. Please bring your gift to your church or Parish Office. Many thanks.

The Reverend Martin Lee

Public Consultation Session: The Town Council is holding this session about the replanting of the lime tree avenue in the Abbey Close on Monday 27 November 2023 at the Digby Hall, Hound Street from 2.00 pm until 8.00 pm.

Mike Keatinge

Sherborne Chamber Choir Concert: On Saturday 2 December 2023; 7.30 pm; Sherborne Abbey. 'O Radiant Dawn, music to celebrate Advent and Christmas, from 16th century to the present day. Conductor: Paul Ellis; Organist: Simon Clarkson. Tickets: £5.00 - £18.00 (U18 free); TicketSource 0333 666 3366 or www.sherbornechamberchoir.org.uk.

Rachel Greaves

Mothers' Union: The MU Carol Service will take place in the Lady Chapel on Friday 8 December 2023 at 10.00 am. All welcome!

Jo Higgs, MU Secretary

Salamanca Band of the Rifles Christmas Concert: On Saturday 9 December 2023 at 7.30 pm in The Abbey. *Start Christmas with the Rifles!* Free entry, all welcome, retiring collection.

Christmas Tree Festival: Sherborne Churches Together are again running the popular Christmas Tree Festival at Cheap Street Church from Saturday 2 – Saturday 9 December 2023. We are looking for stewards to cover hourly slots. If you can help please speak to the Curate, Becca, who will be at the Abbey this week (rev.becca.mcdonnell@gmail.com). *The Reverend Rebecca McDonnell*

Julian Group: Not a prayer group; just an opportunity to share ½ hour's silence & meditation with fellow Christians and let God speak to us. The meetings are ecumenical & are very refreshing - why not give it a try? Our next meeting on Wednesday 13 December 2023 and will be held in the Lady Chapel, Sherborne Abbey from 4.00 pm – 4.30 pm. *Shirley Fry (01935 389124)*

New facilities for the Abbey: Proposals to provide new toilet and vestry facilities, and improved accessibility, at Sherborne Abbey are available to view on the Abbey website and in The Lady Chapel. We welcome your feedback on the plans either via www.sherborneabbey.com/new-facilities or in writing to the Parish Office. *PCC/Steering Group*

Abbey Shop: We are now selling Advent calendars & candles plus a great range of Christmas card packs & boxes (some charity and those in aid of the Friends'). Also the popular and inviting annual guide 'Daily Reflections for Advent & Christmas – Waiting in Joyful Hope 2023-2024' (£2.95). Or what about our lovely hand crafted Christmas sweet/chocolate pouches, bookmarks, tree decorations and Remembrance bags made by Jakki Dickson-Smith (with all proceeds going to charities; more details in the shop). Do come and have a look! *Phil Prout, Shop Manager*

EZO Christmas Appeal 2023: Support the work of the Diocese of Ezo, South Sudan, by helping the 700 children of Masumbu School to build a kitchen, grow crops, install solar panels & school resources. Donations by BACS to 'Sherborne Deanery Synod A/C' (Sort Code 60-19-12; a/c 97819735) or cheque (payable to 'Sherborne Deanery Synod A/C') sent to Ezo Link, Milton Brook, Corscombe, Dorset DT2 0NU. Help others to have a future this Christmas - thank you. *Ezo Link*

Parish Office: Due to staff holidays, the office will close at 1.00 pm on Wednesday 29 November & Thursday 30 November and at 12.30 pm on Friday 1 December 2023.

The Benefice Team

Team Rector of Sherborne Abbey with Castleton, St Paul's, Lillington and Longburton:

The Reverend Martin Lee

The Vicarage, Abbey Close, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3LQ.

Tel: 01935 713777 or 07725 593100 Email: martinlee903@btinternet.com

Assistant Curate: The Reverend Rebecca McDonnell Email: rev.becca.mcdonnell@gmail.com

Team Vicar: The Reverend Jim Edie
with particular responsibility for St Paul's

Church, Sherborne. St Paul's Vicarage,

8 Kings Road, Sherborne DT9 4HU.

01935 816444 (office)/revdjim.edie@gmail.com

Associate Priest: The Reverend Hugh Bonsey

with particular responsibility for

St Martin of Tours, Lillington

11 Fairfield, Sherborne DT9 4HG,

01935 812749/Fr.Hugh.Bonsey@gmail.com

St Mary Magdalene, Castleton & St James the Great, Longburton - Contact Sue Lee at the Parish Office (Sue.Lee@sherborneabbey.com) for enquiries about these two churches.

Parish Office – 01935 713777 (Monday – Friday 9.00 am – 3.00 pm (1.00 pm on Mondays))

Email: Joanna.Sams@sherborneabbey.com

Abbey Shop – Staffed hours: Monday - Friday 10.30 am – 3.30 pm; Saturday 10.30 am – 1.00 pm.

Abbey Tours – If you wish to book a tour, please contact the Parish Office.

Website: <https://www.sherborneabbey.com/>