The Upper Nene Benefice

SERVICES SCHEDULE AND NEWSLETTER
December 2026

Rector: Revd Stephen Burrow 07415 691541
Curate: Revd John Robinson 07497 351511

Weds 2nd December - 10:30am Holy Communion — Weedon Church

Sunday 6th December – Advent 2 *(Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8)*

9:30am	Holy Communion	Church Stowe
10:00am	Christmas Tree Festival ending with Carols in the Trees at 4:00pm	Weedon Church
11:00am	Holy Communion	Dodford Church
11:00am	United First Sunday Service	Flore Church
6:00pm	Evening Prayer	Heyford Church
6:00pm	Carol Service	Dodford Church

Saturday 12th December – 2:00pm – 4:00pm Messy Church Christingle — Flore Church

Sunday 13th December – Advent 3 *(Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8a, John 1:6-8, 19-28)*

10:00am	Morning Worship	Flore Chapel
11:00am	Benefice Holy Communion	Upper Stowe

Friday 18th December – 7:00 – Carols on the Green at The Foresters — Heyford

Sunday 20th December – Advent 4 *(Readings: Romans 16:25-end, Luke 1:26-38)*

9:30am	Holy Communion	Weedon Church
10:00am	United Worship	Flore Chapel
3:00pm	Nativity Service	Upper Stowe
5:00pm	Service of Lessons & Carols	Weedon Church
6:00pm	Carols by Candlelight	Heyford Church
6:00pm	Carol Service	Flore Chapel

Thursday 24th December – Christmas Eve *(Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10, John 1:1-14)*

4:00pm	Crib Service	Weedon Church
6:00pm	Village Carol Service	Flore Church
8:30pm	Holy Communion for Christmas	Church Stowe
11:30pm	Midnight Mass	Dodford Church

Friday 25th December – Christmas Day *(Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10, John 1:1-14)*

9:00am	Family Holy Communion	Weedon Church
10:00am	Family Holy Communion	Heyford Church
10:00am	Family Service for Christmas	Upper Stowe
11:00am	Family Holy Communion	Flore Church
11:15am	Holy Communion for Christmas (by extn)	Brockhall Church

Sunday 27th December – Christmas 1 *(Readings: Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Luke 2:15-21)*

9:30am	Sunday Worship	Weedon Church
10:00am	Service of Lessons & Carols	Upper Stowe
11:00am	Benefice Holy Communion	Heyford Church

Midweek Services - Thursdays

10.00am	Holy Communion (Not 31st)	Flore Church
2.30pm - 3.30pm	Church open for private prayer (Not 24th or 31st)	Flore Church

Midweek Services - Fridays

9.00am Morning Prayer via Zoom All Welcome (Not 25th or 1st Jan)
Contact the Rector at *s_p_burrow@yahoo.co.uk* to get an invitation that will enable you to connect.

The Gift of Christmas

I wonder how many nativity plays you have watched over the years and how many times you have been drawn into the Christmas story. There is something about seeing it acted out in front of us that brings it alive each year. Maybe we find ourselves relating to Mary and her willingness to say yes to God, or perhaps you wonder about the shepherds and the unexpected joy they experienced in coming face to face with Jesus, or maybe you find sympathy for all those innkeepers who had no room as you try to squeeze another camp bed into your house for visiting family.

This year the Church of England has produced a booklet of reflections that feature Christians whose daily lives have given them a particular connection with the Gospel stories about the birth of Jesus. The reflections are introduced by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Following Archbishop Sarah's reflection for Christmas Day, we will hear from contributors whose work has required them to keep watch by night; those who have worked to support new parents, to care for new-born lambs or observe the stars. Twelve people – with very different backgrounds and callings – will explore how the blessings of heaven entered so many ordinary lives and invite us to share those blessings by the welcome, hospitality and service we offer to others.

I would encourage you to get a copy of this and to reflect yourselves on the gift of Christmas – what it means to you and to those around you.

May you come face to face with Jesus this Christmas and experience the joy and wonder of his incarnation

'For unto us a child is born'

+ Debbie

The Rt Revd Debbie Sellin, Bishop of Peterborough

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Reverse (Pre-) Advent Calendar

As we've done in previous years, here's a Reverse (Pre-)Advent Calendar which runs from Mon 23rd Nov to Sun 13th Dec. Not all these items seem particularly Christmassy, but they are the things the food bank needs right now to support local people in need. Please set aside one item a day for the foodbank, rather than (or in addition to) opening a window and taking a chocolate from your Advent calendar. Starting and finishing this early means that the things we collect can reach the food bank in time to be distributed in time for Christmas.

Mon 23 Nov Tinned ham or corned beef	*Tue 24 Nov* Packet of Instant Mash	*Wed 25 Nov* Tinned Carrots or Peas	*Thu 26 Nov* Jar of Jam	*Fri 27 Nov* Chocolate Biscuits	*Weekend* Christmas snack selection
Mon 30 Nov Microwave Rice	*Tue 1 Dec* Tinned Rice Pudding	*Wed 2 Dec* Tinned fruit	*Thu 3 Dec* Tinned Custard	*Fri 4 Dec* Jar of Pasta Sauce	*Weekend* Christmas Selection Box
Mon 7 Dec Shampoo or Body Wash	*Tue 8 Dec* Instant Coffee	*Wed 9 Dec* UHT Milk	*Thu 10 Dec* Toothpaste or toothbrushes	*Fri 11 Dec* Tinned Soup	*Weekend* Christmas Biscuits

Thank you for your generosity in the gift services, and in your support for the food bank throughout the year. Your continued kindness is a real blessing to the communities we love and serve and pray for. Thank you.

With love and blessings for Advent and Christmas,

Rev'd Stephen & Rev'd John

Praying for our Villages

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. In Weedon Bec, we pray for people living on Fusilier Way, Princes Close, Dukelands, Navigation Way, Grand Union Way and Wharf Close, and in Dodford, those on Watling Street