

Music at Berwick Parish Church

On Wednesday 17th December at 7.00pm, we are delighted to welcome the professional choir of the Robin Chapel, Edinburgh, who have included us in their Christmas Music tour; we are the only venue south of the border. Many of their other dates were sold out within days of being announced, so this opportunity to hear wonderful Christmas music by candlelight sung by a consort of professional singers is not to be missed. It is an open access concert with refreshments during the interval, with a retiring collection, so please do spread the word, particularly to those who may be struggling or lonely and in need of some cheer.

On Sunday 21st December at 7.00pm, we have our very popular Nine Lessons and Carols service, which this year features music by Bach, Tchaikovsky, Howells, Stopford and of course, Rutter as well as many of your favourite carols with fabulous descants. You'll hear the complete Christmas story told through the traditional Gospel readings, culminating in the powerful start to St. John's Gospel.

Eco Group News

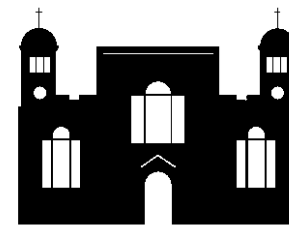
Holy Trinity School's 300th Anniversary Tree will be planted by pupils on Tuesday 2nd December in the churchyard. The school have chosen a flowering cherry tree to complement the older flowering cherry trees, together with a plaque - of stone similar to the the gravestones, laid into the ground.

The November Bring and Buy Plant Sale and the Knitted Christmas Craft Sale have together raised more than £200. Thank you from the Eco Group for every contribution, a proportion of which will be used to enhance the beauty of the churchyard. Further funds were raised for the church by the cafe which supported the Seed Exchange Event, sponsored by the Northumberland Wildlife Trust, on 15th November. The event brought in a large number of people of all ages who enjoyed the warm hospitality of Berwick Parish Church.

Our resident cock pheasant, looking splendid, is again enjoying the bird feeding station under the Rowan tree adjacent to the Parish Centre path, he is surprisingly tame and appears to like being photographed - see the website!

Parish Centre Booking

Bookings can be made via the website using the booking form
<https://berwickparishchurch.co.uk/parish-centre-booking-form/>
or by contacting Linda Foley 07810 611521.



BERWICK PARISH CHURCH

Monthly Messenger

December 2025

Now, I'm not a 'bah humbug' Scrooge, but as my friends well know and comment on frequently, I am an Advent Advocate. I love Christmas, I love the church being full, the carols, the readings, the smell of trees and candles and mince pies. I do. But I also love the waiting to get there!

December isn't Christmas, it's Advent. It's about waiting and anticipating what exactly it means to celebrate the birth of this baby called Jesus at the end of the month. Why is it so important? What are we waiting for? How excited can we be? Advent is the season when we think of all that and we wait.

We are not good at waiting in our 24/7 immediate culture. And this isn't the sitting around, swinging our legs bored kind of waiting, it is an expectant, hopeful waiting, knowing that what we wait for is the baby who changed the world and who can change you and me.

The angel tells Joseph that the baby's name will be Emmanuel, which means God with us. That's what we wait for, for God to be with us as one of us and what that means for each of us as we experience it again.

That's why there is a lot going on this month at Berwick Parish Church, to give you the opportunity to stir up that hopeful waiting. Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 21st December at 6:00pm lets us hear the familiar readings and sing the old carols. The Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 5:00pm is a chance for the younger ones amongst us to re-live the wonder of that first Christmas Day. And at Midnight Mass at 11:30pm on Christmas Eve, Christmas proper starts and I relent and wish everyone a very Happy Christmas!

But not everyone will enjoy this season, for any number of reasons and on Saturday 20th December at 3:00pm we have a Quiet Christmas service, with space for some silence, candles and reflecting on what can sometimes be a difficult time of year.

So, I'm not Scrooge, but I would encourage you to take some time this Advent season to wait, to stop and think about what is coming, to enter into the hope of the season, especially at a time when hope seems rare.

The hope of the Christ child, of God with us, that's what we're waiting for.

Fr Lee Taylor
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Services during the week:

Sunday

8.30am: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am: Parish Eucharist
6.00 pm: First Sunday of the month - Sung Holy Communion (BCP)
Other Sundays - Choral Evensong or Sung Evening Prayer

Monday to Friday

8.30am Morning Prayer
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Thursday:

10:00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Monthly Services

Third Sunday of the month, Tea, Cake and Chat 2.30-4.00pm

Last Tuesday of the month, Julian Prayer Group 11.15am-12.15pm
All are welcome in this time of stillness and silence together, with Mother Julian as our guide. We meet in the choir room at Holy Trinity.

Live streaming of services

Our regular Parish Eucharist is live streamed every week on You Tube.

<https://youtube.com/@holyltrinityberwick/streams>

The stream can either be watched live or as a recording later.

Our privacy policy on live streaming is on the notice board.

Contact Details:

Father Lee Taylor 01289 306136

Churchwardens:

David Mason 07860 360074.
Ann Mawer 01289 763096
Joyce Currie 07407 549543
Roger Barrow 07872 677457

Lay Pastoral Chair Gwynneth Guthrie 01289 308580
Parish Administrator Linda Foley 07810 611521

Special Services this month:

A Quiet Christmas: for those for whom Christmas is a difficult time of year
Saturday 20th December 3:00pm

Nine Lessons and Carols: A traditional service of carols and readings
Sunday 21st December 6:00pm

Crib Service

Christmas Eve 5:00pm

Midnight Mass: Begin Christmas by celebrating the birth of the Christ Child
Christmas Eve 11:30pm

Holy Communion on Christmas Day according to the Book of Common Prayer

Christmas Day 8:30am

The Eucharist of Christmas Day

Christmas Day 10:00am

Don't forget the Twelve Days of Christmas!

10:00am Eucharists on Feast of St Stephen (26th), Feast of St John (27th),
Feast of the Holy Innocents (28th) and The Feast of the Naming and Circumcision
of Jesus (1st January)

The Feast of the Epiphany

Sunday 4th January 10:00am

Charity for this Month

Children's Society

Because no child should feel alone.

Every child should have the right to grow up safe, happy, and hopeful.
Today, in Britain, there are children and young people who feel afraid,
unloved and unable to cope.

The Children's Society works with these young people, step by step,
for as long as it takes.