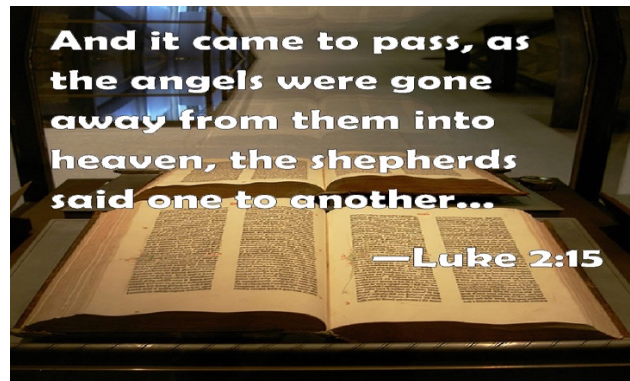


**The Benefice of  
Holy Innocents, Great Barton & St Peter's, Thurston**  
[www.greatbartonandthurston.org.uk](http://www.greatbartonandthurston.org.uk)



**Sunday 31st December**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**

**Readings (NRSV please)**

**8.30am Galatians 4: 4-7. Luke 2: 15-21**

**10.30am Songs of Praise: Isaiah 35: 1-10. Colossians 1: 9-20**

**COLLECT**

Almighty God,  
as we prepare with joy  
to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,  
embrace the earth with your glory  
and be for us a living hope  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**Rev'd Ben Edwards**

**email [revdbenjaminedwards@gmail.com](mailto:revdbenjaminedwards@gmail.com) or call 07522 396397**

**Ben's time off is Friday pm and Saturdays.**

**Churchwardens**

**Holy Innocents Gt.Barton**

**Tim Frost 01284 787442 or 07840 249448**

**Angela Pearce 01359 230395**

**St Peter's Thurston**

**Pat Sadler 01359 230865 or 07552 234443**

**Margery Ashford 01359 231007 or 07443 414622**

**. Reader: Kathy Drakes. Email [kathy@drakesfamily.org](mailto:kathy@drakesfamily.org). 01284 787746**

## Services for this week

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December

Holy Communion (BCP) at St Peter's at 8.30am

Songs of Praise at Holy Innocents at 10.30am

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

No Service

## Services for next week

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Holy Communion (BCP) at St Peter's at 8.30am

Sung Eucharist at Holy Innocents (Patronal) and Epiphany at 10.30am

### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January

Holy Communion (CW) at St Peter's at 10.30am

## Praying for our Benefice

### We pray for;-



- All those who have asked for our prayers and their families: Jane's brother Jon, Alexander, Mary Gould, Ian Baxter, Hayley, Cathy McQueen, Maureen and Peter, David & Pat Sheppard, Roger and Pat Boyes, Noreen Reeve, Alida Scoles, Deidre and Derek Caley, Brenda Rainbow and Jill Rood.
- We pray for those struggling with the cost of living crisis.
- We pray for the family and friends who mourn the loss of a loved one.
- We also remember all those whose anniversaries fall at this time. May they all rest in peace and rise in glory.
- We pray for those who are suffering with illness, in mind body and spirit.
- We pray for those who can only see darkness, may they see light for the future.
- We pray for those families who have welcomed new lives into their families over the festive season.
- We pray for those affected by Storm Gerrit and the Tornado in Stalybridge
- We pray for the people of Great Barton and Thurston

## **Holy Innocents Church Christmas Tree Festival**



**9 December-5 January**

***“FOLLOW THE STAR”***

**You can view the Christmas Tree Festival every day, up to 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

**Holy Innocents is open each day from 10.00am to 4.00pm**

### **Choir Leader**

**The Benefice Choir of Holy Innocents Great Barton and St Peter's Thurston are looking for a Choir Leader.**

**Our choir is looking for someone who will take them forward with new hymns and Anthems; someone to arrange regular practice and lead the choir into the future.**

**You would work with the organist and Fr Ben the Vicar.**

**Our choir sing at all our services including evensong and on occasions at Funerals and Weddings.**

**The choir would also like someone who would encourage them to sing in other venues arranged by the Royal School of Church Music.**

**For more information, please contact Fr Ben at**

**[revdbenjaminwards@gmail.com](mailto:revdbenjaminwards@gmail.com)**

## **Treasurer**

### **Can you help?**

**The Treasurers in both St Peter's Thurston and Holy Innocents are retiring after many years of service to their respective churches.**

**We are now looking for someone to take over the role of the treasurer. The treasurer will be an integral part of our team and will be supported by the relevant PCC's.**

***Perhaps two people could share this role for each church.***

**If you would like more information, please contact one of the following people.**

#### **For St Peter's:**

**Gill Bush at [gillianbush@metronet.co.uk](mailto:gillianbush@metronet.co.uk)**

**Pat Sadler at [patsadler@hotmail.com](mailto:patsadler@hotmail.com)**

#### **For Holy Innocents:**

**Kathy Drakes at [kathy@drakesfamily.org](mailto:kathy@drakesfamily.org)**

**Tim Frost at [timfr0st@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:timfr0st@yahoo.co.uk)**

**Just a reminder, that following the splendid refurb of our porch at St Peter's, Jigsaws are again available to be bought or swapped, at a suggested donation of £2.00**

**Thank you. Churchwardens.**

**STOREHOUSE, PLEASE give generously at this time when so many families are relying on food banks. Thank you**

**Goods and donations for Thurston can be left at No 31, School Rd, Thurston, Jill Rood, donations for Great Barton can be left at Holy Innocents church or with Tim Frost at 2, Diomed Drive, Great Barton.**

**Visit the following to get the latest information :-**

**Website: <https://www.greatbartonandthurston.org.uk>**

**Facebook pages:**

**Holy Innocents: <https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Innocents-Church-Great-Barton-685807921585678/>**

**St Peter's: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Church-Thurston-1790473917903849/>**

**Please email any notices to Peter Robinson [beneficepr@gmail.com](mailto:beneficepr@gmail.com)  
or tel: 07814946841 by **Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024****

**Find us on Facebook**