

**The Benefice of
Holy Innocents, Great Barton & St Peter's, Thurston**
www.greatbartonandthurston.org.uk



Sunday 17th December

3rd Sunday of Advent

Readings (NRSV please)

10.30am Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11. 1 Thess 5: 16-24. John 1 6-8, 19-28

COLLECT

**God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

Rev'd Ben Edwards

email 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. 01284 787746

Services for this week

Sunday 17th December

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

Together Family Church take over St Peter's at 10.00am

Benefice Holy Communion at Holy Innocents at 10.30am

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Peter's at 6.00pm

Wednesday 20th December

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

Services for next week

Friday 22nd December

Carols by Candlelight at Holy Innocents at 7.00pm

Sunday 24th December

Crib Service at St Peter's at 2.00pm:

Crib Service at Holy Innocents at 4.00pm

Midnight Mass at St Peter's at 11.30pm

Midnight Mass at Holy Innocents at 11.30pm

Monday 25th December

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

Christmas Morning Holy Communion at St Peter's at 10.00am

Christmas Morning Holy Communion at Holy Innocents at 10.00am

Wednesday 27th December

No Service

Sunday 31st December

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

Songs of Praise at Holy Innocents 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, Maureen Andrews, John Clark, Alida Scoles, Deidre and Derek Caley, Brenda Rainbow and Jill Rood.
- We pray for those who continue to keep us safe, especially through this festive season.
- We pray for the those continuing to be affected by the war in the Middle East.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia.
- 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, especially remembering the family of Martin Canter.
- We also remember all those whose anniversaries fall at this time. May they all rest in peace and rise in glory.
- 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
5th January 2024.**

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



DECEMBER ONLY

Together Family Church



Takes over
St Peter's Church Thurston
Sunday 17th December
Starting at 10.00am

Christmas Crafts, Carols, and treats.





9 Lessons and Carols

**Hear the story of Christmas and
join us in song with traditional
Christmas Carols'**

**St Peter's Church Thurston,
17th December at 6.00pm.**

**Festive refreshments available
after the service'**



Carols by Candlelight

**Join us in
Holy Innocents Church**

**On Friday 22nd December
7.00pm start.**

**We'll be singing Carols
for everyone.**

**St Peter's Thurston and
Holy Innocents' Gt Barton
Crib Service
Sunday 24th Dec.
St Peter's Church Thurston 2.00pm
&
Holy Innocents' Church Great Barton 4.00pm**



**A service for all the family to enjoy at Christmas.
We look forward to seeing you.**

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.

If you have experience and would like to know more, please contact the following people.

For St Peter's:

Fr Ben at revdbenjaminwards@gmail.com

Gill Bush at gillianbush@metronet.co.uk

Pat Sadler at patsadler@hotmail.com

For Holy Innocents:

Fr Ben at revdbenjaminwards@gmail.com

Kathy Drakes at kathy@drakesfamily.org

Tim Frost at timfr0st@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you



**Holy Innocents' Church Gt Barton
&
St Peter's Church Thurston**

11.30pm Sunday 24th December

Please note the start time of 11.30 pm

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**

Meeting Point is now closed until Wednesday 3rd January.
We hope you have a lovely Christmas & look forward to
seeing you in 2024



At The Church Institute,
The Street,
Great Barton



THE MEETING POINT COMMUNITY CAFÉ

OPENING TIME:

EVERY WEDNESDAY

11.00AM – 1.30PM

LUNCHES SERVED FROM 12.00 NOON

All Welcome!

A Great place to meet up with friends for lunch or to
relax and enjoy a Tea or Coffee with a slice of Cake.

Come and join us for FREE
Tea and Coffee.

We serve Homemade
Cakes, freshly prepared
hot lunches to order.



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
or tel: 07814946841 by **Thurs 21st December**

Find us on Facebook