



## **THE FRIDAY EMAIL**

### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

#### **Friday Thought from Di Kitson:**

Dear Friends,

It has been a week of weeks as we have celebrated with three schools in the church for their Carol concerts. What a joy it has been to hear the children of all ages singing their carols, and also listening to the readings. The pupils have behaved impeccably in the church, coming from Mandeville Primary, Reedings and our own church school in Spellbrook. Earlier in the year I gave a mini church tour to some of the pupils at Reedings and was pleasantly surprised to learn how informed they were of certain monuments and brasses in the church. There will always be a welcome to any of the schools who wish to visit Great St Mary's with its wonderful history and artefacts for all to see.



On Sunday we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent, where we hear readings from Micah and also St. Luke. We shall also be welcoming the Bishop of Hertford as our celebrant at the 9.30am Eucharist.

From our readings, we learn about Mary and Elizabeth both expecting a baby. Mary visits Elizabeth and the baby in Elizabeth's womb leapt for joy as it recognises the Saviour of the world. Never before had God come among his people so closely. Mary and Elizabeth had been chosen by God to bring into the world our Saviour but also John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus. Our reading from the gospel of Luke gives us Mary's wonderful words of the Magnificat.

As we draw closer to Christmas, we may like to offer a prayer: 'Lord help us to be like Mary, to be humble and obedient to your will. Help us to see your presence in our daily lives. May we recognise and welcome you in every moment'.

On Sunday evening we celebrate with our Carol Service, where we have the opportunity to sing carols, hear the Christmas message and listen to our Choir singing a number of anthems.

I look forward to welcoming you there.

*Di Kitson*

**Micah 5:2-5a:**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land  
and tread upon our soil,  
we will raise against them seven shepherds  
and eight installed as rulers.

**Psalm 80:1-8:**

To the leader: on Lilies, a Covenant. Of Asaph. A Psalm.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth  
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might,  
and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears,  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us the scorn of our neighbours;  
our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.

### **Luke 1:39-45 (46-55):**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,  
'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

### **The collect for the fourth Sunday of Advent**

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen



➤ **Details of Sunday 9.30am Eucharist which is also live-streamed**

- ❖ President: Bishop Jane
- ❖ Preacher: Bishop Jane
- ❖ Reader: Sarah Vickers
- ❖ Intercessions: Di Kitson
- ❖ Processional: Hark a thrilling voice is sounding (Tune: Merton)
- ❖ Gradual: O come, O come, Emmanuel (Tune: Veni Emmanuel)
- ❖ Offertory: The people that in darkness sat (Tune: Dundee)
- ❖ Communion: Wake, O wake (Tune: Wachet Auf)
- ❖ Choir Motet: The cherry tree carol (Music: Traditional arr. Shaw)
- ❖ Recessional: Hills of the north, rejoice (Tune: Little Cornard)

➤ **The collect for Midnight Mass**

Eternal God,  
who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on  
earth,  
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.



**READINGS FOR MIDNIGHT MASS - Christmas Eve 11.30pm:**

**Isaiah 52:7-10:**

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'  
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

## **Psalm 98:**

A Psalm.

O sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have gained him victory.  
The Lord has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.  
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.  
Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy  
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming  
to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.

## **John 1:1-14:**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
He was in the beginning with God.  
All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.  
What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.  
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.  
There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.  
He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.  
He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.  
The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.  
He was in the world, and the world came into being through him;  
yet the world did not know him.  
He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who received him, who believed in his name,

he gave power to become children of God, who were born,  
not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.  
And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

➤ **Details of 11.30pm Midnight Mass which is NOT live-streamed**

- ❖ President: Fr Simon Vivian
- ❖ Preacher: Fr Simon Vivian
- ❖ Reader: Gilly Squire
- ❖ Intercessions: Di Kitson
- ❖ Processional: Unto us a boy is born (Tune: Puer Nobis)
- ❖ Gradual: O little town of Bethlehem (Tune: Forest Green)
- ❖ Offertory: It came upon the midnight clear (Tune: Noel)
- ❖ Communion: Love came down at Christmas (Tune: Hermitage)
- ❖ Choir Motet: Torches (Music: Joubert)  
Silent Night (Music: Gruber)
- ❖ Recessional: O come all ye faithful (Tune: Adested Fideles)

➤ **The collect for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord**

Almighty God,  
you have given us your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:  
grant that we, who have been born again  
and made your children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.



**READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING – 9.30am:**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,

and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## **Psalm 96**

O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvellous works among all the peoples.  
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.  
For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens.  
Honour and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.  
Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts.  
Worship the Lord in holy splendour;  
tremble before him, all the earth.  
Say among the nations, 'The Lord is king!  
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.  
He will judge the peoples with equity.'  
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

let the field exult, and everything in it.  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
before the Lord; for he is coming,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with his truth.

### **Titus 2:11-14**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,  
training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions,  
and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,  
while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of  
our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us  
from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his  
own who are zealous for good deeds.

### **Luke 2:1-14**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus  
that all the world should be registered.

This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.  
All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea,  
to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and  
family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who  
was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth,  
and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,  
keeping watch over their flock by night.

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,  
and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them,

'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy  
for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,  
who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you:

you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,  
praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'



➤ **Details of Christmas Morning 9.30am Eucharist which is also live-streamed**

- ❖ President: Revd Tim Weeks
- ❖ Preacher: Revd Tim Weeks
- ❖ Reader: Roger Leigh
- ❖ Intercessions: Huw Lewis
- ❖ Processional: Come, thou Redeemer of the earth (Tune: Puer Nobis Nascitur)
- ❖ Gradual: Once in royal David's city (Tune: Irby)
- ❖ Offertory: O come, all ye faithful (Tune: Adeste Fideles)
- ❖ Communion: Away in a manger (Tune: Away in a manger)
- ❖ Choir Motet: Gabriel's message (Music: Basque arr Petman)  
See him lying in a bed of straw (Tune: Calypso Carol)  
The holly and the ivy (Tune: Traditional)
- ❖ Recessional: Hark the herald (Music: Menhelssohn)

➤ **The collect for the Feast of the Holy Family (Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December)**

O God, who were pleased  
to give us the shining example of the Holy Family;  
graciously grant that we may imitate them  
in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of  
charity,  
and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal  
rewards;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.



➤ **READINGS FOR SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**1 Samuel 2:18-20 & 26**

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod.  
His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year,  
when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.  
Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say,  
'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made  
to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home.  
Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and  
with the people.

**Psalm 148**

Praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars!  
Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for he commanded and they were created.  
He established them for ever and ever;  
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps,  
fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!  
Wild animals and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!  
Young men and women alike,  
old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.  
He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him.  
Praise the Lord!

### **Luke 2:41-52**

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.  
 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.  
 When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this?  
 Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.'  
 He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me?  
 Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?'  
 But they did not understand what he said to them.  
 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them.  
 His mother treasured all these things in her heart.  
 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

➤ **Details of 9.30am Service of the Word, 29<sup>th</sup> December, which is also live-streamed**

- President: Di Kitson
- Preacher: Di Kitson
- Reader: Shirley Dodgshon
- Intercessions: Debbie Cubitt
- Processional: Of the Father's love begotten (Tune: Divinum Mysterium)
- Gradual: While shepherds watched their flocks (Tune: Winchester Old)
- Offertory: Behold, the great Creator makes (Tune: Kilmarnock)
- Choir Motet: In the bleak midwinter (Music: Darke)
- Recessional: Long ago prophets knew (Tune: Personent Hodie)

➤ **The collect for the Epiphany of the Lord (Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January)**

O God,  
 who by the leading of a star  
 manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:  
 mercifully grant that we,  
 who know you now by faith,  
 may at last behold your glory face to face;  
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
 who is alive and reigns with you,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.  
 Amen.



➤ **READINGS FOR SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

**Isaiah 60:1-6**

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
 and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
 For darkness shall cover the earth,  
 and thick darkness the peoples;  
 but the Lord will arise upon you,

and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

### **Psalm 72:1-9**

Of Solomon.

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king's son.  
May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice.  
May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.

May he live while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.  
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth.  
In his days may righteousness flourish  
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

May he have dominion from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.  
May his foes bow down before him,  
and his enemies lick the dust.

## Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,

'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?

For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people,

he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,

'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there,

ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the

place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were

overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

### ➤ **Details of 9.30am Eucharist, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January, which is also live-streamed**

- President: Revd Canon Lindsay Dew
- Preacher: Revd Canon Lindsay Dew
- Reader: Anthony Heard
- Intercessions: Shirley Dodgshon
- Processional: Lord, for the years
- Gradual: We have a gospel to proclaim
- Offertory: Angels from the realms of glory
- Communion: See amid the winter's snow
- Choir Motet: The Linden Tree Carol (arr. Reginald Jacques)
- Recessional: A great and mighty wonder

## **INTERCESSIONS FOR THIS WEEK**

### **For the world-wide Church:**

- ❖ Bishop Alan - Bishop of St Albans
- ❖ Bishop Jane - Bishop of Hertford
- ❖ The Venerable Janet Mackenzie - Archdeacon of Hertford
- ❖ The Revd Gaz Tracey - Area Dean



- ❖ In the Anglican cycle of prayer for Liberia
- ❖ In the Diocesan cycle of prayer for the people and parish of Langford, Ampthill and Shefford.
- ❖ In our Deanery cycle of prayer for the parish and people of Thorley
- ❖ For those being martyred or persecuted for their Christian faith

[\(https://releaseinternational.org/\)](https://releaseinternational.org/)

### For our world:

- ❖ For the victims of Israel and Gaza during the current Israel-Palestinian conflict.
- ❖ For the people of Ukraine, be they in their homeland or refugees in Europe.
- ❖ For just and peaceful governance throughout the world, not least in Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, Sudan, Somalia, China, Haiti, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Yemen, Iran, Pakistan, Myanmar, North Korea, and the DRC.
- ❖ For those suffering from the effects of climate change or natural disaster.
- ❖ For those working to reduce the effects of climate change.
- ❖ For those working to relieve suffering throughout the world.
- ❖ For emergency and keyworkers, scientists and leaders, medical and care workers, and, in this country, particularly for the NHS and social services.
- ❖ For those being unjustly held captive or being persecuted
- ❖ For those who have been abused in body, mind, or spirit.
- ❖ For those who are victims of modern-day slavery and human trafficking.
- ❖ For those who are victims of famine or poverty, praying for the work of the *Shiksha Rath* educational project in New Delhi which we support.
- ❖ For those struggling with addiction.
- ❖ For those who are homeless, and for the work of the *Holy Trinity Night Shelter* in Bishop's Stortford which we support.
- ❖ For those involved in the migrant and refugee situation.
- ❖ For the work of organisations which are working to bring an end to poverty.



### For our town:

- ❖ For the staff and patients of our Central Surgery, the Princess Alexandra, Rivers, and Herts & Essex hospitals, for our care homes, social services, voluntary care sector.
- ❖ For Sawbridgeworth Town Council and for East Herts District Council and our councillors.
- ❖ For local businesses in these uncertain times.
- ❖ For our emergency services.
- ❖ For groups and organisations, including The Hailey Centre and library.
- ❖ For our youth organisations and uniformed brigades.



- ❖ For the pupils, teachers, staff, governors, and parents associated with our local schools, including our church school in Spellbrook, as they prepare for the new school year
- ❖ For those feeling isolated and lonely; particularly those living alone.
- ❖ For those who are concerned about making ends meet, and for organisations such as Harlow Foodbank and the evangelical church's pop-up store seeking to bring aid.

### **For the people of:**

Sunday:	Springhall Lane, The Limes & Southbrook
Monday:	Newton Drive & Lowfield
Tuesday:	The Crest, Dale Court & High Tree Close
Wednesday:	Elmwood & Yewlands
Thursday:	Roseacres & Trustwell Crescent
Friday:	Brook Road, Buttersweet Rise & Merefield
Saturday:	Northfield Road & Edens Mount

### **For the sick, tired, and bereaved, including:**

Sue Adams, Angela Alder, June Allen, Pam Brown, Linda Bowler, Patrick Copeard, Jeanette Dedman, Rachael Dineen, Elsa Duce, Jeanette Ehlers, Jimmy Galvin, Jill Howard, John Ireland, Georgina King, Douglas Rose, Leslie Smith.

### **For those that have died, including:**

- ❖ Susan Cannon RIP
- ❖ Kathleen (Kathy) Schuyler RIP

### **For our dearly departed ones, remembered at their year's mind:**

- ❖ Joy Marshall RIP (23<sup>rd</sup> Dec)
- ❖ Tony Chancellor RIP (23<sup>rd</sup> Dec)
- ❖ Alan Harrison RIP (24<sup>th</sup> Dec)
- ❖ Len Hyam RIP (24<sup>th</sup> Dec)
- ❖ Anne Hamilton RIP (25<sup>th</sup> Dec)
- ❖ Leonard Mason RIP (26<sup>th</sup> Dec)
- ❖ Leonard Moeser RIP (29<sup>th</sup> Dec)
- ❖ Eva Paveley RIP (31<sup>st</sup> Dec)
- ❖ Henry Venables RIP (1<sup>st</sup> Jan)
- ❖ Wendy De La Mothe (2<sup>nd</sup> Jan)
- ❖ Gill Symons RIP (6th Jan)

*God of mission,  
 who alone brings growth to your Church,  
 send your Holy Spirit  
 to give vision to our planning,  
 wisdom to our actions,  
 joy to our worship, and power to our witness.  
 Help our church to grow in numbers,  
 in spiritual commitment to you,  
 and in service to our local community,  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 Amen.*



## NOTICES

### Services and events in church:

- ❖ **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** **9.30am** **Parish Eucharist (CW)**  
*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
**5.00pm** **Christmas Carol Service**  
*Followed by refreshments in Church House*  
*Followed by mince pies and mulled wine*
- ❖ **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December** **3.00pm** **Crib Service**  
*Christmas Eve*  
*A shorter, fun, all-age service*  
*particularly suitable for young children*  
**11.30pm** **Midnight Mass**  
*The first eucharist of Christmas featuring*  
*traditional carols*



- ❖ **Wed 25<sup>th</sup> December**      **9.30am**      **Christmas Morning Eucharist (CW)**  
*Christmas Day*      *Dress as your favourite Bethlehem character for a scratch nativity*



- ❖ **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December**      **9.30am**      **Service of the Word (CW)**  
*Feast of the Holy Family*      *Followed by refreshments in Church House*

***There are no further services this week until Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December***  
***No midweek service on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January***  
***The next Sunday service will be Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January***

***The church will also remain locked during this period.***

***In an emergency, please contact one of our churchwardens.***  
***Contact details can be found at the bottom of this email.***

- ❖ **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January**      **9.30am**      **Parish Eucharist (CW)**  
*Feast of the Epiphany*      *Followed by refreshments in Church House*

➤ **Traditional candlelit Christmas Carol Service – this Sunday at 5pm**

This Sunday sees one of the most popular services in the year: our Christmas carol service. The choir have been preparing, the church will be dappled in the light of many candles, and we'll once again tell the story of Jesus' birth in words and music, featuring many of the traditional carols and hymns we all enjoy singing, before enjoying a mince pie or two and a glass of mulled wine. It will no doubt be a beautiful way to begin the week before Christmas.



➤ **Foodbank**

We are having a Foodbank raffle again this Christmas, with the first prize being a lovely hamper which will be drawn this Sunday, 22nd December. Tickets are £1 each/£5 for a strip. Thank you for your continued support.

*Ann and Cathy*



➤ **Message from Shiksha Rath**

Dear Great St Mary's,

As we end 2024, I would like to say a big "Thank You" for all your help and support to Shiksha Rath. This year



has been quite challenging for us, but it did not deter us from accomplishing our goals. Rather, we are amazed at how we were able to do much beyond our expectations.

This year, three of our children (one male and two female) joined college. The two girls, Priya and Monica, are also doing an internship with Shiksha Rath. Santu has done three months of training in watchmaking and is now working with the leading watchmaking company, Titian, in addition to his college studies. Varun, one of our students who already graduated from college, got married in November.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of December, we are having our Christmas celebration with the whole community of the Outram Line slum. Our children are quite excited to showcase their dances, guitar recital and singing talents to their friends and family. We will be closed for 2 weeks after this for winter break.

Once again, we thank you for journeying with us. We look forward to another new year with our children making great achievements. We also hope that you will continue to journey with us.

Wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Atula Walling*

*Director - Shiksha Rath*

➤ **News from our associated CoE School in Spellbrook**

*Mr Fisher – our Headteacher – writes:*



Our final Wednesday before Christmas has been a very festive day. The whole day has been Christmas focused. The day began with children coming into school in Christmas jumpers, raising money for Save the Children. It continued with a visit from Father



Christmas. He came into each class and spent a few minutes with the children. He asked the children about their favourite parts of Christmas and some children also shared items from their Christmas wish list. He read, "The Night Before Christmas" to the younger children and they loved hearing Father Christmas tell his own story. He then left a little something for every child.

The children then made Christmas hats to wear for Christmas Dinner.



All of the school sat together, the staff and some of our governors worked frantically to serve the children the beautifully prepared Christmas meal from our kitchen. Some of the adults ate with the children so they could then go outside with them whilst the rest of the adults enjoyed their own delicious meal. It was a lovely occasion.



The day ended with a PTA event that involved some stalls and a raffle and the community getting together to sing Christmas songs and Carols led by some of the children and their teachers.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

*Mr Fisher & everyone at Spellbrook Primary*

*Thank you for your ongoing support of Great St Mary's*

## Content for the Newsletter

If you have a notice for the Friday Email, please contact Angela Kenny in the Parish Office by Wednesday lunchtime.

## Contact us

Anthony Heard (Churchwarden)

[anthony@sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk](mailto:anthony@sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk)

Gilly Squire (Churchwarden)

[gilly@sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk](mailto:gilly@sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk)

Di Kitson (Lay Minister)

[diana.kitson@icloud.com](mailto:diana.kitson@icloud.com)

01279 723212

Angela Kenny (Parish Administrator)

[office@sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk)

*Office hours: Tues to Friday 9am-1pm*

01279 726629

***Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December until  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January inclusive  
Will reopen on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January***

Jane Johnson (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

[safeguarding@sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk)

07808 684357

Website:

[www.sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk](http://www.sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for '[Great St Mary's, Sawbridgeworth](#)'

YouTube:

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for '[Great St Mary's, Sawbridgeworth](#)'