



“... and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means God is with us.” Matthew 1.23

This morning's music

349 Immortal, invisible, God only wise
140 Come thou long expected Jesus
463 Lord Jesus Christ
383 Jesus, good above all other
535 O come, O come Emmanuel

This morning's readings and prayers

Isaiah 7.10-16 (reader: Leslie Fletcher); Psalm 80

Romans 1.1-7 (reader: Diane Wynn)

Matthew 1.18-25 (Gospeller: Mark Hewerdine)

Intercessor: Opal Walsh

At the lighting of the Fourth Advent candle

Lord Jesus, light of the world, blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news; blessed is Mary, your mother and ours. Bless your Church preparing for Christmas; and bless us your people who long for your coming.

Collect for 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.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. **Response: Alleluia!**

Post-Communion: 4th Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal.

Readings and readers for Sunday 29 December (Christmas Day readings and readers overleaf)

1 Samuel 2.18-20,26 (reader: Diane Wynn); Psalm 148; **Colossians 3.12-17** (reader: Pam Race);

Luke 2.41-52 (Gospeller: Opal Walsh); Intercessor: Helen Reid

Tea and coffee are served in the Community Hall after the Sunday morning service

Today

6.30pm Carol Service – a mix of traditional and modern

We have now fully paid our Parish Share – the money we pay to the Diocese each year to support its mission, particularly clergy salaries. Please take a chocolate on the way out to celebrate paying what is always our biggest bill – £23,766 in 2019.

Christmas Greetings Board

Please contribute a picture, Christmas card, poem or other form of Christmas greeting to the greetings board, rather than sending multiple cards to people in the congregation. Donate money saved to the Children's Society.

Christmas services

Christmas Eve	11.30pm	First Communion of Christmas
Christmas Day	10.00am	Holy Communion with carols and sermon
Sunday 5 January	10.00am	Parish Eucharist for The Epiphany

Midnight Mass

Readings & readers for Christmas Day

Isaiah 52.7-10 (Reader: Helen Reid); Psalm 98; **Titus 2.11-14** (Reader: Trena Radcliffe); **John 1:1-14** (Gospeller: Opal Walsh), Intercessor: Jenny Black

Christmas Morning

Isaiah 9. 2-7 (Reader: Jenny Black); Psalm 96; **Titus 2.11-14** (Reader: Trena Radcliffe); **Luke 2:1-20** (Gospeller: Mark Hewardine), Intercessor: Helen Reid

The Foodbank

Why not create a Reverse Advent calendar for the Foodbank? Find a box and put a food item or a Christmas treat in it for every day in Advent.

Please put ...

... your used stamps into the official box for the Royal Institute for the Blind

Congregational appeal – a baby change unit for the Community Hall

There are sometimes babies at our regular services, at baptisms (of course!) and in the week as more community groups use the Hall. A well-engineered fold-away baby change unit will cost about £400, including installation and necessary adaptation of the wall. Thinking about the Infant Jesus in a manger, could you contribute to the cost of this? This appeal will be open until Epiphany – Sunday 5 January