

Teign Valley & Haldon Hill Mission Community
Scattered Church: Worship at home on 21/12/25 Advent 4

Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, thou key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

*from the Great O Antiphons 12th-13th century
trans. John Mason Neale 1818-1866*

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you
and also with you.

Loving God, we have come to worship you.
**Help us to pray to you in faith,
to sing your praise with gratitude,
and to listen to your word with eagerness;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:
'You shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.'
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God
through Jesus the Saviour of the world. **Amen.**

cf Matthew 1.21

**God of mercy,
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,**

**forgive us for all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May God, who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour,
forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? 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. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 1:18-end

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been

spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

(Dial 01647 407047 to hear it again during the week)

Affirmation of faith

Let us declare our faith

God who is Father, Son and Spirit.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

cf Ephesians 3

Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

cf Luke 1.78,79

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Notices

**Lord our God,
on the first day of creation you made the light that scatters the darkness.
Let Christ, the light of lights, hidden from all eternity,
shine at last on your people and free us from the darkness of sin.
Fill our lives with joy as we go out to welcome your Son at his coming.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of Almighty God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be among you and
remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age to same;
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

*Timothy Dudley-Smith b1926
based on Luke 1:46-55*

Telephone Services

(Call 0333 0110 616; code 334 7721)

Wednesdays at 6pm: Evening Prayer

Sundays at 9am: Sunday Worship – a half hour Service of the Word: hymns, readings and prayers

Church Services

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| Dec 21 Advent 4 | 10.30am MC HC St James Christow 5.00pm Carol Service St Michael Doddiscombsleigh 6.30pm Carol Service St Mary Dunsford |
| Christmas Eve | 4.00pm Crib Service St Mary Dunsford 6.00pm Carol Service St Thomas Becket Bridford 9.00pm Christmas Night HC St Michael & All Angels Dunchideock 10.00pm Carol Service St John the Baptist Ashton 10.00pm Christmas Midnight HC St Michael Doddiscombsleigh 10.00pm Christmas Midnight HC St Mary Dunsford |
| Christmas Day | 10.30am Christmas morning HC St James Christow 10.30am Christmas Family Service St Mary Dunsford |
| Dec 28 Christmas 1 | 10.30am MC HC St Michael & All Angels Dunchideock 10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford |

2026

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| Jan 4 Epiphany | 10.30am HC St John the Baptist Ashton 10.30am HC St Michael Doddiscombsleigh 10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford |
| Jan 11 Baptism of Christ | 10.30am HC St Thomas Becket Bridford 10.30am HC St Michael & All Angels Dunchideock 10.30am Family Service St Mary Dunsford |
| Jan 18 Epiphany 2 | 10.30am MC HC St James Christow 10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford |
| Jan 25 Conversion of St Paul | 10.30am MC HC St Michael Doddiscombsleigh 10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford 4.00pm Forest Church |
| Feb 1 Candlemas | 10.30am HC St John the Baptist Ashton 10.30am HC St James Christow 10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford |
| Feb 8 2 before Lent | 10.30am HC St Thomas Becket Bridford 10.30am HC St Michael & All Angels Dunchideock 10.30am Family Service St Mary Dunsford |
| Feb 15 Sunday before Lent | 10.30am HC St Michael Doddiscombsleigh 10.30am HC St Mary Dunsford |
| Feb 18 Ash Wednesday | 6.00pm HC St James Christow |
| Feb 22 Lent 1 | 10.30am MC HC St Mary Dunsford 4.00pm Forest Church Ashton |

Mar 1 Lent 2

10.30am HC St John the Baptist Ashton

10.30am HC St James Christow

10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford

Mar 8 Lent 3

10.30am HC St Thomas Becket Bridford

10.30am HC St Michael & All Angels Dunchideock

10.30am Family Service St Mary Dunsford

Mar 15 Mothering Sunday **10.30am HC St Michael Doddiscombsleigh**

10.30am HC St Mary Dunsford

Want to make a donation?

Use the QR codes below, or go to <https://www.achurchnearyou.com> and search for the parish you want to support....remember to Gift Aid your donation if you can....thank you!



Ashton



Bridford



Christow



Doddiscombleigh



Dunchideock



Dunsford