

**SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER, ADVENT 4**

**8.30am BCP Holy Communion**

We welcome The Ven. Alex Hughes, to lead our service.



**10am Experience & Explore**

Our Local Team will lead our service.

**COLLECT**

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**READINGS (in pew bibles)**

NT Romans 1. 1-7 (p. 162)

GOSPEL Matthew 1. 18 to the end (p. 1)

**South American Peace**

The peace of the earth be with you,  
The peace of the heavens too;  
The peace of the rivers be with you,  
The peace of the oceans too.  
Deep peace falling over you;  
God's peace growing in you.

**WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE**

**3pm Christingle Service**

We welcome The Revd Sarah Atkins, Dean of Chapel at Magdalene College, to lead our service.

**11pm Midnight Communion**

We welcome The Revd Ceri Payne to lead our service.

**THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY**

**8.30am BCP Holy Communion**

**10am Holy Communion (Common Worship)**

We welcome The Revd Sarah Atkins, Dean of Chapel at Magdalene College, who is leading our services today.

For 11pm, 8.30am and 10am:

**COLLECT**

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.

**READINGS (in pew bibles)**

NT Titus 2. 11-14 (p. 230-231)

GOSPEL Luke 2. 1-14 (p. 62)

**SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER**

**THE HOLY INNOCENTS/CHRISTMAS 1**

**9am Said Morning Prayer**

Our Local Team will be leading our service

**CONTACTS**

**CHURCH WEBSITE** [www.trumpington.church](http://www.trumpington.church)

The church is now in Vacancy, please refer any queries to the Churchwardens and, during office hours, to Emma.

**CHURCHWARDENS**

Edmund Brookes 01223 840374

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Organist – Geoff Symon [organist@trumpington.church](mailto:organist@trumpington.church)

Choir Leader – Alan Howard [choir@trumpington.church](mailto:choir@trumpington.church)

Parish Safeguarding Officer – Sheila Betts 07889 706625

[safeguarding@trumpington.church](mailto:safeguarding@trumpington.church)

**CHURCH OFFICE – OPENING TIMES**

9am-1pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Emma's email address is: [admin@trumpington.church](mailto:admin@trumpington.church)

Please note the office is closed 23 Dec to 4 Jan inclusive.

*If you want to put a note in the pewsheets, please contact Emma in the office, no later than 9am Wednesday if the note is intended for the forthcoming Sunday. Thank you.*

**CAN YOU HELP ASSEMBLE THE CHRISTINGLE KITS?**

We shall be doing this tomorrow, Monday 22 December at 10am in the Bakehouse for about an hour.

*Please tell Sheila or Edmund if you can help.*

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

The church looked glorious with all the beautifully dressed trees, especially for the candlelit Carol Service last Sunday. A huge THANK YOU to all who took part, all who supported the festival by visiting and all the volunteers who helped in any way with the event.

The winners of the fiercely fought competition were:

Adult groups: Trumpington Kids Clothes Hub

Children's groups: 1st Trumpington Cubs

Adult Individual: Fair Trade Tree, Barbara Burgess

Family: The Gingerbread Tree, the Gill Family

Sheila Betts, Churchwarden

**BIBLE STUDY**

Please contact one of the Churchwardens if you would like to join a group (Tuesday evening online or alternate Wednesday evenings in person) and they will put you in touch with the group leader.

**BOOK GROUP**

The Group is reading *The Islandman* by Tomàs O'Crohan, to discuss at the next meeting on Thursday 29 January. *The author's sole purpose in writing this book was, he wrote, "to set down the character of the people about me so that some record of us might live after us, for the like of us will never be seen again." This is an absorbing narrative of a now-vanished way of life, written by one who had known no other.*

All welcome – no invitation needed! For more information, please email [bookgroup@trumpington.church](mailto:bookgroup@trumpington.church)

**GIVING**

If you would like to make a donation in support of the life and ministry of our church, you can:

- Leave a cash donation in the plate provided
- Make a contactless donation using the GoodBox
- Use a yellow envelope. If you pay tax we can claim the Gift Aid, but only if you fill out your details.

Please speak to Edmund about making a regular electronic gift and the best way to do this. *Everything helps – thank you!*

**WHAT'S ON** Check out the noticeboard in North Chapel

## A sign of grace

Heather Smith *reflects on* Isaiah 7:10-16  
and Romans 1:1-7

**K**ing Ahaz has signed away Judah's liberty; they are now a vassal state of Assyria. Isaiah has come to give God's word to Ahaz and he is offered a sign. Surely a sign from God is a good thing? But Ahaz refuses it.

An Old Testament sign explains something that cannot be readily understood. So for example the sabbath is a sign of God's covenant. Signs like these usually end up forcing someone to change their mind or move forward in a way they haven't quite intended.

God gives Ahaz a sign anyway. We know it as a prophecy foretelling the birth of Christ: "the young woman is with child and shall bear a son", but it also refers to God's plan to liberate Judah from Assyria. Ahaz has taken a line-of-least-resistance approach to ruling, allowing pagan practices to flourish. God's deliverance might require Ahaz to stand up for what is right, not something for which he has shown much inclination so far.

We understand the sign of Christ's birth to the young woman Mary as grace – unearned favour from God. Opening his letter, Paul greets the Romans with the words "Grace to you", which seems a comfortable reassuring greeting. But it is just like the sign. God's unearned favour requires us to make a change in the way we live. 🍵

**God of grace, help us respond to your sign this Christmas. Show us how to change the direction of our lives and to stand up for what is righteous and true. Amen.**

## Christmas decorations

## Part 3 – the star

by Gillian Cooper

The star is in its usual place on the top of the tree. It properly belongs to Epiphany, not Christmas – the wise men will not follow it until January. But there it is, a piece of tradition, interchangeable with a fairy. Both star and fairy are magical. Both are the stuff of stories. Both have the traditional appeal to children. But the star has

a magic far deeper and more true. It tells us that there is a plan. That God has prepared for this moment, and has put the signposts in place. It tells us that for those with eyes to see, there is a path to salvation. It opens up access to all outside the Jewish community of Bethlehem and Nazareth. It marks the point in time and space where heaven and earth meet, and our way to heaven is secured. No fairy wand can do that kind of magic. 🍵

“The eternal Son became a child so that I might become a child again and so re-enter with him into the kingdom of the Father.”

Henri Nouwen (1932-1996), Dutch Roman Catholic priest, writer and theologian

## Walking with Rosie

## Waiting

by Gillian Cooper

It is the dark time of the year – light appearing late and leaving early. Rosie and I walk often in the dawn or the twilight. Rosie is not bothered by the gloom – she knows that there is a treat from the Advent calendar awaiting her at home. The streets and shops are adorned with Christmas lights to cheer us up. But I must ignore them for now.

We are in the season of waiting. Advent calls us to resist the lure of the tinsel and the carols until the right time. We are asked to consider the most serious things of human life – heaven, hell, death and judgement. We are encouraged to watch and listen for signs of light and hope, not denying the depths of the darkness around us on the earth. Only then will we be ready to welcome the light of the world, born for us again. 🍵