

December 2025 Edition 118

*Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord! Psalm 27:14*

God's Coming Is Our Becoming

A Reflection for Advent and Christmas at St Mary's Cuddington

We live in a world that moves at incredible speed. Messages travel instantly. Decisions are made quickly. Technology has reshaped the way we work, communicate, and even rest. We can order what we need with a single click, track our day with apps, and stay connected across continents effortlessly. Yet in the middle of this fast, efficient, always-on culture, Advent arrives and invites us into something beautifully countercultural: **waiting**.



Advent is a season of holy anticipation—an invitation to slow down, to wait, and to prepare. We look forward not only to the celebration of Christ's birth in Bethlehem but also to his promised return. Yet Advent also reminds us that God continues to come to us *now*—in our daily lives, in our community, and in the quiet movements of our hearts.

At **St Mary's Cuddington**, we know this well. Our church stands as a living testimony to the ways God's presence has shaped individuals, families, and the whole parish across generations.

A Church Built by Faith, Love, and Sacrifice

When we step into St Mary's today and look around, we see more than stones and mortar. **Each brick carries a story**—a story of those who gave generously, served faithfully, and sustained this parish through prayer and dedication. These were people who offered their time, resources, and hearts not because they sought recognition, but because they had encountered God's coming in their own lives.

They knew, perhaps more deeply than we realise, that God's love is boundless.

They experienced God's hope in times of sadness and loss.

They knew God's peace in seasons of uncertainty.

They celebrated God's joy in moments of community and friendship.

Their stories remind us that Advent and Christmas are not simply events to be observed—they are *realities to be lived*. God comes, and in response, we become.

God's Coming Today

As we look ahead, we are not called to rebuild the past, nor to recreate a golden age of the parish. Instead, we are invited to make faithful choices *today*—choices through which we share the joy of Christ with our neighbours, strengthen our church community, and recognise the divine nature in each person God brings across our path.

This is the meaning of “God's Coming as Our Becoming.”

Throughout Scripture, when God comes to humanity, He brings transformation:

- God's coming brings *hope* to those in despair.
- God's coming brings *peace* where there is division.
- God's coming brings *joy* to hearts that have grown weary.
- God's coming brings *love* that overcomes barriers and prejudices.

And because God comes, we are empowered to become:

- a people of forgiveness rather than resentment,
- a community of compassion rather than indifference,
- a church of welcome rather than exclusion,
- bearers of light rather than shadows.

Human beings can be transactional—giving only where we expect return. But God's coming in Christ teaches us a different way: to recognise the image of God in each person, to love beyond boundaries, and to offer kindness even where it is not expected.

This divine nature is not distant or unreachable. It is already within us because Christ dwells in us. When we embrace that truth, we discover the courage to serve, to reconcile, to create, and to build up the community God has entrusted to us. Across history, Christians inspired by God's coming have transformed societies—abolishing slavery, advancing healthcare, shaping education, nurturing peace, and lifting up the vulnerable. They allowed God's coming to shape their becoming, and we are invited to do the same.

A Season of Hope for St Mary's Cuddington

As we celebrate Advent and Christmas this year, let us remember that:

- God comes to us in the ordinary moments of family life.
- God comes to us in our work and responsibilities.
- God comes to us in the fellowship of this parish.
- God comes to us in our joys and in our struggles.

Christ's birth reminds us that God delights in drawing nearby. His presence lifts us, renews us, and sends us out to love one another with courage and generosity.

Advent is also a time to respond to God's calling and to the church's invitation to give—your time, your gifts, your support, and your presence. Many of you have already offered creative ideas for reaching our community, and many continue to give generously of your time and resources to the life of St Mary's. We are deeply grateful. As we look to the future, we warmly invite others who feel called to contribute or serve in any area of our ministry and mission to join us in this joy of sharing. We hope to grow and do new things as we work toward becoming a financially sustainable church, free from ongoing deficits. Please support St Mary's in every way you can, so that together we may continue to be a blessing to our parish and community.

May this Advent be a time of renewal for St Mary's Cuddington—a season in which we feel afresh the movement of God's Spirit calling us to grow, to hope, and to become the people God created us to be.

May God bless you, strengthen you, and fill your home and heart with the joy of Christ's coming this Christmas.

December Services and Events

Monday 1	19.30	Advent Bible Study in the Leverton Room
Wednesday 3	10.30	Knit & Natter Group in the Leverton Room
Sunday 7	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Sung Communion
	19.00	Epsom & Ewell Silver Band Concert
Monday 8	19.30	Advent Bible Study in the Cuddington Hall
	19.30	Knit & Natter Group in the Leverton Room
Sunday 14	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Sung Communion
Monday 15	19.30	Advent Bible Study in the Cuddington Hall
Thursday 18	14.30	Afternoon Club in the Cuddington Hall
Saturday 20	10.00	Women's Group in the Cuddington Hall
Sunday 21	09.30	Sung Communion and Children's Groups
	18.30	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Wednesday 24	16.00	Families' Christingle and Crib Service
	23.30	Midnight Communion
Thursday 25	10.00	Christmas Family Communion with Carols
Sunday 28	09.30	Sung Communion

Morning Prayer is said in church every weekday morning at 9am

Everyone is very welcome

