

## COLLECT

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.

## FIRST READING Isaiah 7:10-16

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

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."

## PSALM Psalm 80:1-8. 18-20



**R** Turn us again, O God; show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you that led Joseph like a flock;  
Shine forth, you that are  
enthroned upon the cherubim,  
before Ephraim, Benjamin and  
Manasseh.



Turn us a-gain, O God, show the light of your coun-ten-ance,

and we shall be saved.

Stir up your mighty strength  
and come to our salvation. **R**

O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry at your  
people's prayer?  
You feed them with the bread of  
tears;  
you give them abundance of tears  
to drink.  
You have made us the derision of  
our neighbours.  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn. **R**

Let your hand be upon the man at  
your right hand,  
the son of man you made so  
strong for yourself.  
And so will we not go back from  
you;  
give us life, and we shall call upon  
your name. **R**

## SECOND READING Romans 1:1-7

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*

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 Christ 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.

## GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-end

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

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.

## POST COMMUNION

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.



# Christmas Day

Thursday 25 December 2025

## COLLECT

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.

## FIRST READING Isaiah 52:7-10

*A reading from the book of the prophet  
Isaiah.*

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 Psalm 98

*R Sing to the Lord a new song, for  
he has done marvellous things.*

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.  
His own right hand and his holy arm  
have won for him the victory. **R**

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
his deliverance has he openly shown in  
the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered his mercy and  
faithfulness towards the house of  
Israel,  
and all the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God. **R**

Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth  
break into singing and make music.  
Make the music to the Lord with the  
lyre,  
with the lyre and the voice of melody.  
With trumpets and the sound of the  
horn  
sound praises before the Lord, the  
King. **R**

Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,  
the world and all that dwell upon it.  
Let the rivers clap their hands  
and let the hills ring out together before  
the Lord, for he comes to judge the  
earth.  
In righteousness shall he judge the  
world,  
and the peoples with equity. **R**

## SECOND READING

### Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]

*A reading from the letter to the  
Hebrews.*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors  
in many and various ways by the  
prophets, but in these last days he  
has spoken to us by a Son, whom he  
appointed heir of all things, through  
whom he also created the worlds. He  
is the reflection of God's glory and the  
exact imprint of God's very being, and  
he sustains all things by his powerful  
word. When he had made purification  
for sins, he sat down at the right hand  
of the Majesty on high, having become  
as much superior to angels as the name  
he has inherited is more excellent than  
theirs. [For to which of the angels did  
God ever say, "You are my Son; today  
I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will  
be his Father, and he will be my Son"?]  
And again, when he brings the firstborn  
into the world, he says, "Let all God's  
angels worship him." Of the angels he  
says, "He makes his angels winds, and  
his servants flames of fire." But of the  
Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is  
for ever and ever, and the righteous  
sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.  
You have loved righteousness and  
hated wickedness; therefore God, your  
God, has anointed you with the oil of

gladness beyond your companions."  
And, "In the beginning, Lord, you  
founded the earth, and the heavens are  
the work of your hands; they will perish,  
but you remain; they will all wear out  
like clothing; like a cloak you will roll  
them up, and like clothing they will be  
changed. But you are the same, and  
your years will never end."]

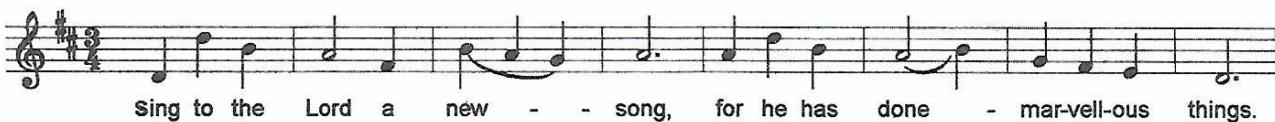
## GOSPEL John 1:1-14

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus  
Christ according to John.*

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.

## POST COMMUNION

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the Lord.



### COLLECT

Heavenly Father,  
whose children suffered at the  
hands of Herod,  
though they had done no wrong:  
by the suffering of your Son  
and by the innocence of our lives  
frustrate all evil designs  
and establish your reign of  
justice and peace;  
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.

### FIRST READING

#### Jeremiah 31:15-17

*A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.*

Thus says the LORD: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the LORD: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the LORD: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the LORD: your children shall come back to their own country.

### PSALM Psalm 124

**R** *Our help is in the name of the Lord.*

If the Lord himself had not been on our side,  
now may Israel say;  
If the Lord had not been on our side,  
when enemies rose up against us; **R**

Then would they have swallowed us alive

when their anger burned against us;  
Then would the waters have overwhelmed us  
and the torrent gone over our soul;  
over our soul would have swept the raging waters. **R**

But blessed be the Lord  
who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.  
Our soul has escaped  
as a bird from the snare of the fowler;  
the snare is broken and we are delivered. **R**

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
who has made heaven and earth. **R**

### SECOND READING

#### 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

*A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.*

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

### GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-18

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

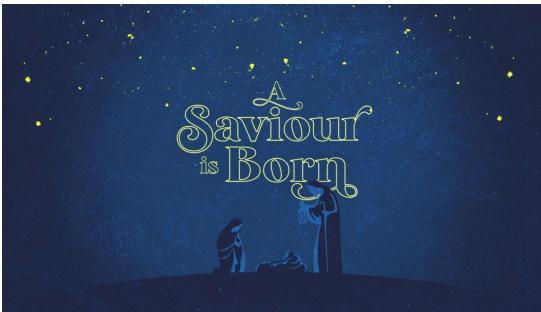
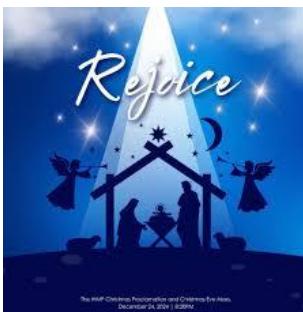
After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,

"Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son". When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

### POST COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,  
in your humility you have stooped to share our human life  
with the most defenceless of your children:  
may we who have received these gifts of your passion  
rejoice in celebrating the witness of the holy innocents  
to the purity of your sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;  
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.



**Welcome to all!  
Diary Dates for Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 onwards**

Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	Advent 4		
	<b>10.30am</b> <b>4.00pm</b>	<b>St G</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist; Welcomer:</b> Darrell, <b>Crucifer:</b> David, <b>Readers:</b> Sylvia C & Paul, <b>Intercessions:</b> Derek, <b>Coffee:</b> Stella and Sue <b>Family Carol service:</b> Relaxed, informal service with carols, readings and drama <b>No Evensong at St Margaret's</b>
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	5.00pm	<b>Zoom</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>10.00am</b> 5.00pm	<b>St G</b> <b>LC</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b> <b>Evening Prayer</b>
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>8.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b> <b>5.00pm</b> <b>11.30pm</b>	<b>Zoom</b> <b>St G</b> <b>LC</b> <b>St G</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b> <b>Family Nativity Fun</b> <b>Evening Prayer</b> <b>Midnight Mass:</b> Crucifer Sylvia C: <b>Readers</b> Lynne and Sylvia: <b>Intercessions</b> Gioia
Thu 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>St M</b>	<b>Family Celebration with Eucharist</b>
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>			Church Office closed
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>			
Sun 28th	<b>The Holy Innocents</b>		
	<b>9.00am</b> <b>10.30am</b>	<b>St M</b> <b>St G</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist;</b> <b>Parish Eucharist; Welcomer:</b> Erna, <b>Crucifer:</b> Roger, <b>Readers:</b> Derek and Joceline <b>Intercessions:</b> Susan, <b>Coffee:</b> Sylvia E

**St G = St George's, St M = St Margaret's, MH = Main Hall, SH = Small Hall, SL = Softley Lounge, LC = Lady Chapel**

**We pray for:** Peter, George, Terry, Phil, Sarah, Andy and children, Paul and children.

**Hymns at St George's:** 282 Hills of the north: 314 Immortal invisible: 47 As we are gathered: 552 O worship the Lord:

**Midnight Mass hymns:** 330 It came upon a midnight clear: 479 O come all ye faithful: O Holy night – Sylvia solo or video: 370 Joy to the world:

**Wishing everyone a lovely Christmas – may you know the love, joy and hope the Jesus brings**

**Thank you:** To all involved in the Valley Bridge and Harewood Junior services in church last week

**Christmas Cards alternative:** Message on our screens for a donation see David if you are interested!

**No Evensong at St Margaret's today (21<sup>st</sup>) Carol Service at St George's at 4.00pm**

**No Coffee Pot this week:** back on 30<sup>th</sup> December

**It's OK to be not OK:** Christmas can be a difficult time for some, please do reach out to the team if you need support

**Foodbank:** Closed for Christmas; next collection Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January:

**CONTACTING US:**

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