

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

[80:1-8]

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.

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.



Turn us a-gain, O God, show the light of your coun-ten-ance, and we shall be saved.

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."]

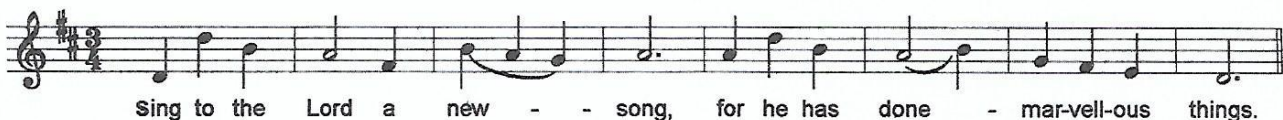
GOSPEL John 1:1-14

*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.



Sunday

28 December 2025

The Holy Innocents

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.*

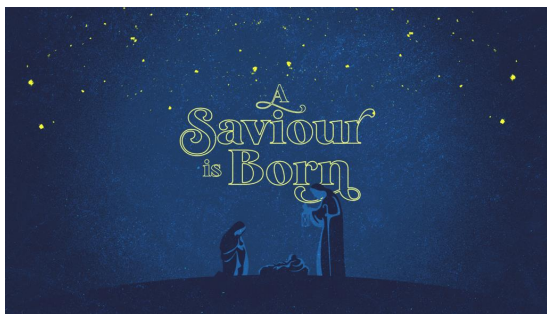
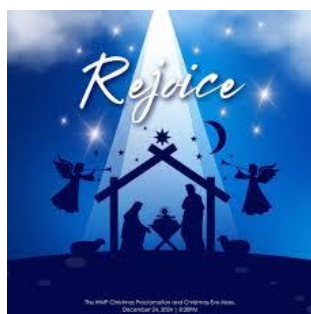
After the wise men had left, an
angel of the Lord appeared to
Joseph in a dream and said,

"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.





Welcome to all!
Diary Dates for Sunday 21st December 2025 onwards

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

No Coffee Pot this week: back on 30th 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 2nd January:

CONTACTING US:

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