

**The Parishes of Adbaston, Gnosall, High Offley & Knightley,  
Moreton and Norbury  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December. (Advent 4)**

**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.**

**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: 18-25**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew: **Glory to you O Lord.** 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.**

**In our year's mind (St Lawrence, Gnosall) we remember:** Emily Mary Cork, John Lloyd Powell, Patricia Marion Ellis, Sandra Botfield, Frank Cyril Jones, Nancy Mary Allcock, Elsa Mary Bancroft, Isabel Ray Gillard, Rebekkah Eve Smart, Richard Anthony Gough.

**Notices**

**This Week's Services- 21<sup>st</sup> December**

**Gnosall 8am** Communion by Extn  
**10:30am** Holy Communion  
**Norbury 3pm** Crib and Carols  
**Adbaston 3pm** Crib and Carols  
**Knightley 6:30pm** Carol Service

**Christmas Services**

**24<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Eve**

**Gnosall 4pm** Messy Crib Service  
**Gnosall 11:15pm** Christmas Communion  
**Moreton 3pm** Christmas Communion  
**Adbaston 7pm** Christmas Communion by Extn  
**Knightley 9pm** Christmas Communion

**25<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Day**

**Gnosall 9am** Holy Communion  
**Norbury 10:30am** Holy Communion

**Next Week's Service- 28<sup>th</sup> December**

**Adbaston 10:30am** Benefice Service of Holy Communion

**Churches Together Carol Service**

This will be in Gnosall - 6.30pm at the Methodist Chapel on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>. Please join us.

**Coffee and Chat**

Join us for Coffee and Chat 10:30-12:30 at St Lawrence Church. 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month. All Welcome.

### **St. Lawrence Church Flowers**

We will decorate the Church for Christmas on Monday 22nd December from 9am to 11am. Please bring your own flowers and greenery. Everyone welcome. Donations for flowers may be given to Helen Air.

### **Norbury Christmas Tree Festival**

Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas Tree Festival at Norbury Church. The winning Tree was 'Little Donkey' by Messy Church. Second place was 'We Three Kings' by Woodseaves C of E and third was 'I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas; by Isabel Cope. Well done to all who took part and thank you to those who volunteered on the day.

### **Children's Society Thanks.**

The money raised for the Children's Society through this year's box collection was £908.17. Huge thanks to all box holders and those who collected the boxes and counted the money. Yvonne Cannell.

### **Thank you**

Christian Food is grateful to everyone across the Gnosall Benefice who contributed to the generous harvest donations this autumn. Your generosity means that we can face the winter able to support struggling families and individuals with some confidence. Our prayers and thanks, Cathy Lister

Saint Lawrence School has offered to do a further collection to help us with our Christmas packages. School families will be donating not just the essentials but some treats to pop into individual and family bags for the hungry in the Stafford area over Christmas. If you are attending Vespers please consider bringing along a gift for Christian Food Help –Christmas chocolates, sweets or biscuits, nice soap or other 'luxury' donations. We shall add them to the school contributions.

### **Annual Christmas Globetrotters' Run**

Thank you to all the runners and donators who took part in the third annual church foodbank run. We collected a large car full of food and all runners limped home happy and exhausted. The

donations were taken to House of Bread the very next day by Sarah and Mark. Another successful run this year!

### **Eco Tip of the Month**

This season, let's reflect on the story that we wish our actions and choices to tell. Consider A Rocha UK's blog on journeying towards a zero-waste Christmas [arocha.org.uk/journeying-towards-a-zero-waste-christmas](http://arocha.org.uk/journeying-towards-a-zero-waste-christmas). May our hearts and our celebrations align with the simplicity and beauty of the Christmas story

### **Just Giving Pages**

We have a Just Giving page for 3 of our churches so far. Please scan the correct QR code if you would like to donate this way. Giving via Lichfield Diocese means Gift Aid is reclaimed on behalf of the church and all donations are passed to us without any fees or commission.

Gnosall



Adbaston



Norbury



### **Contact Details for the Church Office.**

Phone: 01785 822820 Benefice Administrator: Victoria Hainsworth  
Office email: [churchofficegnosall@gmail.com](mailto:churchofficegnosall@gmail.com)  
Office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 9-12.00, Friday 9-1:00. During the Benefice Vacancy please contact Gnosall Vicarage by phone or email with enquiries related to regular services and funerals or to book weddings or baptisms. When the office is not staffed leave a message and someone will reply as soon as possible.