



21st December 2025

Advent Four

In here you'll find today's hymns and readings, and this week's notices to use alongside the Advent Holy Communion order of service.

Prayer ministry will be available during the distribution of Holy Communion. Our prayer ministry team is small at the moment. We are still committed to offering prayer and for the time being we will be using a short Celtic prayer for healing. Anyone is welcome to come and receive prayer.

Opening Hymn: Come thou long expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Our true strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Collect¹

You are a God of disgraced and shamed peoples
the one who stands alongside those in desperate and
hard places.

You prepared Mary and stood by your servant
in her desperate and hard place
pregnant, misunderstood and alone.

You spoke through angels and dreamers,
embraces and encounters,
and announced to us your presence.

Immanuel, be with us and take away our fear,
that we may be free to choose what is good
and stand against all that is evil. **Amen.**

¹ ¹ Graham Turner, *Alternative Collects: Prayers to a Disruptive & Compassionate God*, Sacristy Press, 2018

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹² But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³ Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ 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.

Gradual hymn: Long ago prophets knew

Number 58 in Common Praise

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus,

for he will save his people from their sins.’ ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel’,

which means, ‘God is with us.’ ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Offertory Hymn: O Come O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And with your people always dwell
Who mourn in mortal exile here
Until the Lord of Life appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again and with us ever dwell

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again and with us ever dwell

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again and with us ever dwell*

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again and with us ever dwell*

O come, O come, Thou Lord of Might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law,
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again and with us ever dwell*

Adapted by Philip Cunningham

*Communion hymn: In the bleak midwinter
Number 55 in Common Praise*

*Final hymn: Blessed assurance
Number 390 in Common Praise*

NEWS AND NOTICES

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sunday 21st December 6:30pm: Blue Christmas
Wednesday 24th December 10:30am: Crib and Communion
Wednesday 24th December 6:30pm: Carol Service

Wednesday 24th December 8:15pm: Said Holy Communion
Thursday 25th December 10am: Holy Communion
Sunday 28th December 10:30am: Morning prayer

Christmas Stamps

Please do save all your Christmas stamps from cards you receive this year and pop them in the recycling box in the front porch. We can raise funds for the church through your donations of stamps and currency (any age, any country) as well as jewellery and watches, and gadgets such as phones, tablets, and cameras. Thanks!

PCC TREASURER NEEDED – URGENT

We urgently need someone to take on the role of Treasurer. This is an important role in the life of the church. You do not need to be an expert in finances, just a willingness to learn and computer literacy. Terry Daniels, our interim treasurer will work with you to ensure a handover and you will have the support of the Wardens and PCC. As a PCC member you will need to complete some Safeguarding modules and have an enhanced DBS. Please speak to Jenni or Terry if you think you may be able to take on this role.

HOLY COMMUNION SERVER(S) NEEDED

We are seeking a new member (or perhaps members!) to join our team of Holy Communion servers. This role includes assisting with the preparation of the altar, helping with the distribution of Holy Communion and clearing at the end of the service. Due to the nature of our building Servers need to be able to use stairs. Full training will be given, including Basic Awareness Safeguarding which is imperative for any volunteer role in the church. Please speak to Jenni or Ian if this interests you.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED: PARISH SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR (PSC)

After over a decade in this role Anne Harris intends to step down at the next APCM. We are seeking to recruit in time for a smooth

handover from Anne and for the next PSC to work alongside Mike Baynham as part of a team.

This role is; to work with the incumbent and PCC in promoting safeguarding within the parish, and to ensure that church leaders are implementing the Church of England's safeguarding guidance. The Parish Safeguarding Coordinator is the key link person between the parish and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

This role requires an enhanced DBS and completion of several training modules offered by the Diocese. Good computer literacy is essential for this as it includes working with a database.

If you think this might be something you would be interested in and God is calling you to consider it, please speak to Anne Harris or Jenni Crewes. We can offer you a more detailed role description.

Please pray for the right person to be recruited for this essential aspect of parish life.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

During Advent we are encouraged to spend some time deepening our faith. You are invited to take the gospel reading from each Sunday and some time during the week to ponder these questions...

1. What do I learn about God's character in this passage?
2. What do I learn about myself from the passage?
3. How can I follow Jesus this week?

JENNI ON LEAVE

Jenni will be on leave from 25th December midday until Sunday 4th January. Speak to the Wardens if there is anything urgent in her absence.

This week please pray for;

- The family and friends of Maria as her funeral takes place on Monday.
- All who find this season difficult.
- For everyone who comes to worship here over Christmas.
- For peace in our parish and throughout the world.

Useful Contacts

Rev'd. Jenni Crewes	Vicar (day off Monday)	07377363915 or 0121 429 1384 revjennicrewes@gmail.com
Mother Diane Reeves	Curate (working days Wednesday- Sunday)	07977464696 dianereeves89@gmail.com
Mrs Julie Batham	Churchwarden	07931133951, juliebatham60@gmail.com
Mr Ian Dickinson	Churchwarden	07950666654, ian_fatbudgie@hotmail.com
Mrs Fran Ellis	Reader	0121 429 6267
Liz and Jon	CAMEO	sthildascameo@gmail.com
James Atkinson	Eco Church PEC	jda85@hotmail.com
Enquires about hiring hall or church		sthildasbooking@gmail.com
Safeguarding Team		07946 147 703 sthildasafeguarding@gmail.com https://bit.ly/sthildas-safeguarding
<u>Safeguarding information</u> 1. Never promise to keep a secret. 2. Assure the person that what they say will be taken seriously. 3. You might say "I will have to talk about what you have told me to the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator or the Vicar or the Bishop's Safeguarding Advisor, and this will be with as much confidentiality as is possible". http://www.sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk/SAFEGUARDING.html		

To use our church wifi connect to BT-Q9C22K. Password is 'Hilda680'



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