

The Parish of Mill End and Heronsgate with West Hyde
Fourth Sunday of Advent: 21st December 2025

Welcome!

Hearing Loop - A hearing loop system is installed at St Thomas' and St Peter's Churches, please set your hearing aid to the 'T' setting. Large Print Service Booklets & pewsheets are also available – please ask the sidesperson if you would prefer one.

Gluten Free Wafers - Please let a sidesperson know if you require a Gluten Free communion wafer before the start of the service.

ENTRANCE HYMN: Ancient & Modern (A&M) 32

ADVENT WREATH:

We have this Advent Ring to remind us of the coming of Jesus, the light of the world.

All sing: The holly and the ivy
Are dancing in a ring,
Round the purple advent candles
And the white and shining King.

We light this candle to remind us of Mother Mary who told God she would obey.

All sing: And four for Mother Mary
'I cannot see the way,
But you promise me a baby.
I believe you, I obey.'

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. **Amen**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 7:10-16*

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

This is the word of the Lord

GRADUAL HYMN: A&M 395

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 1:18-25*

¹⁸The 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. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But 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. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All 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.' ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

BAPTISM HYMN: A&M 263

OFFERTORY HYMN: A&M 315

POST COMMUNION PRAYER: 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. **Amen**

RECESSIONAL HYMN: A&M 394



A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.



Our churches have a candle lit, asking for the intercession of Blessed Mary for the people of Ukraine and all caught up in this conflict. The candles will remain lit and our prayers will continue whilst the war rages.

Diary for this week:

Mon 22nd December

8.00pm Symeons meet in the Parish Hall

Tue 23rd December

Wed 24th December

Christmas Eve



9.30am No Morning Eucharist
3.00pm Family Crib Service at St Peter's
6.00pm Family Carol Service at St Peter's
11.30pm Midnight Mass Service at St Peter's

Thu 25th December

Christmas Day

9.30am Christmas Day Eucharist at St John's
9.30am Christmas Day Eucharist at St Thomas'
11.00am Christmas Day Eucharist at St Peter's

Sun 28th December

First Sunday of Christmas

10.30am Parish Service at St John's

Fri 2nd January 2026

2-4pm Let's Get Together in the Parish Hall

Sun 4th January

Epiphany

9.30am Said Eucharist at St John's
9.30am Sung Eucharist at St Thomas'
11.00am All Age Eucharist with Band and Junior Church at St Peter's

All items for inclusion in the weekly pewsheets must be forwarded to the parish office by Thursday morning at the latest.

This afternoon : Carols and Cakes – Sing some favourite carols, accompanied by Chorleywood Music String Ensemble, hear the Christmas Story whilst enjoying afternoon tea and cake. Sunday 21st December, 2.30pm at St Thomas', West Hyde.

New Years Eve - As last year, we are planning to hold a small New Year Celebration for anyone at a loose end who would like to see in the New Year among friends, (8.30pm to 12.30am), venue t.b.a. Bring/share party food & drinks. Please tell Trisha (07709 970012) or Richard (07767 687128) if you would like to attend by Sunday 28th December, or email millendmusic@gmail.com.

Parish Christmas Quiz – its back! Relax after your Christmas lunch with a quiz that the whole family can enjoy. You may win a bottle of Champagne (not Prosecco!), and you have until Monday 19th January to find any missing answers. **Money raised goes towards the whole parish** and we hope that you will buy a few and send to family and friends who like quizzes. Copies, £5 each available from the Parish Office, St Thomas', St John's and George Hart at St Peter's.

Toy Service - Thank you so much to everyone who generously gave toys at the Toy Services last week which filled my car! This year we have supported the Watford Salvation Army and the toys were delivered on Monday afternoon. They were so grateful to receive them. Thank you! Helen

The Christmas Festival raised a magnificent total of £1,879. Many thanks to all those who donated items and worked so hard to make it a success. And to those who supported us by coming on the day.

Junior Church - the next meeting will be Sunday 4th January, during the 11am All Age & Band Service at St Peter's; please invite any families with children to join us.

The Why? Group – We meet fortnightly on a Wednesday, 12.30pm for a simple lunch, bible study and discussion. Our next meeting will be Wed 7th January. Enquiries via the Parish Office. All welcome, always

Snowdrop Garden – Possibly for the Last Time: The Bishop of St Albans' Garden will open for what may be **the final time** this February, with thousands of snowdrops and early bulbs in bloom. All proceeds support the **Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust**.

Dates: 14 & 15 Feb; 21 & 22 Feb; **Time:** 2–4pm; **Location:** Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, AL3 4HD; **Entry:** £5 per adult. A warm invitation to enjoy the garden's early spring beauty and help care for our historic churches.

Prayers: For **Zack** and **Florence** being christened today.

For the **sick at home or in hospital**, especially those on our sick list – *Johanne Watson, David Gasper, Nigel Bunce, Raymond Williamson, Sylvia Ball, Michael Ansell, Val Fear, Alison Sealy, Rose Fulker, Louise Humphrey, Jo Neal, Barbara Smith, Alice Fryer.*

For the **repose of the souls of: and those whose anniversaries fall at this time:** *Charles Neild, Edna Fenner, May Beryl Webb, Samuel Clark, Archer Edwards, Marjorie Rosa, Mary Baldwin, Thomas Funnell, Rose Childs.*

Please let us know if anyone is sick, in hospital, bereaved or in need of a visit: Mark Harris, vicar marknzharris@gmail.com or Elaine, Parish Office ☎01923 772785, office.parish@btinternet.com (office open – Mon-Fri 9am-12pm) Web site: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/32-180BX/>

Do You Need Help? If you need help of any sort, no matter how small, please contact your Pastoral Care co-ordinators and they will put you in touch with someone who will do what they can to help you.

St. Peter's: Dianne Harris 01923 283600(h) 07887 387222(m)
dianneharris@live.co.uk

St. Thomas's: Elizabeth Woods 01923 462618(h) 07752 416434(m)
elizabethannwoods37@gmail.com