

St Mark's Parish Church,  
Shelfield & High Heath

# 1st Sunday of Christmas

28<sup>th</sup> December, 2025



St Mark's is part of  
**Inclusive Church**

JOY TO THE  
WORLD  
THE LORD IS  
COME!

*We have been invited to a  
Service of Thanksgiving for the Ministry of  
**Rev. Joyce Stewardson***

11<sup>th</sup> January, 2026 at 4 p.m.

St John's, Heath Hayes, Hednesford Road, WS12 3DZ

Eve is collecting children's / baby clothes,  
children's shoes and baby blankets for charity.  
For Sunnyside Dog Rescue Eve is collecting old blankets  
towels etc, (nothing feather and no pillows please).

**Please pray for...** Young Andrew, Myra, Annette & family,  
Chris, Ann & Len, Andy's Father-in-Law, Elena, Lea, Tony & Sita,  
Trudi & Lauren & Josh, David & Marilyn, Michael, Matthew, Jhool,  
Pat, Steven, Martin Leech, Joy, Sue J., Margaret, Bridget,  
Trevor & Susan, Anne J., Andrew, Samantha, Natalie, Gary,  
Malcom C., Jonathon, Little Anna, Alice, Shelley & Bobby, Ann,  
Wayne, Elaine M., Alice, Samuel & his family, Winnie, Julia,  
Pamela, Pete, Kyle & family, Adam, Martin, Julie, Tina & Paul,  
Tanya & Ian & Anne & Olivia, Maurice & Margaret, Mavis,  
George & June, Ann, Pat, Mandy, Mike, Lianne & daughters

**And those whose illness is more long term...**

Carol Coleman, Matt & Nicola, Lisa, Janet & Les,  
Ron W., Connie, Beryl, Kitty, Gill, Wyn, Marion C.,  
Winnie A., Bettie, Alan, Chris, Karen, Steph, Jackie,  
Evelyn & Peter, Revd. Mike.



Lord we remember those we have loved but see no longer.  
*We Pray for All Those Who Grieve*

***Please pray for the people of Gaza & The Holy Land,  
Lebanon, Sudan, Ukraine, Yemen & all war zones.***



**Lord we pray for these organisations:**

Walsall North Foodbank,  
Shelfield & High Heath Youth Support Group

## Please Pray...

That the gathered church always be a welcoming and hospitable holy family. . .

That all peoples of the world grow in holiness by striving for just relationships. . .

That families suffering loss be comforted, and families in need of healing be reconciled. . .

That all of us reach out to anyone in need as our brother or sister in Christ. . .



## Daily Readings for next week...

<b>Monday</b> Thomas Becket, archbishop, martyr, 1170	Jonah 1 Colossians 1: 1-14
<b>Tuesday</b>	Jonah 2 Colossians 1: 15-23
<b>Wednesday</b> John Wyclif, reformer, 1384	Jonah 3 & 4 Colossians 1: 24-2: 7
<b>Thursday</b> Naming and Circumcision of Jesus	Numbers 6: 22-end Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 15-21
<b>Friday</b> Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops, teachers of the faith, 379 & 389. Seraphim, monk, spiritual guide, 1833. Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, bishop, evangelist, 1945.	Ruth 1 Colossians 2: 8-end
<b>Saturday</b>	Ruth 2 Colossians 3: 1-11
<b>SUNDAY</b> Epiphany 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas	Isaiah 60: 1-6
	Jeremiah 31: 7-14 or Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-12
	Ephesians 3: 1-12
	Ephesians 1: 3-14
	John 1: [1-9] 10-18

## A word for the week

All of us can name funny, tragic, uplifting, debilitating, inspiring family events. The gospels give us hints that the Holy Family had its ups and downs also. Moreover; in his adult life the family Jesus travelled with was a motley group of disciples. What is holy in all this "stuff" of family life? Holiness is not a state of perfection! It is, first, growth in wholesome relationships with each other (compassion, mercy, forgiveness, generosity, charity, etc.) that deepens our relationship with God. Second, holiness is the indwelling of God's grace (life).

This feast calls us to reflect on our very human families, where even our weaknesses call us to growth. This feast enables us to be real at the same time it fills us with hope.

## St. Mark's is supporting the Rotary charity Books4Home.

*1 in 8 children in the UK do not own a book of their own.*

*Books4Home collects pre-read books for children to choose, take home, read & keep forever.*

**You can help by donating pre-read children's books.**

Please bring books to St Mark's.



*Please like our new page on Facebook...*  
**"Marks Church"**

## CONTACT DETAILS

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