



# The South West Ipswich Team Ministry

The Church of England in South West Ipswich

Fourth Sunday of Advent 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## 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.

## 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.

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## Readings

### *2 Samuel 7. 1 - 11, 16*

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

<sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

### *Romans 16. 25 – 27*

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery

that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

*Luke 1. 26 – 38*

Alleluia, Alleluia,

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God

*A// Alleluia*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.' <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

**This week pray for the following roads in our parish.**

Lavender Hill, Leicester Close, Lindisfarne Close, Linnet Road, Little Croft Street and Little Whip Street

**We remember those who have recently died.**

Freddy Stewart, Maureen Phillips and Anne Roberts

**We remember those whose anniversary of death fall at this time.**

Gladys Simmons (20<sup>th</sup> December), Mandy Keyland (23<sup>rd</sup> December) and Doris Youngman (23<sup>rd</sup> December)

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**Parish Office Telephone**

There is a fault on the Parish Office landline, please therefore, until further notice, contact Kay on 07934 441903

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**SWITM 200 Club**

The following winners have been announced for December

1<sup>st</sup> Prize - Pat Dobson - £36.25

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Joy Watling - £21.75

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Brenda Simmons – £14.50

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**Staff Availability over Christmas and New Year**

Kay will be on leave from mid-day on the 25<sup>th</sup> December until Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Rob will be on leave from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> January.

# IN PERSON WORSHIP

## Saint Peters Church

We currently hold a 9.30 am service at St Peters on a Sunday morning. The deadline for telephone bookings to 07934 441903 is **mid-day** on the **Thursday** before the service on the Sunday. The deadline for on-line bookings is **midnight Friday**.

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## Saint Francis Hawthorn Drive

The 9.30 am service on a Thursday has resumed but in the main church and not the Holy Cross Chapel. Attendance is limited to **14** people and places must be booked in advance using one of the methods above. The deadline for telephone bookings to 07934 441903 is **mid-day** and **midnight** for online bookings on the **Tuesday** before the service.

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## Saint Mary at Stoke

We are in the process of reviewing provision of services at St Marys from January, in the meantime we will be holding Morning Prayer in the **Church Hall** on Wednesdays at 9.30 am. (This will be Holy Communion on the 23<sup>rd</sup>). The reasons for using the Hall is for level access and warmth). The maximum capacity is 14, booking for the service can be done the same way as for St Peters and St Francis. The deadline for telephone bookings to 07934 441903 is **mid-day**, and for online it is **midnight** on a **Monday**.

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# How to Book Online for In-Person Worship

Sundays 9.30 am @ St. Peter Stoke Park Drive.

If you would like to attend this service, you can register by going to:

1. <https://switmparish.org.uk/switm-calendar/>
2. then simply select the service you wish to register for by clicking on the date.
3. This will open a box with the date, time and venue in and a map showing the venue.
4. Click on 'SIGN UP' which will open a new window in your browser
5. The form will ask you to complete your
  - Name
  - Telephone Number
  - Email Address
  - Whether you wish for a double seat because you are attending with a person from the same house or with who you are in a support bubble.
  - There is then the option of adding an additional person / people which will add the sections above.
6. When you have entered all the details you simply press proceed
7. You will then be asked to confirm that your details are correct
8. The final stage is the screen will say that you are signed up
9. A confirmation email will then be sent to you on Saturday morning to confirm your seat(s)

This operates a first come first served basis, if you later decide you cannot attend then please let Kay, Rob or Merv know as soon as possible and we will delete the booking.

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# Keeping Warm!

Updated 09/12/2020

Since we resumed 'in-person' worship the advice has been to keep doors and windows open to allow for spaces to be well ventilated. This has now been updated so that doors and windows can be kept closed during services. We will however be ensuring that they are well ventilated before the service starts so it is impractical to heat our spaces – the exception being St Marys Church Hall on a Wednesday morning (simply because the heating is almost instantaneous). Please continue to dress for the weather and wear several layers.

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## Advent and Christmas 2020

Updated 09/12/2020

**Please note that we have made some changes to our previously advertised services and these are detailed below. With the exception of the outdoor crib service pre-booking is required.**

**Reverse Advent Calendar** The demand for parcels from Food Banks continues to increase and we are pleased to be supporting the work of FIND.

We are asking you to hold on to your items at home until **after Christmas** when there will be two ways of us receiving your donations. Either;

- 1) Bring them up to St Francis Church on the morning of the 31<sup>st</sup> December between 9 am and 12 noon.
- 2) Arrange for them to be collected in a physically distanced way during the week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> December.

**Display your Crib** If you have a window that can be seen from the road, we are inviting you to display a crib scene and battery candle so people passing by can see the truth of Christmas.

**Service of Carols and Readings** will go live on Facebook and Youtube at 4 pm on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December. We will be drawing on a variety of material from across the world.

**Christmas Eve at St Francis** we are no longer holding the 8 pm service but instead will still hold the **9.30 am** regular service as an anticipatory Eucharist of Christmas.

**Christmas Eve Outdoor Crib Service** Will take place in the car park of St Mary at Stoke at **4 pm** using the giant crib figures, at this point in time we are planning on singing some well known carols. The car park will be closed to vehicles from mid-day on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Free glow sticks for all people who attend and all are welcome!

**First Eucharist of Christmas Night** (Not Midnight Mass) at **6 pm** on Christmas Eve at St Peters Church, this will be live streamed on Facebook and Youtube. ***(Please note the change of time!)*** This will start at the same time as the Anglican carol service in Bethlehem and we will be joining our worship with our siblings in the Holy Land.

**Christmas Day** 9.30 am service of Holy Communion at St Peters in person and streamed to Facebook and Youtube.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December** We will hold our usual service at 9.30 am at St Peters Stoke Park live on Facebook and Youtube as well as 'in-person'

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## The PRAYER Course

Will resume on the 6<sup>th</sup> January in place of the Wednesday evening Bible study with one more session before and then for 4 weeks after Christmas on Zoom. It is described as 'An eight-week journey that will help you and your community to grow and deepen your prayer life'.

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| Christmas / New Year Break |
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| Session 5 | Unanswered Prayer | 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2021  |
| Session 6 | Contemplation     | 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 |
| Session 7 | Listening         | 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 |
| Session 8 | Spiritual Warfare | 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 |

More Information can be found at <https://prayercourse.org/> and if you would like to register please let Kay in the parish office know on 07934 441903 or to [office@switmparish.org.uk](mailto:office@switmparish.org.uk)

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Clive Darley writes....

Dear members of South West Ipswich..

We are in the church period of Advent resulting in the birth of Christ. As with virtually all momentous times in history so much could have gone wrong.

Joseph might have refused to take Mary as his wife.

Mary might have run away with the shame of the accusations aimed at her.

Gabriel might not have appeared to Joseph to convince him of Mary's good faith and the fact that she hadn't been with another man.

Mary and Joseph might not have reached Bethlehem safely.

The angels might not have visited the shepherds to remind all people of earth whatever their standing in society that Jesus is here to save all of us.

The three wise men might not have seen Herod and reminded him that Jesus was fulfilling a prophesy.

Mary and Joseph might not have been warned to leave Bethlehem before the other young children were killed by Herod.

When we look at all the things that could have gone wrong with this incredible moment in time, it is actually amazing to think that it actually

took place. That is of course whether you want to factor in God's hand in the birth of His son as a human man and more astoundingly that He gave Him to us as a gift for our own salvation.

At that time, as now, many people were lost and found it difficult to find God through all the difficulties of their lives. Christ was born to remind us that there is always hope for salvation and always an opportunity to find peace. And now of course we are reminded of this every year once we have fought our way through all the commercialism of the Christmas season.

(Capt Andrew Payne) However once we become Christians', we are all witnesses of:

1. Of the light
2. Of being part of God's family
3. Of being bearers of a new name
4. Of being servants of God

Therefore, as we move closer to Christmas, please shine your light and share it with any one around you so that CHRIST MAS truly is a celebration of His gift!

God Bless

Clive Darley

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