

The United Benefice of Henley-on-Thames with Remenham  
**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN**  
*Registered Charity*

The Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 23rd 2018

*Welcome to this ancient Parish Church. If you are a visitor or a new member of the congregation, you will find the order of service in the booklets. The hymns are not announced - they can be found on this sheet. The crèche is available throughout the service for toddlers and parents; Junior Church also takes place in the Chantry House. Tea & coffee are served in the Chantry House after the service: please join us and make yourself known.*

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**Entrance Hymn:** 10 Long ago, prophets knew

**The Opening Prayer**

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.

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**The First Reading:** Micah 5:2-5a *The Ruler from Bethlehem*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

**The Second Reading:** Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**The Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 80:1-8

**R/ Show the light of your countenance, O Lord God of hosts, and we shall be saved**

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you that led Joseph like a flock;  
Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,  
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

**R/**

Stir up your mighty strength  
and come to our salvation.  
Turn us again, O God;  
show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.

**R/**

O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?  
You feed them with the bread of tears;  
you give them abundance of tears to drink.

**R/**

You have made us the derision of our neighbours,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.  
Turn us again, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**R/**

**The Gospel Reading:** Luke 1:39-55 *Mary Visits Elizabeth*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

*Mary's Song of Praise*

And Mary said,  
'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

**THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**The Offertory Hymn: 275** Blessed Jesu, Mary's Son

**The Anthem:** The Angel Gabriel *arr Edgar Pettman*

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!  
'For known a blessed Mother shalt thou be,  
All generations laud and honour thee,  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;  
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!  
Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,  
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':  
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!  
Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
'Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!'

**The Final Hymn: 186** Tell out, my soul

**The Organ Voluntary:** From Heaven above, behold I come *Sigfrid Karg-Elert*

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**Today's Sung Eucharist:**

Sidesmen	Clive and Inez Hemsley
Lessons	Maura Roni and Athley Cowling
Intercessions	Joan Edwards

Servers	Sheila Croton and Louis Bell
Acolytes	Sue Hockley and Clare Croton
Chalice	Gill Aitchison and Geoffrey Taylor
Coffee	Sarah Bell and Jan Rowland

**Please replace the kneelers on your pew before leaving. Thank you!**

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**This Week**

**Christmas Eve** Christingle Service 3.00pm (SM)  
 Living Advent Calendar 6.15pm (SM)  
 Candlelit Holy Communion (BCP) with Carols 9.00pm (St Nicholas)  
 Midnight Mass 11.00pm (SM)

**Christmas Day** Said Eucharist 8.00am (SM)  
 Sung Eucharist 9.30am (SM)  
 Children's Service with Holy Communion and Carols 11.15am (St Nicholas)

Wed 26 S Stephen Eucharist (CW Trd) 10.00am (SM)

Thurs 27 S John the Evangelist Eucharist (CW Trd) 10.00am (SM)

Fri 28 The Holy Innocents Eucharist 12noon (SM)

Sat 29 S Thomas Becket

*Morning Prayer will be said at 9am and Evening Prayer usually at 5pm at St Mary's on weekdays*

**Sunday December 30 ~ The First Sunday of Christmas**

8.00am Eucharist (SM) 9.30am Sung Eucharist (SM)

11.15am Holy Communion with Hymns (SN)

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***Please pray for***

***The Church:***

*Kubwa - (Abuja, Nigeria) [The Rt Revd Duke Akamisoko](#)*

***The sick:***

*Nicola, Neil, Helen, Stella, Maria, John Ogden, Jennifer, Kathryn, Henry, Margaret*

***The departed: Winifred Peters***

***Those whose year's minds falls this week:***

*Katie Davis, Leslie Kemp (23), Elizabeth Meldrum, Ronald Cox (26)*

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**Notices for the week beginning 23 December**

After the 9.30am service today, members of St Mary's Choir will be singing Christmas carols in aid of the Children's Society. They will be singing outside Waitrose supermarket from 11.00am for approximately 30 mins whilst funds are being collected. Families with young children are particularly encouraged to join them.

Christmas is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and family who do not usually come to church to share in celebrating the season. On Christmas Eve our Christingle service is at 3.00pm and Midnight Mass is at 11.00pm. Christmas Day our Sung Eucharist is at 9.30am. There will be a said eucharist on New Year's Day at 11.00am.

The parish office will be closed between Christmas and New Year and will open again on Wednesday 2 January. In case of any pastoral emergency, please call Fr Jeremy on his mobile 07906172730.

The new coloured envelopes for 2019 will be available for those who use them at the back for the church. Anyone using the white envelopes who wishes to convert to the more convenient coloured envelopes should please speak to one of the Churchwardens or Martin Whittaker. Similarly, any users of the white or coloured envelopes who wishes to convert to the bankers standing order system is requested please to speak to the Treasurer, Kathryn Turner.

The Henley Food Bank Box can be found by the crèche. Please bring donations on Sunday mornings - toiletry items, tinned veg, tinned fruit, savoury biscuits, tinned meat, long lasting milk, cereal, crisps, biscuits, squash, pasta sauce.

On Sunday February 17 there will be a united benefice confirmation service with Bishop Colin at 10.30am at St Mary's. Please speak to Fr Jeremy if you would like to be confirmed.

Do you need extra help at home this Christmas? Or know someone who needs extra care? Please call Carmen 07827803645.

Outstanding pianist and ground-breaking composer Edward Chilvers is coming to St Mary's on Saturday 12 January (7.30-10pm). International Piano said of Eddie's debut CD '12 Etudes': "...intriguing...involving...fascinating resonances abound....all are superbly played by the composer." Eddie's Etudes have also been played on Radio 3. For tickets: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/editionuk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/editionuk) or call Steve 0771 228 2182.

***Parish Office ~ Mon, Tues 9.30am-12.30pm : Wed, Fri, 9.30am-4.30pm  
tel: 577340 email: [office.hwr@lineone.net](mailto:office.hwr@lineone.net) [rector.hwr@btinternet.com](mailto:rector.hwr@btinternet.com)  
Fr Jeremy is always happy to talk to parishioners about any subject, please call the parish office to make an appointment. Saturday is the his day off and Friday is his study day. Fr Jeremy would appreciate being spared calls on these days except in an emergency***