

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

Sunday 22nd December 2019
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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.

Mass St Anne's Mass *James MacMillan*

Entrance Hymn: 11 O come, O come, Emmanuel!

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: Isaiah 7:10-16

Isaiah Gives Ahaz the Sign of Immanuel

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

The Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Salutation

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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: Matthew 1:18-end

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

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. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',
which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Offertory Hymn: **10** Long ago, prophets knew
During which an offertory collection will be taken

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

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

The Final Hymn: **181** The Lord whom earth and sea and sky (tune 2)

The Organ Voluntary: Toccata on "Veni Emmanuel" *Andrew Carter*

Today's Sung Eucharist:

Sidesmen	Michael Christmas and Dorothy Marshall
Lessons	Rob Ellerby and Sheila Croton
Intercessions	Joan Edwards
Servers	Sheila Croton and Sue Hockley
Chalice	Jim Hurst and Sue Hockley
Coffee	Sheila and George Constantinidi

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

This Week

Mon 23	Funeral of Joyce Hogge 10.00am (SM)
Christmas Eve	Christingle Service 3.00pm (SM) Living Advent Calendar 6.15pm (SM) Candlelit Holy Communion (BCP) with Carols 9.00pm (St Nicholas)
Christmas Day	Midnight Mass 11.00pm (SM) Said Eucharist 8.00am (SM)

Sung Eucharist 9.30am (SM)
Children's Service with Holy Communion and Carols 11.15am (St
Nicholas)
Thurs 26 S Stephen Eucharist 10.00am (SM)
Fri 27 S John the Evangelist Eucharist 10.00am (SM)
Sat 28 The Holy Innocents Eucharist 10.00am (SM)

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

Sunday 29th December ~ The First Sunday of Christmas

8.00am Eucharist (SM) 9.30am Sung Eucharist (SM)
11.15am Sung Matins (BCP) (SN)

***Please pray for
The church:***

*Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement
His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome
His All Holiness Archbishop Bartholomew of Constantinople,
New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch The Revd Dr Olav Fykse Tveit,
General Secretary of the World Council of Churches Bishop Ivan M Abrahams,
General Secretary World Methodist Council The Reverend Chris Ferguson,
General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches*

The sick:

Nicola, Neil, Helen, Stella, Maria, Henry, Richard, Duncan, Robert, Anne, Caroline

The departed:

Joyce Hogge, Jean Pippard, David Supran

Those whose year's minds falls this week:

*Christopher Davidge (22), Katie Davis, Leslie Kemp (23), Sam Pawson (24),
Elizabeth Meldrum, Ronald Cox (26)*

Notices for the week beginning 22nd December

Joyce Hogge's funeral will take place at 10.00am tomorrow in St Mary's. Please remember Joyce's family in your prayers.

It has been suggested again that instead of exchanging Christmas cards with members of the congregation, we each write one card to everyone (cards will be displayed on the wall by the choir vestry) and make a contribution to a charity for the amount we would have spent on cards. We do hope this idea will gain support this year.

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.

Week by week our flower ladies produce magnificent floral arrangements to enhance the beauty of our marvellous church. Twice a year at the major festivals of Easter and Christmas, they fill the church with wonderful floral tributes to the glory of God. This comes at some considerable expense and it is necessary to reach out to friends and the congregation for donations towards these costs. If you would like to contribute to the fund for the Christmas 2019 arrangements, please hand your donation to Sheila Constantinidi or the church wardens, Robin or Sue. Thank you.

The parish office will be closed between Christmas and New Year and will open again on Friday 3 January. In case of any pastoral emergency, please call Fr Jeremy on his mobile 07906172730.

The new coloured envelopes for 2019 are 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.

***Parish Office ~ Mon, Tues 9.30am-12.30pm : Wed, Fri, 9.30am-4.30pm
tel: 577340 email: office.hwr@btinternet.com 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 his day off and Monday morning. Friday is
his study day. Fr Jeremy would appreciate being spared calls on these days except in an
emergency.***