

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering  
'Growing God's Kingdom'



Sunday worship and weekly news  
20 December 2020

Advent 4  
Welcome everyone

We welcome to our service  
Rev'd Canon Dr Sandra Millar

love joy  
peace Advent  
advent hope

Unless you are attending one of the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day services the next time, we shall meet again it will be 2021. Many of us will look upon 2020 as

being a difficult, dark, year because of Covid. When we look around, we possibly know people for whom this darkness has been especially deep.

No matter how deep the darkness we either 'walk in it', or 'live in it'. If we 'walk in it' we shall move through and beyond it. If we 'live in it' we may wonder if this darkness will ever end. No matter how we are affected one thing is sure. Jesus is right there with us and His light dispels darkness.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas let His light guide us into a new Hope for 2021.

Pete Best

To keep us all safe Please

Use hand sanitiser  
Stay 2 metres apart  
Avoid touching  
Sing with your heart, not your voice

The Church of England "strongly advises that face coverings should be worn by all those attending worship remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus COVID19 and that masks are not replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing"

Order of Service

Glorious anticipation



Processional Hymn

O come, O come Emmanuel

Redeem thy captive Israel,  
That into exile drear is gone,  
Far from the face of God's dear son.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou branch of Jesse, draw  
The quarry from the lion's claw;  
From the dread caverns of the grave,  
From nether hell, thy people save.  
*Refrain*

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright.  
Pour on our souls thy healing light;  
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,  
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.  
*Refrain*

O Come, thou Lord of David's Key.  
The royal door fling wide  
and free;  
Safeguard for us the  
heavenward road,  
And bar the way to death's  
abode.  
*Refrain*

O come, O come, Adonai,  
Who in thy glorious majesty  
From that high mountain clothed in awe,  
Gavest thy folk the elder Law.  
*Refrain*



Latin 13th century, translated by T. A. Lacey (1853-1931) © Oxford University Press

Prayer for Today

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

## Romans 16 Final Doxology

<sup>25</sup> Now 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.

### Prayer:

*Lord strengthen us with faith enough to obey. Amen*

## Psalm 89 God's Covenant with David

<sup>1</sup> I will sing of your steadfast love, **with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**

<sup>2</sup> I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; **your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

<sup>3</sup> You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, **I have sworn to my servant David:**

<sup>4</sup> 'I will establish your descendants forever **and build your throne for all generations.'**

<sup>5</sup> Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, **your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones.**

<sup>6</sup> For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? **Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,**

<sup>7</sup> a God feared in the council of the holy ones, **great and awesome above all that are around him?**

<sup>8</sup> O LORD God of hosts, **who is as mighty as you, O LORD? Your faithfulness surrounds you.**

### Prayer:

*As we sing of your love, O Lord, anoint us with the Spirit's seal, that we may praise your faithfulness and proclaim your truth from age to age; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

## Luke 1 The Birth of Jesus Foretold



<sup>26</sup> 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.

### Prayer:

*Lord thank you for Mary's self-abandonment to you. May her 'yes' be ours too. Amen*

### Reflection from Rev Canon Dr Sandra Millar

I wonder if as you put all your decorations around the house and on the tree, you found room for that one that you've kept for years, or that one the children made, all wonky and torn, yet so very precious. In our family it's a small musical plastic crib, well over 60 years old. The shepherds, lambs and wise men go round and round the little family in the stable. But the shepherd has fallen off and the wise man keeps keeling over. We still display it, because although its broken, its full of memories.



This Christmas might feel more than a bit broken for all sorts of reasons and the expectations that we pile on ourselves can make us feel that Christmas should be perfect, so that it's hard to admit that we feel sad. But today, the last Sunday of Advent, Mary, one of the leading characters moves to centre stage – and we realise that this is not a perfect story either. It is the story of a young unmarried woman, who will be criticised and condemned, will journey far from home and give birth in a stable. Her cousin Elizabeth has not had a perfect life either, for there has been the terrible pain of longing for years for a child that never came. It is to these two women that God speaks the promise of a future, of healing and of light in the darkness.

Today, we recognise that in the joy of Christmas preparation there will also be brokenness, and that it is to the broken that God will speak the promise of new life. Christmas is about the reality of God coming amongst us to share our lives and feel our pain. The words of the angel to Mary are just the beginning of the story, and the beginning of hope. As we live out that hope, we might discover something that goes beyond simply having a 'nice Christmas', and find that the presence of Jesus in our lives give us something that will last us through all that the year ahead brings.

**We declare together our commitment to faith:**

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.  
We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Intercessions from Susan Scothern*

Faithful Lord,

We bring to you this day our church, both St George's and St Margaret's, both those who worship within the walls, and those who worship at home. Bind us together in one hope and one purpose. We pray that we will see how you are calling us to go forward, just as you called Mary. We ask for your guidance as we seek a new vicar, that the person you call will continue to spread your light and love within the whole parish. May we be as trusting of your leading as Mary was.

Mighty Lord,

We pray for our nation and our leaders. As they face difficult decisions may they remember all within the country and not just a chosen few. As we approach Christmas may our celebrations be a reminder that your birth was good news for the poor, the downtrodden and those who had been cast aside. We pray that our leaders may govern justly, both nationally and locally.

We remember those for whom Christmas will not be a time of rejoicing, but one of struggle or sorrow, and ask that you will be with those who support them.

Eternal Lord,

We bring before you those who are particularly on our hearts this day, for whatever reason. As we lift them up to you, we ask that they may be conscious that they are surrounded by your love and your peace. We bring before you all our own concerns and worries, our sadness at how things might have been, our fears for the future, decisions we shall have to make. We do so, knowing that you are here with us, whatever we may face, and that even when we doubt, you will never leave us.

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**Offertory Hymn**

**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 thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and  
honour thee,  
Thy son shall be Immanuel, 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, Immanuel, 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!

**Preparing to receive Holy Communion**

After the priest says to us all: "the body and blood of Christ keep you in eternal life", we all respond **Amen**. A steward will guide you forward. We each receive a wafer, the priest alone receives the wine on behalf of us all.

We receive communion with arms outstretched, and in silence. Please maintain a 2 metre distance at all times.

### Final Hymn

#### Tell out my soul

The greatness of the Lord!

Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;

Tender to me the promise of his word;

In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!

Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;

His mercy sure, from age to age the same;

His holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!

Powers and dominions lay their glory by.

Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,

The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!

Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

To children's children and for evermore!

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (born 1926) from Luke 1 vs46-55 © administered by Oxford University Press*

Please leave the meeting immediately after the priest. **The Rule of Six** applies. Please do not linger outside

### This Week's News

**In Memoriam:** Susan Mitchell

**We pray for all who are ill or in need at this time mentioning by name:**

Margaret, Angela, Susan, Mike and Laura, Lynne, Sarah, Pat, Sarah M, Christine, June, Daphne, Eileen, Darren and family, Hedley and Rosemary, Carolyn, David.

### Anniversaries of death:

Beatrice Jeffroy, Bernard Stamps, Karen Rendle, Diane Ashmead, Philip Quayle, Alan Barnard, Doreen England, Ernest Nicholas, David Stevens, Gladys Holley, Evelyn Ball, Irene Yapp, Shirley Beckett, Patricia Weaver, Eunice Leary, John Hatch, Peter Barber, Sidney Lewis, Linda Jones, Violet Boston, Dembanski twins, Betty Worth, Philip Brain, William Barber (priest), Lily Smart, Douglas Oldfield, Barbara Walford, Annie McEwan, Jessie Reid, Joyce Carroll, Roy Merrett, June Mouldsdale, Sheila Eagles, Edna Kemp,

Charles Townsend, Pat Hughes, Doug Nash, Denis Hill, Joyce Meech, Gloria McCoppin.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Dot Martin celebrates a special birthday on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Carol Tarbox 30<sup>th</sup>,

### Desert Island Hymns

What are your 3 favourite hymns?

Over the next few months, we are seeking to include 'favourite hymns' selected by members of the congregation in our services.

Write down your 3 favourite hymns and pass your selection to Jonathan, Helen, Linda M, Lorraine or Pete. Each month selected hymns will be included in the services.

### Food Parcels

St George's Church, Grange Road, is now open for Food Parcel collections - Tuesdays 9.00 – 11.00am 15 items per parcel. The parcel is FREE OF CHARGE, but a donation is acceptable.

Please be aware of social distancing guidelines

### WHAT TO DO for THIS WEEK:

❖ Keep bringing items for the **Foodbank; new collection point is the Church Centre hallway on a Sunday or Friday morning. Toiletries now accepted at the foodbank.**

Thank you!

### Know someone who:

- ❖ is stuck at home without support?
- ❖ can't make ends meet?
- ❖ Just wants to talk?

Then **Contact Gloucestershire Community Help Hub on 01452 583519**

### Keep picking up the phone!

People are finding phone calls with friends invaluable to combat loneliness. Thank you everyone; please keep up the good work!



### CONTACTING US:

**Vicar:** Vacancy (please pray for new appointment)

**Reader:** Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis

01452 502174

**Pioneer:** Helen McGeoch 07729 615993

Email: tuffleypioneer@gmail.com

**Website:** [www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk](http://www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk)

**Facebook:** St. George's, Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon

**Administrator:** Glenda Stevens 01452 307456

Email: [stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com)

The Administration office is open on Friday mornings from 9.00am until midday until further notice. Please contact the Church Administrator by email or leave a message on the office telephone and our Administrator will get back to you.

We are part of the **Church in Tuffley**, working in partnership with English Martyrs (Roman Catholic), Grange (Baptist) and St Barnabas (Anglican).



### DIARY DATES 20 December – 25 December

Sun 20	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion <b>Crucifer:</b> Jayne <b>Readers:</b> Susan & Linda <b>Intercessions:</b> Susan
	5.00pm	St M's	Carol Service
Tue 22	7.30pm	Z	Advent Bible Study
Wed 23	8.15am	Z	Morning Prayer
	9.00am	Z	Pioneers
	3.30pm	MH	Slimming World also at 5.30pm
	7.00pm	St M's	Carol Service
Thu 24	11.30pm	St G's	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> Midnight Communion
	10.30am	St M's	Parish Communion
	11.30pm		<b>Crucifer:</b> Dot <b>Readers:</b> Sylvia C & Sylvia E <b>Intercessions:</b> Derek
Fri 25			<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>
	9.00am	St M's	Parish Communion
	10.30am	St M's	Family Christmas Praise
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> - No Services at St G's or St M's</b>			

### DIARY DATES 30 December – 3 January

Wed 30	8.15am	Z	Morning Prayer
	9.00am	Z	Mission Group
	3.30pm	MH	Slimming World also at 5.30pm
Thu 31	10.30am	St M's	Parish Communion
Fri 1			<b>New Year's Day</b>
Sun 3			<b>EPIPHANY</b>
	10.30am	St M's	Family Praise
	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion

			<b>Crucifer:</b> David <b>Readers:</b> Dot & Derek <b>Intercessions:</b> Linda M
	5.00pm	St M's	Evensong with prayers for healing

**St G's = St George's St M's = St Margaret's**  
**MH = Main Hall, Z = Zoom**

### Services at St Margaret's in December

We are holding shortened services this year, the remaining Services this year are:

**Today at 5.00pm - Carol Service**

**Wed 23 December at 7.00pm - Carol Service**

**Thu 24 December at 10.30am Eucharist**

**Fri 25 December at 9.00am – Eucharist**

**Fri 25 December at 10.30am – Family Praise**

**Thu 31 December 10.30 at- Eucharist**

Capacity is limited due to Covid, so prebooking is essential except for the Thursday services.

If you would like to come, please phone Hans Rackham on 01452 528939 or email [H\\_M\\_Rackham@talktalk.net](mailto:H_M_Rackham@talktalk.net)

### Gentle Exercise Class

Each Wednesday at **Grange Baptist Church** from 12noon – 1.00pm. Socially distanced exercise class for the elderly. Meet in church - £1.50.

### Christmas Prize Draw Results as follows: -

Christmas Cake	David & Kim Westcott	692
Box of Biscuits	Bruce & Gloria Wiggall	656
Panettone Cake	Joan King	585
Apple Cookies	Roger Meadows	775
Amaretto Flutes	Linda & Jayne	23
Maltesers	Joceline Blunt	756
Frozen Painting Kit	Linda & Jayne	799
Toy Story Painting Kit	Dianne Baker	700
Necklace	Sue Winter	607
Toiletries	Bruce & Gloria Wiggall	674
Toiletries	Sylvia Chamberlain	727
Toiletries	David & Kim Westcott	636

Many thanks to all who took part by donating prizes and buying tickets. Thanks to your generosity £55 has been passed to our Treasurer, David.

### 100 Club December Draw

1st Prize Ann Humphris £100.00

2nd Prize Kim Westcott £50.00

3rd Prize Mike Clift £25.00

Many thanks for your support throughout 2020 and good luck for the 2021 draws.

Darrell

## **Artlift**

Are offering a free, online, arts course starting 22 February 2021 for those:

- recently diagnosed with cancer
- in treatment for cancer
- post cancer treatment

and also, for those with a terminal diagnosis but not in palliative care.

As a way to reduce barriers to participation people can now **self-refer** and we then seek endorsement from their GP's/ Health Workers. It's a 10-week **online** course from 22 February to 3 May 2021, **no interest or experience in art is necessary.**

It's proven to have significant positive impacts of participants well-being.

If you live in Gloucestershire & you're going through or recovering from cancer treatment, give yourself a lift & contact them on **03000 200102**

Or email them at **[referrals@artlift.org](mailto:referrals@artlift.org)**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**at St George's**  
**11.30pm Midnight Communion**  
**Everyone is welcome**  
**to come to this service**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**AT ST MARGARET'S**  
**9.00AM PARISH COMMUNION**  
**10.30AM FAMILY CHRISTMAS PRAISE**  
**BOOKING IS REQUIRED FOR EITHER SERVICE**

**PLEASE NOTE**  
**that there will not be any services in either**  
**St George's or**  
**at St Margaret's**  
**ON SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER**

## St. Margaret's - Whaddon Christmas Day services

Dear Friends

We are looking forward to holding our Christmas Day services, subject of course to the latest Covid restrictions.

Due to the need for social distancing, our little church can only accommodate between 20 - 30 people, depending whether the congregation is made up of singles or couples or families. In order to be sure of accommodating all who may wish to attend, we will have a Eucharist at 9, followed by Family praise at 10.30.

To enable us to plan the seating, pre-booking is essential. Please fill in the form below, stating your name, email and telephone number, indicating the number of seats you require, and whether it is for adult(s)/children.

----- **Sorry, but please do not come to the services unless you have booked.** -----

The completed form should be handed to one of the wardens, or alternatively, email me - Hans Rackham: [H\\_M\\_Rackham@talktalk.net](mailto:H_M_Rackham@talktalk.net) with your seating requirements. Confirmation of your booking will be either by phone or email.

**NB.** We will need to clean the church between the services; therefore, the church door will not be opened for Family Praise until 10.15.

Upon arrival, you will be shown to your allocated seat(s).

Jonathan & Hans - Churchwardens

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### St. Margaret's - Whaddon Christmas Day services

SERVICE	TIME	ADULTS	CHILDREN
EUCCHARIST	9:00am		
FAMILY PRAISE	10:30am		

Unless you tell us otherwise, we will assume that you are all allowed to sit together. Because of Contact Tracing, please add the names of everyone in your party.

**NAME(s):**

**TEL No.**

**EMAIL:**