

COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Either **Baruch 5**

A reading from the book of the prophet Baruch.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Or **Malachi 3:1-4**

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says

the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

CANTICLE Luke 1:68-79 (Benedictus)

R *Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel.*

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant David. **R**

Through his holy prophets God promised of old

to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us, To show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant. **R**

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. **R**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins. **R**

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. **R**

SECOND READING Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters, I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your

sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

POST COMMUNION

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Bles-sed be the Lord - the God of Is - ra - el.

We pray for: - Jim, Johanna, James, Angela, Mark, Margaret, Peter, Stella, George, Jenny, Sarah, Andy & Family, Terry, Phil, Caroline, Rosie, Linda & Family, Malcolm & Family

SIGNPOST

the weekly newsletter of
St George's, Tuffley with St Margaret's, Whaddon
Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering,
'Growing God's Kingdom'

Hymns at St George's:-

527 On Jordan's Bank
405 Lo he comes with clouds descending
Remembrance – Matt Redman (video)
Prepare the way of the Lord

The next meeting of the **Mothers' Union** is on **Tuesday 10th December** and will be our Christmas social. Members are asked to provide a small gift and a seasonal reading. We will also have a bring, and share buffet. Many thanks in advance! Sylvia Chamberlain (**Branch Leader**)

Messy Christingle – 10.00am Saturday 14th December:-

If you are able to help with Messy Christingle, please do sign up on the sheet at the back of St G - if you'd like to know any more about this, please have a word with Rachel or Susan.

Christmas dates at St Margaret's...

Candlelit Carol Service on Friday 20th December at 6.00pm.
Christmas Day – special service for all, at 10.00am.
Please note there won't be a Thursday communion service on 26th December.

Christmas dates at St George's...

Messy Christingle Saturday 14th December at 10.00am.
Family Carol Service Sunday 22nd December at 4.00pm.
Blue Christmas Service Monday 23rd December at 6.00pm.
Family Nativity Fun on Christmas Eve at 10.00am.
Midnight Mass Christmas Eve at 11.30pm.

Keep bringing items for the Foodbank on a Sunday. Collection point is the tray at the back of the Church. The Foodbank are in **URGENT NEED OF LONG-LIFE JUICE & MILK (not chilled), TINNED FRUIT, TOOTHPASTE** Thank you.

CONTACTING US:

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We are part of the Church in Tuffley



Welcome to all

Diary Dates Sunday 8th December 2024

Sun 8	2 nd Sunday of Advent		
	9.00am	St M's	Parish Communion
	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion: Welcomer: Erna Crucifer: Sylvia E Readers: Paul & Sylvia C Intercessions: Linda M Coffee: Glenice & Hilary
	4.00pm	St M's	Family Praise
Mon 9	10.30am	SH	Say Aphasia
	11.30am	St G's	Dot Martin's Funeral
	5.00pm	Zoom	Evening Prayer
	5.00pm	MH	Brownies
	6.00pm	SH	Rainbows
	7.00pm	SM	Youth Group
	7.15pm	MH	Guides
Tues 10	9.00am	St G's	Explore Christmas
	9.30am	SH	Coffee Pot
	1.30pm	MH	Fun & Free
	2.30pm	SH	MU Christmas Social
	5.00pm	LC	Evening Prayer
	6.30pm	MH	Cubs & Beavers
	8.00pm	MH	Karate
Wed 11	8.15am	Zoom	Morning Prayer
	9.00am	St G's	Explore Christmas
	9.30am	MH	Phonics with Robot Reg
	12.30am	Crem	Steve Margrett's Funeral
	3.30pm	MH	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm
	5.00pm	LC	Evening Prayer
	7.00pm	LC	Advent Group
Thu 12	9.00am	St G's	Explore Christmas
	10.30am	St M's	Parish Communion
	10.30am	SH	Thursday Club
	5.00pm	LC	Evening Prayer
	6.30pm	MH	Clubbercise
	7.30pm	SH	Charter Band
Fri 13	9.00am	St G's	Explore Christmas
Sat 14	10.00am	MH	Karate
	10.00am	St G's	Messy Christingle
Sun 15	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion: Welcomer: TBC Crucifer: Mark B. Readers: Paul & Sylvia E Intercessions: Paul Coffee: Joss
	5.00pm	St M's	Evensong

St G's = St George's, St M's = St Margaret's,
MH = Main Hall, SH = Small Hall, SL = Softley Lounge,
LC = Lady Chapel, Crem = Crematorium

Explore Christmas: - This week, from Tuesday until Friday! If you are able to help with any of the slots for Explore Christmas this week, please could you sign up on the timetable at the back of St George's Church – your help will be much appreciated!