



**All Saints Parish Church, Kings Heath**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**24<sup>th</sup> December**

***Welcome to all visitors. Everyone is welcome to coffee after the service***

Before the service the choir will sing *Sing, Mary*, a hymn with words and music by Simon Foster which we sang for the first time in last year's 4th Sunday of Advent service. You are very welcome to join in the hymn during communion.

**Advent candle song**

The holly and the ivy  
are dancing in a ring  
round the berry-purple candles  
and the bright and shining King.

Oh, one is for God's people  
in every age and day.  
We are watching for his coming.  
We believe and we obey.

And two is for the prophets  
and for the light they bring.  
They are candles in the darkness  
all alight for Christ the King.

And three for John the Baptist.  
He calls on us to sing:  
"O prepare the way for Jesus Christ,  
he is coming, Christ the King."

And four for Mother Mary.  
"I cannot see the way,  
but you promise me a baby.  
I believe you. I obey."

**Services this Week: 4th Sunday of Advent  
Christmas Eve, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>**

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Parish Communion  
3.30pm Children's Carol Service (with brand new  
musical) News from Bethlehem  
11.30pm Midnight Communion

**Morning Prayer: NO MORNING PRAYER**

**Wednesday: NO HOLY COMMUNION**

**Services next Week: First Sunday of Christmas**

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Parish Communion

**COLLECT :**

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 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7.1-11,16**

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 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." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 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. 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?" 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; 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. 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, 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. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

*This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God*

#### **SECOND READING: 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 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—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

*This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God*

#### **GOSPEL READING: Luke 1.26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the

angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." 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 is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you O Christ*

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER:**

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary 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. **Amen**

:

### **MEDITATION:**

*Can with this single Truth compare –*

*That God was Man in Palestine*

*And lives to-day in Bread and Wine.*

*The end of John Betjeman's poem 'Christmas'*

### **WE PRAY:**

- for the Church at this season, that it may be bold to proclaim it's message:
- for all who work to bring comfort and support to the poor and marginalised:
- for those for whom Christmas brings issues,
- for those who do not know peace and security
- we remember before God those who are ill Huxley Brennan, Lovetta Campbell, Val Hems, Kathryn Steventon, Helen Ross and those for whom we regularly pray loyal to All Saints but no longer able to come to church including Eileen Holder, Joan Dainter, Joan Howes, Eileen Pearson and Ida Ret
  - we remember those who have died and in our Year's Mind Dorothea Lanchester, Edith Hiscocks, George Palmer, Frida Slade, Walter Craythorne, Barbara Morris-Emery, Hannah Nuthall, Geoff Mendham, Ron Black, Humbletta Sandford, Ronald Chesson, Elizabeth Fitzmaurice and Susan Nash

**Memories of Kings Heath and All Saints on CD** have been recorded by Margaret Shepherd in aid of the Vicar's Discretionary Fund, which helps refugees and others in need. Margaret has lived in Kings Heath all her life and attended All Saints since 1944 (when "women only arranged flowers and made tea"! ). The CD includes 1930s music and our church organ and would make a good present for anyone local. It can be ordered from Helen Lloyd after church or on 689 0681, for a minimum donation of £5 - or whatever you can afford to give to the fund.

One of Alan Fletchers many gifts to us was to serve as Income Officer. We need someone to fill his walking boots. Here is a description of the role. Could it be you?

The Income Officer assists the Church Treasurer in collating all receipts into Church Funds for submission to the Church accounts, which are reported by the Treasurer to the PCC on a monthly basis. They also provide information on a regular basis to the Gift Aid Officer to enable timely submission of Gift Aid submissions to HMRC. They may also volunteer to help count and bank the Church Plate collections which is done on a rota basis with the Church Warden.

Essential requirements:

Honesty and financial integrity

Basic knowledge of Microsoft Excel spreadsheet

Having own computer with Microsoft Excel installed (or other compatible spreadsheet), and an Internet link.

Must maintain confidentiality of finance information at all times, apart from to

authorised Church Officials and the Finance Team.

Training will be given on how to extract and report the necessary financial information.

Please notify the Vicar, Treasurer or any member of the Finance Team of your interest.

**Board Game Cafe:** The Cafe will be open on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January from 6-8pm** for anyone who'd like to come along and play board games – either bring your own or enjoy what we have available... **Suggested donation of £2 for adults, £1 for children (babies under 2 years free), or £5 for a family** (up to 2 adults and 2 children) to raise a little for future family events, but mainly to get together and enjoy spending time

with each other. We'll have games suitable for all ages. The Cafe will be open and serving refreshments as normal. Please do come along and invite some friends! Please sign up at the back of church to let Emily know you're intending to come. Thanks!

**Advance notice - for your diaries:**

On Sunday 4th March from 1600, Gill and John will be giving a presentation about their Traidcraft 'Meet the People' tour to Nepal.

**FOODBANK:** There is a 'bin' in church to donate to the foodbank. Please give as and when you can.

--