

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

4<sup>th</sup>

# Sunday of Advent

# Holy Trinity Cuckfield

*You are very welcome to our worship!*



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'The Annunciation' by Henry Tanner

## Reflection by The Rev'd Stephen Caple

On Sunday we will hear these words "Greetings favoured one! The Lord is with you." With these words, the Angel announces God's call to Mary. Mary is unique in all creation, a young woman from Nazareth being offered a pivotal role in the redemption of all creation. We see in Mary's faithfulness the model for the way the grace of God can and will, albeit in smaller ways, use each of us. As we journey to the manger once more, may we seek once again to be surprised by a God who finds favour in us, who has lifted up the lowly and filled the hungry with good things. May we in our lives and our living magnify the Holy One, may we be messengers of God who seek the divine in the midst of the ordinary and may we, in joyful song, proclaim the Lord's greatness.

## Worship this Sunday...

### 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, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to 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**

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Micah 5.2-5a  
Hebrews 10.5-10  
Luke 1.39-45

### 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Reader

Roger Edmonston

### 9.45 am Choral Eucharist \*

Pr Hymn 46 On Jordans Bank (WINCHESTER NEW)  
Setting Addington Service (Shephard)  
Gr Hymn 57 Ye Servants of the Lord (NARENZA)  
Of Hymn 32 Come thou redeemer (PUER NOBIS)  
Anthem The Angel Gabriel - Traditional  
Cm 58 A Great and Mighty Wonder (ES IST EIN  
Hymn ROS)  
Fn Hymn 41 Lo he comes with clouds (HELMSSLSY)

Reader 1

Evelyn Stenning

Reader 2

Ian Walden

Intercessor

Eileen Caple

### 6.00 pm Candlelit Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols\*

\* Also live streamed on zoom - click the blue button on the church homepage

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**First Reading**

Micah 5.2-5a

*From you, Bethlehem, will come one to rule Israel; he shall feed his flock and bring peace*

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.

**Second Reading**

Hebrews 10.5-10

*God takes no pleasure in burnt offerings, but by his will we are sanctified by Christ*

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.

**Gospel**

Luke 1.39-45

*Mary visits Elizabeth (The Magnificat)*

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.'

**This Week....**

24/12 Tues	2.30 pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service (Ticketed)	Church
	4.00 pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service (Ticketed)	Church
	11.15 pm	Christmas Eve Midnight Mass	Church
25/12 Wed	9.45 am	All Age Christmas Worship	Church

*There are no further services in church until Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024 when we will celebrate the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas.*

**Next Sunday...****Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

1 Samuel 2.18-20,26  
Colossians 3.12-17  
Luke 2.41-end  
Graham Johnson

<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (CW)</b>	Reader	Graham Johnson
<b>9.45 am</b>	<b>Parish Communion (said with hymns) *</b>	Reader 1	Jane Coan
Pr Hymn	32 Come though Redeemer (PUER NOBIS NASCITUR)	Reader 2	Eileen Caple
Setting	Said	Intercessor	Isobel Simmonds
Gr Hymn	58 A Great and Mighty Wonder (ES IST EIN ROS)		
Of Hymn	64 God rests ye merry gentlemen (GOD REST YOU)		
Cm Hymn	83 See amid the winters snow (HUMILITY (OXFORD))		
Fn Hymn	72 Joy to the world (ANTIOCH COMFORT)		

\* Also live streamed on zoom - click the blue button on the church home page.

## Notices and Parish News...

**Lunchtime Concert - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 1.00 pm – Mistral Wind Quartet** Mistral, named after the powerful North wind of Provence, is a Sussex-based wind quartet exploring a rich repertoire for flute, oboe, clarinet, and bassoon. They perform widely, including at Hamsey Church, the Chapel Royal, and the London Proms, showcasing music from across Europe and beyond. Mistral also supports local composers, regularly featuring works by Peter Copley, Phil Baker, and Barry Mills.

**A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Pam Sagar** will take place at Holy Trinity on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 at 3pm.

We will celebrate the **Epiphany** at a special Choral Holy Communion following the liturgy in the Book of Common Prayer on **Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7:00 pm**. The Holy Trinity Consort will lead us in a beautiful Mass Setting composed by the Tudor composer William Byrd. The service will mark the visit of the Magi and the manifestation of the Christ Child to the Gentiles. The service will be followed with fellowship, at the Talbot where we plan to have supper together. The pub needs numbers, so if you are planning on attending this beautiful service please will you let Jane Coan know [janecoan10@gmail.com](mailto:janecoan10@gmail.com).

**The Ladies Group** - is planning a post-Christmas meal at the Oak Barn, Burgess Hill on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January** at 7pm. If you would like to attend please email [marypape01@gmail.com](mailto:marypape01@gmail.com) and watch this space for more events happening soon.

**Home Group** – The online “home” group will start again on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January**. If you would like to join us or just try it out you will be very welcome. We meet on Zoom on Thursdays at 7pm for one hour. Join using the blue button on the church website. We all have interesting and different thoughts about our faith, life, the world, the future. Homegroups provide an opportunity to ask questions, float ideas and to listen to one another. It’s a place for co-reflection where all views are welcomed and valued. At our first session we will focus on Epiphany. Thereafter the group chooses the focus for subsequent sessions. Contact person Jonathan Berry - [hirsuteshepherd1@yahoo.com](mailto:hirsuteshepherd1@yahoo.com)

**New Arts & Crafts Group** - Starting **Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 pm** in the church. We'll meet every **1st and 3rd Thursday** of the month (except during religious seasons like Lent). Bring your own supplies whether you love painting, knitting, or any creative hobby! Or just pop in for a chat, tea, and biscuits anytime between **2–4 pm. Everyone’s welcome!**

**Prayer Partners** - If you drew a name to pray for this year, don't forget to reveal your identity to the person, perhaps with a Christmas card. There will be an opportunity to draw a new name to pray for in the New Year.

**The Holy Trinity Choir Needs You!** - Love singing? Used to sing? Always wanted to try? No experience or auditions - just a sense of rhythm and a love for music. Join our friendly choir family, explore all kinds of music, and even learn a little about the science of singing. **Rehearsals: Fridays: 7:30–9:15 pm Availability on Sundays: 8:50–9:20 am** (before the 9:45 service) & opportunities to sing at weddings, funerals, and special services! **Contact Charles** at [DOM@holytrinitycuckfield](mailto:DOM@holytrinitycuckfield) or chat with a choir member - you'll love it!

**Cuckfield Local Market** - Holy Trinity Cuckfield monthly makers and food market returns on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025 from 9.30-12.30** providing locally sourced, sustainable goods. Dates for 2025 are March 8<sup>th</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup>, May 10<sup>th</sup>, June 14<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>, August 9<sup>th</sup>, September 13<sup>th</sup>, October 11<sup>th</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup> and December 13<sup>th</sup> Support local artisans and embrace environmental stewardship with us. The church will be serving tea, coffee and soft drinks, please let Jane know if you can assist.

**Sunday’s Cool** - Returns in 2025, if you can help at any of those sessions, or our child wants to come along, please let Hilary know by emailing [inspirefm@holytrinitycuckfield.org](mailto:inspirefm@holytrinitycuckfield.org). We really want to demonstrate how committed we are to children and young families in this parish.

**Help Us Build Our Social Media Presence!** - We're working hard to enhance our social media, and we need your support. If you're on Facebook, visit the Holy Trinity Cuckfield page. You'll find church services and events—please don't just like them, share them! This helps spread the word about our church. You can also RSVP to events and invite others. If you have any content, like photos or updates, send them to [claire@juniperbloom.co.uk](mailto:claire@juniperbloom.co.uk) (Claire is assisting Fr Daniel with Social Media Marketing). Or consider becoming a Facebook administrator yourself to help us further. You could also follow Fr. Daniel on Twitter: @CuckfieldCleric!

## Prayers...

### ***Those in immediate need.***

Becky Parker, Mark Herring, Ralph Colbran

### ***Those in long term need.***

Georgia, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Wendy Hibling, Eileen Knight, Jim Knight, Liz Graydon, Peter Graydon, Eileen MacDougall, George Snashall, Karen Leese, and Yvonne Godsmark

**Those in care homes.**

Mary Watts, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card, Keith Card, Tina Owens

**The recently departed and those who mourn.**

Rosemary Mulcare, Barbara Ingram, John Ross, Debs Roff, Alfie Atkins, Joyce Fowle

**Those whose year's mind falls at this time.** 22<sup>nd</sup> Phyllis Bell 2009, 23<sup>rd</sup> Maurice Frank Donoghue 2013, 24<sup>th</sup> Jim Driver 2011, 25<sup>th</sup> Amy Evelyn Barnes 2011, William McKay 2014, Jeremy Tapp 2018, 26<sup>th</sup> Emily Barnard, Phyllis Taylor 1993, 27<sup>th</sup> Doris Cutler, 28<sup>th</sup> Doreen Shrapnell 1993, Muriel Wheeler 2000, George Henry Flower 2002.

**Praying through the week...**

**Mon Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>** - We pray for all who look forward eagerly to Christmas celebrations; for all who will attend Christmas services at Holy Trinity and within communities throughout the world; for all who find Christmas a sad and lonely time of year; for those who will be without a loved one for the first Christmas. We give thanks for the hope of Christmas. We pray locally for the Royal British Legion, that they may feel the security and dignity of a warm, inclusive community.

**Tue Dec 24<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Eve - We pray for all who will attend our Christmas Crib Service, for all who will participate in it, and all involved in ensuring it takes place. We pray for those attending Midnight Mass. We pray that the story and messages of Christmas are not drowned out by the tinsel and sparkle that sometimes distracts. We give thanks for the story of love, for our local community, for these joyful occasions. We pray for all involved with Haywards Heath Rugby Club, as they begin using their new club house we pray that that they will feel part of a community of kindness and friendship, and that they might sense the hope and joy of Christmas.

**Wed Dec 25<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Day - We celebrate the birth of Jesus. Joy to the World! As the Holy Child comes to birth. Hurry us down to Bethlehem for rejoicing! As the Holy Child breaks into the world Hurry us down to Bethlehem for celebration! As the Holy Child awakes to the needs of the world Hurry us to his side for transformation! Locally we pray for the people of Ruthven Close, that they may experience the warmth and security of a loving, joy

**Thu Dec 26<sup>th</sup>** - We remember Stephen, first martyr of the Christian community. We pray for all who make a stand for freedom, justice, peace, equality, for the dignity of each person, for basic human rights for all. Locally we pray for the people of Rycroft Road, that they may find the support, and strength they need in their lives, the joy and light of Christmas.

**Fri Dec 27<sup>th</sup>** - We remember John the Evangelist, apostle. Galilean fisherman, attributed as writer of the fourth gospel and three epistles, when he grew too weak with age to preach, he simply repeated over and over the command to love one another; for this we pray. We pray locally for South Street. We give thanks for the ways in which they help to enrich and support the local community.

**Sat Dec 28<sup>th</sup>** - We pray for those who are lonely, housebound, frustrated because they are no longer able to live the independent life they want. We pray for those living in care homes, children's homes, rehab units, in hospitals, prisons and institutions of various kinds. We pray that they have access to support, care, help, friendship and hope. We pray too for our friends and neighbours, and for all who feel particularly lonely at this time of year; those who have lost or live apart from loved ones, those who feel they have rejected or been rejected by family or friends. May they know the love and comfort of God. We pray locally for the people of Sparks Lane, that they may see something of God's love in their lives and in their community.

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