

Sunday 22nd December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30am Informal Service at Great Elm led by Richard King

11.00am Matins at Chantry led by Val Rawlins

4.00pm Informal service of Readings and Carols

5.00pm Carol Service at Whatley led by Richard King

Christmas Eve - Tuesday 24th December

10.00pm Midnight Mass at Chantry

5.00pm Carols at Great Elm

Christmas Day - Wednesday 25th December

9.30am Holy Communion at Whatley led by Martin Weymont

Sunday 5th January - Epiphany

10.00am Group Service Holy Communion at Whatley led by
David Gatliffe

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**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**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.

**First Reading: Micah 5 2-5a**

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.

## **Magnificat**

'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

## **Psalm 80**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth  
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Stir up your might, and come to save us!  
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.  
O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?  
You have fed them with the bread of tears,  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.  
You make us the scorn of our neighbours;  
our enemies laugh among themselves.  
Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.  
You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.  
You cleared the ground for it;  
it took deep root and filled the land.

The mountains were covered with its shade,  
the mighty cedars with its branches;  
it sent out its branches to the sea,  
and its shoots to the River.

Why then have you broken down its walls,  
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

The boar from the forest ravages it,  
and all that move in the field feed on it.

Turn again, O God of hosts;  
look down from heaven, and see;  
have regard for this vine,  
the stock that your right hand planted.

They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down;  
may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one whom you made strong for yourself.

Then we will never turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

## **Second Reading: Hebrews 10 5-10**

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 (46-55)**

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.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

## **Post Communion**

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.

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Christmas Day

Collect

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: Isaiah 52 7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Psalm 98

O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.

His right hand and his holy arm
have gained him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1 1-4 (5-12)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'?

Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'

Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.'

But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'

And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

Gospel: Luke 1 1-14

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and

regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

Post Communion

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord.

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**The Parish Office is closed**  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January (inclusive)**

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