

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

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

10.00 a.m. Church Family Communion and Nativity  
and Baptisms of Ivy, Hugo and Eric

4.00 p.m. Tea Time Church

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**Collect for Today**

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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**Service Readings**

Micah 5:2-5a (*p.880*), Hebrew 10:5-10 (*p.221*) and Luke 1:39-45(46-55) (*p.54*)

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**Please pray for**

... Shirley Parfoot, Rupert Tear, Lucy Wallis and Roger Young.

... the family and friends of David Henderson, Arthur Smallpeice, Douglas Cook, Judy Smallpeice, Peter Quittenton and Florence Harris whose anniversary of death is at this time.

... those who live and work in Madrid Road and Manor Way.

... the Koens family in Papua New Guinea supporting the work of Bible translation through vehicle maintenance, teaching, missionary care.

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**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.**

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**Financial Giving**

We take a collection during our services. If you don't give regularly by standing order or the envelope scheme, please put your donation in the bag, tap the card reader on your way out, or use the QR code on the back of this news-sheet. Thank you.

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## Dear Friends

Today marks the 4th and final Sunday of this Advent season, which means Christmas is nearly upon us! The focus of our service today is Mary, the mother of Jesus; Mary who was 'blessed among women', along with the child she would bear (Luke 1:42).

Today our children will be bringing Mary's story alive for us, as they perform their Nativity for this year. Many thanks to Rowan Jesson-Atkins for writing the script, to Julie Lodge, Jeanette Whiteman and Jo Smalley for preparing the children, and to all those parents who have brought their children along to rehearse. The children's nativity is always a very special occasion in the life of our church; and it will be repeated at 4pm on Christmas Eve for any who are unable to be with us this morning.

But today is also a very special occasion for another reason: it marks the baptisms of Ivy, Hugo and Eric Hayler. As we celebrate the birth of the baby in the manger, we also celebrate the 'new birth' of Ivy, Hugo and Eric into the Christian family here at All Saints. We're delighted that they have chosen this special day for their baptisms, and we welcome their wider family and friends who will be supporting them today, and in the months and years ahead.

Wishing you all many Advent and Christmas blessings!.

**Beverly**

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## Mission Focus for December: Andrew and Clare Koens in Papua New Guinea

Give thanks that Andrew has fully recovered from the cellulitis infection. Please pray for Clare in the responsibilities she carries as she co-ordinates the work of supporting the staff across the organisation. The family are preparing to fly back to the US for a short break to see Andrew's parents - pray that it will be a good time away and that all the travel arrangements work out well. For more information, please read the article in the Dec magazine or look on the Wycliffe Bible Translators website: [wycliffe.org.uk/](http://wycliffe.org.uk/)

## Notices

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**Thank you to Jeremy and our wonderful All Saints' Choir** for their leading of Nine Lessons & Carols last Sunday evening. It was a very special service and enjoyed by a full church.

**Welcome to the Hayler Family** for the baptisms of Ivy, Hugo and Eric. This marks a significant milestone in their Christian journey and we're delighted to welcome them and their wider family today.

**Funding for The Big Build:** We're delighted to announce that following many generous donations over the past three weeks, the total money we have raised since the fund opened last year is **£259,399**. This is a fantastic achievement and an answer to prayer. Thank you to the 49 people who have given so generously, so far.

We're now on the home straight. Those of you who have not yet given, please do so as soon as possible and by the end of the year at the latest. We're aiming to raise **£300,000** towards the cost of the project in order to attract grant funding in the new year. Please give as generously as you possibly can!

If you haven't yet watched the Gift Day presentation, do take a look: [youtu.be/SYYOXcURhC0](https://youtu.be/SYYOXcURhC0)

**Tea Time Church:** Please join us for Tea Time Church this week where we will be reflecting on Mary in those days and hours before the birth of Jesus.

### **Christmas Services:**

- 🕯 *Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December: Crib Service, 4pm*
- 🕯 *Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December: Midnight Mass with Bishop Paul, 11.30pm*
- 🕯 *Christmas Day: All-Age Communion, 10am*

**The Office over Christmas:** The office will be closed from Christmas Day through to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Trish will be back at her desk on Monday 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Weekday Services over Christmas:** There will be no Morning Prayer or Thursday Communion during the week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> December.

**Electoral Roll Office:** Richard Pointer has been our Electoral Role officer for several years and is looking to stand down. If you've got some time to help Richard with the renewal of the roll next year we'd be really grateful. Please do talk to Richard, Trish or Beverly if you think you could help.

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## Diary for the Coming Week

### Morning prayer Mon and Tues 9.15am in the Reading Room and Zoom.

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup>: Flower Team decorating church, 10.00am  
Barnabas Group, 26 Manor Way, 4.00pm

#### *Christmas Eve*

Crib Service, 4.00pm

Midnight Mass with Bishop Paul, 11.30pm

#### *Christmas Day*

All-Age Family Communion, 10.00am

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Church Family Communion, 10.00am

Tea Time Church, Reading Room, 4.00pm

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## Daily Readings for the coming week

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Ps. 130, Isaiah 52:13-end of 53, 2 Peter 1:1-15

Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Ps. 45, Isaiah 54, 2 Peter 1:16-2:3

Weds 25<sup>th</sup> Ps. 110, Isaiah 62:1-5, Matthew 1:18-end

Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> Ps. 13, Jeremiah 26:12-15, Acts 6

Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Ps. 21, Exodus 33:12-end, 1 John 2:1-11

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Ps. 36, Genesis 37:13-20, Matthew 18:1-10

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## Service Readings for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December: First Sunday of Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Colossians 3:12-17 and Luke 2:41-52

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## Contacts

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