

## **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- 8.00 a.m. BCP Communion  
10.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Nativity  
4.00 p.m. Tea Time Church Christmas Crafting
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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**

Isaiah 7:10-16 (*p.646*), Romans 1:1-7 (*p.147*) and Matthew 1:18-25 (*p.1*)

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#### **Please pray for**

- ... Mark & Jan Knott, Jenny Powell and Mike Woodcock.  
... 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.  
... Ivy, Hugo and Eric Hayler on the anniversary of their baptism.  
... those who live and work in Old Court Road, Old Palace Road and Orchard Road.  
... 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, during our 10am service of Morning Worship, we'll be watching the first performance of this year's Children's Church Nativity; and I'm very much looking forward to it. The second performance takes place at 4pm on Christmas Eve, where we welcome many people from the wider community; and that's always a very special occasion too!

Our Gospel reading for this morning, Matthew 1:18-25, tells the Nativity from Joseph's point of view. Matthew, the Gospel writer, was also Matthew the tax-collector turned disciple; and who gave up his working career to become a follower of Jesus. Maybe that's why he tells the story from Joseph's perspective; Joseph, too, was a working man – trying to do the best for his family, and focussed on 'doing the right thing'. If Matthew hadn't empathised with Joseph, we would only have the Nativity from Mary's perspective – as narrated by Luke in his Gospel; and the perspective of the working man would have passed us by.

Even so, Joseph's role is often overlooked in Christmas sermons and preaching; and that's why I thought we'd look at it together this morning. It was a peculiarly challenging calling, and one that Joseph performed with grace and humility. There's much to learn...

Wishing you every blessing for this 4th Sunday of Advent.

**Beverly**

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## Mission Focus for December: Mosaic Middle East (MME)

Our prayers are again requested for the Middle East, and, with the Gaza conflict in the forefront of our thoughts, it is easy to forget that Iraq still faces a veritable storm of trouble. MME's friend in Baghdad is the Rev'd Canon Faiz Jirjees MBE, from St. George's Anglican church there. His message is that tensions between the communities and recent regional conflict have sent shockwaves through Iraq, heightening insecurity, increasing instability and deepening fear. So, as Christmas approaches and is celebrated, let us remember the people of Iraq, of whatever religion or sect, and pray that peace will prevail and that tensions there will die down. Further information on the work of MME will be found in the December magazine.

## Notices

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**Nativity!** TODAY, 21<sup>st</sup> December at 10am, will be your first opportunity to see our Children's Church Nativity. This year the nativity play has been written by Gwen Jesson-Atkins, and it is not to be missed! The second opportunity will be at 4pm on Christmas Eve.

**Christmas Crafting:** TODAY at 4pm, Jo Dwyer will be offering an hour of Christmas Crafting! This will be hosted by Tea Time Church and include refreshments. Do come along. Children welcome.

**Midnight Mass at the Cathedral:** This year, we'll be celebrating Midnight Mass with many other worshippers from across Guildford at the Cathedral. The service starts at 11.00pm.

### **Advent & Christmas Services:**

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| 🌲 Sunday 21st:                 | 10am <i>Morning Worship &amp; Nativity</i><br>4pm <i>Christmas Crafting in the Reading Room</i> |
| 🌲 Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> : | 4pm <i>Crib Service</i>   |
| 🌲 Christmas Day:               | 8am <i>BCP Communion</i><br>10am <i>All-Age Communion</i>                                       |

**Our new Architects:** We're delighted to announce that we have appointed new architects to take us forward with the Big Build. The company is called Symbiosis and our very own Bijou Harding will be acting as an architectural consultant for the project. Bijou will be telling us more at our 10am service today.

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December:** We will be holding our Church Family Communion at 10am to celebrate the first Sunday of Christmas. (Please note, there will be no Tea Time church that Sunday).

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January:** We will be celebrating Epiphany Sunday with an 8am communion, 10am Café Style Altogether Worship and Tea Time church at 4pm.

**Christmas rest period:** From Monday 29<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>, the church office will be closed and there will be no Morning Prayer or Thursday Communion. In an emergency during this period, please call Beverly.

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## Diary for the Coming Week

**Morning prayer Mon, Tues and Weds 9.15am in the Reading Room and on Zoom.**

Weds 24<sup>th</sup> *Christmas Eve*  
Crib Service, 4.00pm  
Midnight Mass at the Cathedral, 11.00pm  
Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> *Christmas Day*  
BCP Communion, Reading Room, 8.00am  
All Age Communion, 10.00am

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## Daily Readings for the coming week

Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Ps. 124, Malachi 1:1,6-end, Matthew 19:1-12  
Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> Ps. 130, Malachi 2:1-16, Matthew 19:13-15  
Weds 24<sup>th</sup> Ps. 45, Malachi 2:17-3:12, Matthew 19:16-end  
Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> Ps. 110, Isaiah 62:1-5, Matthew 1:18-end  
Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Ps. 13, Jeremiah 26:12-15, Acts 6  
Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Ps. 21, Exodus 33:12-end, 1 John 2:1-11

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## Service Readings for Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December: First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:1-5, Hebrews 2:10-18 and Matthew 2:13-23

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## Contacts

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