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**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** 22 December 2024

**Choral Eucharist:** Mass for five voices (William Byrd) **Motet:** There is no rose (John Joubert) **Voluntary:** Introduction and Allegro from Symphony no. 1 (Alexandre Guilmant)

**Hymns at PC**: NEH 1, 19, 21, 11

**Hymns at HT:** NEH 1, 186, 19, 21, 11

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

**Saturday 21 December** 4pm Vigil Mass (Holy Trinity)

**Sunday 22 December** **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8am Eucharist (Parish Church)

9.15am Sung Eucharist (HT) *Preacher: David Richardson*

10.30am Choral Eucharist (PC) *Preacher: David Richardson*

7pm Carols by Candlelight (Parish Church)

**Monday 23 December** No service

**Tuesday 24 December** **CHRISTMAS EVE**

3pm Crib Service (Parish Church)

8pm First Mass of Christmas (Holy Trinity)

11pm Midnight Mass (Parish Church)

**Wednesday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY**

9.15am Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity) *Preacher: the Vicar*

10.30am Choral Eucharist (Parish Church) *Preacher: the Vicar*

**No services from Thursday 26–Saturday 28 December**

**Sunday** **29 December**  **THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

8am Eucharist (PC) *Preacher: Nicholas Cheeseman*

9.15am Sung Eucharist (HT) *Preacher: Nicholas Cheeseman*

10.30am Sung Eucharist (PC) *Preacher: Mary Harwood*

**Around Table** will be taking a two-week break, resuming on 8 January.

**Weekday and Saturday services** resume on Monday 6 January.

READINGS & PRAYERS

**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.**

**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.

**Canticle: Magnificat**

**Response: The Almighty has done great things for me.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;

he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed; **R/.**

the Almighty has done great things for me

and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him,

from generation to generation. **R/.**

He has shown strength with his arm

and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones

and lifting up the lowly. **R/.**

He has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,

to remember his promise of mercy,

The promise made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and his children for ever. **R/.**

**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 bookit 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**

Alleluia, **Alleluia**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**Alleluia**

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 bea fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

**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.**

**For Your Prayers:** Sarah Clark, Lizzie, Beth Hirst, Natalie, Rowland Jenkins, Sirma, Sybil Smith, Phoebe, Mary, Chris, Sharon, Glauce, Steve West, Pat and Dave, Amanda, Angela, Martin.

**RIP:** Joy Dullforce, Jessie West

**Please also pray for:** our local care homes, the staff, residents and their families, and those who are unable to attend church at Christmas; Around Table and our volunteers.

**Readings & Hymns for Christmas Day**

Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2.1-20

Hymns at PC: 32, 34, 22, 26 (omit \*)

Hymns at HT: 32, 24, 34, 22, 26 (omit \*)

**Readings & Hymns for next Sunday**:

1 Samuel 2:18-20 & 26, Psalm 148:7-end, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-end

Hymns at PC: NEH 36, 39, 25, 21

Hymns at HT: NEH 36, 31, 39, 25, 21

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PARISH PILGRIMAGE 2025**: **In the Footsteps of the Northern Saints.** May 2025, details tbc but we need expressions of interest by **TODAY** please. Email curate@wantageparish.com

**ADVENT ONLINE PRAYER GROUP: Monday at 7.30pm**. Advent-themed input from ‘Pray As You Go’ followed by silence, prayer, and discussion. Contact Susie (s.lapwood@gmail.com) for link.

**PARISH CLOSURE:** There will be no weekday services from 26 December, resuming Monday 6 January 2025. The Parish Office will be closed from 24 December to 2 January.

**BAPTISM, FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION:** Preparation classes will begin in January for children, teenagers and adults, leading to baptism and first communion at Easter and/or confirmation with the Bishop in May. If you or your child are interested in taking the next step of commitment in the Christian faith, or you would like to find out more, please contact the Vicar.

**NEW GROUPS** coming up in the New Year! **Weekly home group** hosted by Andrew and Caroline Haines please email candahaines@gmail.com **“Fully Booked” monthly book club** please contact David Richardson dcrwantageparish@gmail.com and **Beer & Bible** please contact Laurence Price laurence@wantageparish.com. Please have a think this Advent about whether you would like to get involved with any of these.

**T BAR 2025: FEED YOUR FAITH!** Regulars at Holy Trinity’s monthly coffee afternoon have been sharing an appetite for study/discussion as well as cake. We will be discussing further what this might look like at the next T Bar on **Friday 10 January from 2pm**. If you would like to be involved in that conversation, please come along on 10 January, or contact Ann Gregory (ann\_m\_gregory@hotmail.com).

**OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE STUDY GROUP**: Will resume after the Christmas break on Tuesday mornings at **9.30am from 7th January**. Please note the change of location to Felicity’s house: 24 Smith’s Wharf, Wantage, OX12 9GQ. We look forward to seeing you all there and welcome new members.

**AROUND TABLE:** Work has been underway at Holy Trinity to improve facilities for Around Table. A new floor has been laid in the kitchen to meet hygiene standards, and extra storage has been installed in the Vestry, paid for by the Council’s Food and Warmth Grant. This will help Holy Trinity continue to meet the needs of worship, our various ministries and outreach, and community groups who hire the space.

**GOODBOX HOLY TRINITY:** We have become aware that the GoodBox card-reader at Holy Trinity has not been connecting to Wi-Fi to process card payments for some time. The issue was resolved for the Dickensian Evening, however we understand that the reader has now processed a backlog of payments - possibly stretching back some months - in one single go. We apologise if this has affected you and if it is a cause for concern, please contact our Treasurer, Claire Hunter, via email: treasurer@wantageparish.com.

**CHURCH COFFEE ROTA:** Offering refreshments after the main Sunday services in both churches is an important opportunity to offer fellowship to both existing and new parishioners. If you could help provide teas and coffees once a month in either church, please contact Alison Jestico at the Parish Church(alison.jestico@gmail.com) or Ann Gregory at Holy Trinity (ann\_m\_gregory@hotmail.com)

CONTACT DETAILS

**Vicar:** Revd. Katherine Price (Rest Day: Thursday) 01235 768806 vicar@wantageparish.com

**Curate:** Revd Dr Frances Caroe (Rest Day: Friday) 07856 278983 curate@wantageparish.com

**Parish Administrator:** Cathryn Stanton 01235 764533 administrator@wantageparish.com

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**Churchwardens**: Alastair Hunter alastair.churchwarden@wantageparish.com

Janet Kingdon janet.churchwarden@wantageparish.com

**Parish Assistant**: James Clarke james.parishasst@wantageparish.com

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Matt Godfrey safeguarding@wantageparish.com

**Director of Music:** Phil Johnson music@wantageparish.com

**Personal Discipleship Plan:** Susie Lapwood pdp@wantageparish.com

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