

SUNDAY DECEMBER 20th 2020

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Services Today

9.30am **Junior Church** by zoom. This week is the **Junior Church Nativity** and, sadly and maybe for the first time ever, the congregation will not be able to see it. However, a **HUGE** thank you to our dedicated JC leaders for their efforts with this almost impossible task and for all they have done since the lockdown first began.

10.00am **Parish Communion** led by **Revd. Kate Stowe** and **Revd. Canon Chris Butt**, who will also be preaching.

6.30pm **A Service of Lesson & Carols**

Wednesday

10.00am **Holy Communion**

Thursday ~ Christmas Eve

3.00-4.00pm The church will be open for **'Visit the Crib'** and private prayer. A chance to come and see the Crib and offer a prayer. Thank you to the wonderful **Andy Batch** for erecting the crib, as always.

8.00pm **Christmas Eve Mass** aka **Midnight Mass**

Friday ~ Christmas Day

10.00am **Family Communion**.

Just to confirm, this service is **fully booked**.

Prayer at the lighting of the fourth candle on the Advent Wreath

People of God: prepare! God, above all, maker of all, is one with us in Christ. Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God, the mighty God, bends down in love to earth. Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God with us, God beside us, comes soon to the world he has made. Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

We are God's children, we seek the coming Christ. Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!



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

2.Samuel 7.1-11,16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.' But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Second Reading

Luke 1.26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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.

RIP
Lorraine Charles

NOTICES

Zoom coffee with Kate.



If anyone fancies a chat with Kate on Zoom over a coffee, please do drop her an email and she'll be pleased to set up a time: revdkate@gmail.com

Giving at St. Peter's

If you can give regularly, please use the [Parish Giving Scheme](#) to set up a Direct Debit complete a form or phone 0333 002 1260, giving our St Peter's PGS code available from the parish office. If you would prefer to give one-off donations - there's a quick and easy online giving page [Give to St Peter's](#). Or you can use this QR code here with your mobile phone (if it is NFC enabled). Contact Pauline Philpot, our stewardship recorder on givetostpeters@gmail.com for further information. St. Peter's Church Harborne is now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! You can find our easyfundraising page at



<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpeterschurchharborne/>

A Prayer in time of Coronavirus



Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

If you have a prayer request, please email the Prayer Team via prayer@stpeterharborne.org.uk. All requests are confidential.

LAST CHANCE BEFORE CHRISTMAS!

Stuck for presents this year?

Worry no longer... together with Sarah Rush we have managed to produce a St. Peter's 2021 calendar from a selection of fab images kindly provided by your good-selves. The cost is £10 per calendar and monies received will go towards the cost of the church roof. See the piccie of the 'prototype' ↑



The Parish Office will be closed from Wednesday December 23rd and re-open on Tuesday January 5th 2021.

Thank you so much for your support and patience during these most extraordinary of times. Wishing you all as happy a Christmas as possible.