

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY, PULBOROUGH



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2025

**10.30am THE PARISH EUCHARIST**

*We are very grateful that the leaflets today have been  
generously sponsored*

**Remembering a very special step-mother, Dinah Hilton  
who has died aged 101**

Ann, Louise and Peter Kaiser

# WELCOME TO OUR CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST ON THIS FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Celebrant: Fr Paul  
Preacher: Tony Holloway  
Organist: Tony Hancock  
The Setting: Pulborough Mass  
The First Reading: Susie Hindman  
The Second Reading: Austen Hindman  
The Intercessions: Bren Marks  
Ministers of Communion: David Hayes and Linda Caldwell

*If you feel able to make a donation during the offertory hymn and you are a UK taxpayer, please use and complete the details on the Gift Aid white envelope you will find in your service leaflet. We also have **contactless facilities** available by the organ at the back of the church. Thank you.*



***In the event of a fire or emergency in the Church, the exits available are: the West Door, the North Door, the South Door in the Chancel and the door through the Vestry. Please leave the building by an exit nearest to you.***

*Do join us for refreshments after the service*

*Gathering Music: Vater Unser in Himmelreich  
Georg Bohm*

*Please stand when the bell rings for the beginning of the service*

**The Entrance Hymn: NEH 14**  
**Charles Coffin (1676-1749) translated by John Chandler**  
**(1806-1876) and others**

- 1     The advent of our God  
with eager prayers we greet  
and singing haste upon his road  
his glorious gift to meet.**
- 2     The everlasting Son  
scorns not the Virgin's womb;  
that we from bondage may be won  
he bears a bondsman's doom.**
- 3     Daughter of Sion, rise  
to meet thy lowly King;  
let not thy stubborn heart despise  
the peace he comes to bring.**
- 4     On clouds of dazzling light,  
as Judge he comes again,  
his scattered people to unite,  
with him in heaven to reign.**
- 5     Let evil flee away  
ere that great hour shall dawn  
let this old Adam day by day  
the new Man all put on.**
- 6     Praise to the incarnate Son  
who comes to set us free,  
with Father and with Spirit One,  
to all eternity.    Amen**

✠ In the name of the Father, and  
of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **The Greeting**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Fr Paul introduces the day's celebration.*

### **The Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle**

Jesus said, 'Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants is  
my brother or sister or mother.'

**I am the servant of the Lord.**

**Let it be to me according to his word.**

*The fourth candle is lit.*

Jesus is the light of the world.

**A light no darkness can ever put out**

*All sing (Tune NEH 336)*

**Advent candles tell their story**

**As we watch and pray,**

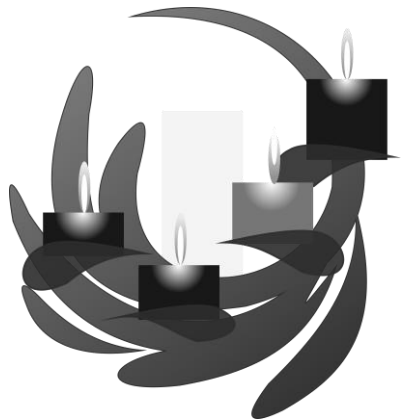
**Longing for the Day of glory,**

**'Come Lord, soon,' we say.**

**Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,**

**Changed for gladness**

**On that Day.**



**Mary's gift, beyond all telling,  
was to give Christ room.  
She gave God a human dwelling  
in a mother's womb.  
Who could guess the final story?  
-cross and glory;  
empty tomb!**

### **Prayers of Penitence**

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We have wounded your love,  
and marred your image in us.  
We are sorry and ashamed,  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

### **The Absolution**

**Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon us,  
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and keep us in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Kyries

**Lord have mercy  
Lord have mercy**

**Christ have mercy  
Christ have mercy**

**Lord have mercy  
Lord have mercy**

## The Collect for the Day

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**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

***Please sit***

### The First Reading: Isaiah 7. 10-16

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven”. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a

sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## **The Second Reading: Romans 1. 1-7**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans*

Paul, a servant of Jesus, Christ called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Please stand***

**The Gradual Hymn: NEH 8 (Tune 128ii)**  
**Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878) and**  
**Georg Weissel (1590-1635)**

- 1      Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!**  
**behold, the King of glory waits;**  
**the King of kings is drawing near,**  
**the Saviour of the world is here.**
  
- 2      O blest the land, the city blest,**  
**where Christ as ruler is confessed!**  
**O happy hearts and happy homes**  
**to whom this King in triumph comes!**
  
- 3      Come then, O Saviour, and abide,**  
**our hearts to thee be open wide;**  
**May all thy inward presence feel;**  
**To all thy grace and love reveal.**

**The Gospel Reading: Matthew 1. 18-25**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
**Glory to you O Lord**

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take



Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

***Please sit***

**The Homily**

***Please stand***



**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came  
down from heaven, was incarnate from  
the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the  
Scriptures; he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is  
worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of  
sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***Please kneel or sit***

**The Intercessions** – the prayers for the Church

*This response may be used:*

Lord in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***Please stand***

*Fr Paul introduces the Peace:*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer each other the sign of peace

***Please stand***

**The Peace**



**The Offertory Hymn: NEH 11**

**Latin 13th century translated by John M Neale (1818-1866)  
and Henry S Coffin (1877-1954)**

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
Redeem thy captive Israel,  
That into exile drear is gone,  
Far from the face of God's dear Son.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high!  
Who madest all in earth and sky;  
Creating man from dust and clay,  
To us reveal salvation's way. *Refrain*

3 O come, O come, Adonai  
Who in thy glorious majesty  
From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,  
Gavest thy folk the ancient law. *Refrain*

4 O come, Thou Root of Jesse! draw  
The quarry from the lion's claw;  
From those dread caverns of the grave,  
From nether hell, thy people save. *Refrain*

5 O come, Thou Lord of David's Key,  
The royal door fling wide and free;  
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,  
And bar the way to death's abode. *Refrain*

6 O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!  
Pour on our souls thy healing light;  
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,  
And pierce the shadows of the tomb. *Refrain*

7 O come, Desire of nations! show  
The kingly reign on earth below;  
Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,  
Restore the ruin of our fall.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Pray dear brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

*Prayer over the Gifts*

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**It is right to give thanks and praise**

*Fr. Paul continues with the prayer*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*Fr. Paul continues until the following is used:*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**Dying you destroyed our death  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory**

*Fr. Paul continues and leads into the conclusion of the prayer to which all say:* **Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen**

***Please kneel or sit***

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

**Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup.  
We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## The Giving of Communion

*Fr Paul issues the invitation to communion in these or very similar words:*

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Communion is administered in both kinds. Receiving consecrated wine directly from the chalice is offered for those who feel comfortable to do this. **Please do not dip the consecrated wafer into the chalice.** Please wait to be directed to communion.*

*Choir Hymn: NEH 277  
Reginald Heber (1783-1826)*

- 1 *Bread of the world in mercy broken,  
wine of the soul in mercy shed,  
by whom the words of life were spoken,  
and in whose death our sins are dead;  
look on the heart by sorrow broken,  
look on the tears by sinners shed;  
and be thy feast to us the token  
that by thy grace our souls are fed.*



**Communion Hymn: NEH 17**  
**Joseph Anstice (1808-1836)**

- 1      When came in flesh the incarnate Word,  
         the heedless world slept on,  
         and only simple shepherds heard  
         that God had sent his Son.**
- 2      When comes the Saviour at the last,  
         from east to west shall shine  
         the judgement light, and earth aghast  
         shall tremble at the sign.**
- 3      Then shall the pure of heart be blest,  
         as mild he comes to them  
         as when upon the Virgin's breast  
         he lay at Bethlehem:**
- 4      As mild to meek-eyed love and faith,  
         only more strong to save;  
         strengthened by having bowed to death,  
         by having burst the grave.**
- 5      Lord, who could dare see thee descend  
         in state, unless he knew  
         thou art the sorrowing sinner's friend,  
         the gracious and the true?**
- 6      Dwell in our hearts, O Saviour blest;  
         so shall thine advent's dawn  
         'twixt us and thee, our bosom-guest,  
         be but the veil withdrawn**



## **The Prayer after 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. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son  
Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and  
bodies to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen**

*Notices are given out*

***Please stand***

## **The Blessing**

The Lord be with you.  
**and also with you.**

## **The Dismissal**

Go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**The Recessional Hymn: NEH 10  
Fred Pratt Green (1903 -2000)**

**1 Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew,  
come to make all things new;  
bear his people's burden,  
freely love and pardon.**

***Refrain:***

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!***

***Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!***

***When he comes, when he comes,  
who will make him welcome?***

- 2**      God in time, God in man,  
this is God's timeless plan:  
He will come, as a man,  
born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.

***Refrain***

- 3**      Mary hail! Though afraid,  
she believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb, God is laid:  
till the time expected,  
nurtured and protected:

***Refrain***

- 4**      Journey ends! Where afar  
Bethlem shines, like a star,  
stable door stands ajar.  
unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry!

***Refrain:***

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!***

***Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!***

***Jesus comes!***

***Jesus comes!***

***We will make him welcome!***

*Concluding organ music: "Wachet Auf Ruft Uns Sie Stimme  
S.Karg-Elert*

**For your prayers this coming week**

*We pray for Pope Leo XIV and his ministry to the world-wide church.*

*We pray for the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally who is the Archbishop Elect of Canterbury*

*In the **Anglican cycle of prayer** this Sunday we pray for:  
The Anglican Church of Burundi*

***In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:***

*The Diocesan Board of Finance; Stephen Hoyles, Chair; Bill Telford, Deputy Chair.*

*We also pray for the **Venerable Dr. Tom Carpenter**, our new Archdeacon of Chichester*

*We pray for the work of **SPLASH** in their work with young people across the Deanery.*

*We pray for **our nation and government:***

*For King Charles and his family. We pray for our Government and all members of Parliament especially Andrew Griffith our own MP*

*We continue to pray for all those caught up in the **conflicts in the Middle East, Ukraine and other troubled parts of the world.***

*We pray for all **migrants and refugees** and all who have been driven from their homes. We pray for all world leaders, diplomats and ambassadors and all working for the common good.*

*We pray for the work of **Education West Africa**, the people of Sierra Leone and the work of the Church there remembering especially the Dioceses of Freetown and Bo.*

*We continue to pray for **the work of FSW** across the Diocese.*

We pray for our **local Care Homes**: Hillside Lodge, The Anchorage, Petworth Cottage Nursing Home, Rotherlea and Barlavington Manor

***Those who are now in need of healing:***

*Patrick Carr, Fr Barry Smart, Toni Hayes, Sarah and James Ross, Carole Brooke, Richard Cromwell, Jim Crowley, Charlie Goldsmith, Ian Cockburn, Frances Usher-Smith and Matt*

***Those who are in need of on-going prayer:***

*Peter Johnston, Helen Leeke, Rachel Webbe, Elizabeth Yates, James McDonagh, Victoria and Tim*

***Pray to rest in peace:*** Jeanette Brickell and Dinah Hilton

***Anniversary of death:*** Ivy Risdon, Elaine Crossley, Margaret Holloway, Carmel Williams

***Village Prayers:*** Together with the other churches in the village we pray for all who live and work in Lower Street (east of the Sorting Office), Brooks Way, Swan View, Rivermead, Little Dippers, Wildbrooks Place, Old Mill Place and Green Meadows

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**PARISH CAROL SERVICE – This evening at 6pm**

Tonight we have the Carol Service for the Pulborough Parish. At the end of the service we will be serving some wine, soft drinks and refreshments, if you are able to **bring a plate of savoury or sweet nibbles** it would be so helpful.

## Church and Liturgical diary

**22<sup>nd</sup>: Monday: *Feria of Advent***

10am – 12noon 'The Hub' meet at Pulborough Library

7.30pm Tower Bellringing Practice

**23<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday: *Feria of Advent***

9.30am Morning Prayer

**24<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS EVE**

**4pm Crib Service**

**11pm MIDNIGHT MASS** (*please note earlier time*)

Readings: Titus 2. 11-14 and Luke 2. 1-14

**25<sup>th</sup>: CHRISTMAS DAY**

**10. 00am THE PARISH EUCHARIST with carols** (*please note earlier time*)

Readings: Hebrews 1. 1-4 and John 1: 1-14

**26<sup>th</sup> Friday: *St Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr***

9.30am The Holy Eucharist

**27<sup>th</sup> Saturday: St John Apostle and Evangelist**

**28<sup>th</sup> HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY**

**8am The Holy Eucharist (Said)**

**10.30am THE PARISH EUCHARIST**

Isaiah 63. 7-9, Revelation 14. 1-5 and Matthew 2. 13-18

## ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS CARD

Thank you for supporting this initiative once again this year. This is our third Christmas card. Please take a copy with you today and perhaps take one for a friend or neighbour who does not attend church. Thank you also for supporting the upkeep of the churchyard in lieu of cards and postage. We are pleased to say that **£58.50** was in the carboy.

## **MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

Thank you so much to all who gave so generously for the special raffle and those who came to the musical evening. We are pleased to say that the event generated a profit of **£1852**. This gives **£926 to Education West Africa** and **£926 to St Mary's** to help with the running of our church. A truly wonderful result!!

## **CHURCH FLOWERS**

This coming week our church flower arrangers will be creating a beautiful display for our Christmas celebrations. If you would care to give a donation towards the cost of the flowers, perhaps in remembrance of a love one, or just to support our flowers arrangers **Pauline Adsett** in church will be pleased to hear from you.

Flower Arrangers BACS details are:

Account: St Marys Flower Group

Sort Code: 60-16-27

Account No. 96016779

Marked: Christmas

## **St Mary's Bell 100 Club – 2026 Lottery**

The St Mary's Bell 100 Club is a small lottery, run under licence issued by Horsham District Council, to raise funds towards the maintenance of the bell tower and the fabric of St Marys Church. For the coming year we have numbers **64, 77 and 80 available** Perhaps a good Christmas gift for someone close to you! The subscription for the year is £48.00 (£4.00 per month)

On behalf of the 100 Bells committee, I would like to thank everyone for their support and wish you a Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. Please phone me if you are interested in taking part in the lottery or require any further information.

**Ian Cockburn - 01798 81310**

## **FESTIVE OPEN HOUSE**

Members of the United Reformed Church will once again be opening their doors for a very special event.



We would like to invite you to our

### **Festive Open House**

from 10.30am until 2.30pm on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December  
at Pulborough United Reformed Church

**Coffee \* Hot Lunch \* Entertainment**

and a chance to chat in a safe, welcoming, warm space

Transport can be arranged

If you would like to come please call  
either Rosemary Russell on 01798 873174  
or Gerald Batt on 01798 872388



**\*\*\* FREE ENTRY \*\*\***



If you would like to attend or know of someone who might be interested, please speak to Christine Lindsay who has some tickets.

**Christine Lindsay <[christine.lindsay09@gmail.com](mailto:christine.lindsay09@gmail.com)>  
01798 368407 or 0754 8096656**



### **Prayer of St Richard of Chichester**

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits thou hast given me,  
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee  
more clearly,  
love thee more dearly,  
and follow thee more nearly, day by day. Amen