



## Team Parish of Christ the King St Aidan's, Brunton Park

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022 Fourth Sunday of Advent

This fourth Sunday of Advent brings us to the final furlong before the big day arrives! As we anticipate Jesus birth this week, we're asked to remember Mary, but as we hear Matthew's account of the announcement of a child to be born, Mary seems to have only a bit part. The story, unlike in Luke's gospel, is told through Joseph's eyes. But as we listen to Matthew's characteristic slant, I think we hear something of both the humanity and the divinity of Jesus.

So first, as we hear of Joseph's part in Jesus' birth, we hear that Jesus is the Son of David, fully human. Just before this Sunday's passage in chapter 1, Matthew begins his Gospel with a lineage of Jesus. He traces his ancestry back to David, and before him to Abraham. But he traces it through Joseph's family tree. That's reinforced in this passage as the angel addresses Joseph also as 'Son of David'. Jesus, in Joseph, is born into the line of those through whom God had once acted to save, and in whom now it is promised that 'he will save his people from their sins.' Jesus enters into the world as part of this human story; part of the work of God through flesh and blood; through the calling of men and women to follow and serve him in the world. Jesus enters the world as fully human, to be part of our story, just as David, and Abraham were before him. As we remember this moment of God's entry into history as the Son of David, perhaps we're asked to remember his work in our lives. God continues to call those who will follow and serve him. How will you respond to that call?

But also, through Mary, we hear that Jesus is born as the Son of God, fully divine. Matthew, as he often does, highlights the way Jesus fulfils the prophecies of Scripture. In his birth, he looks to the child who will be called 'Emmanuel', which means 'God with us.' Jesus is that child, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, fully human but also fully divine. Jesus enters into the human story as one of us, but also uniquely as the Son of God. This moment is the moment God chose to touch history not just with the word of his call, or the power of his Spirit, but with the gift of his Son. As we look to the celebrations of Christmas, this is the gift we hold on to. That God's desire is not to leave us alone; not to remain aloof from our lives and our history, but to be God with us. To enter fully into the story of humanity, as the Christ comes to save his people. Fully human, and fully divine. Truly, God with us.

## **Isaiah 7.10-16**

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.

## **Matthew 1.18-25**

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.

## **TODAY**

**9:30am:** **Fourth Sunday of Advent:** Rev'd Gerard Rundell and Mr Bernie Troughton lead our service with readings from Isaiah 7.10-16 & Matthew 1.18-25

**6:00pm:** **Lessons and Carols**

## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Tues** 5:30pm: **Musical Buds Concert**

**Wed** 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**

**Fri** 4pm-6pm: **Mulled Wine and Mince Pies at the Vicarage**

**Sat** 10am-12pm, Community Room: **Saturday Café**

**Sat** 4:00pm: **Nativity**

11:30pm: **Midnight Mass**

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup>** 9:30am **Christmas Day:** Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches with readings from Isaiah 9.2-7, Titus 2.11-14, Luke 2.1-14[15-20]

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup>	2:00pm: <b>Prayer and Praise</b> 8:00pm: <b>Men's Night at Northern Football Club</b>
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	2:00pm: <b>Film Club</b>
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup>	2:00pm: <b>Chat and Craft</b>

## **NOTICES**

**SUNDAY SERVICE** – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/18DecAdvent4>

**KNITTED/CRAFT ANGELS** - Thank you to everyone who knitted or crafted angels for St Aidan's. Some are already part of the Great Park Angel Trail and hopefully you will have found some more out and about in Brunton Park this week-end!

**CHRISTMAS GATHERING AT THE VICARAGE** – Gerard and Karen would like to invite you to mulled wine and mince pies at the vicarage (60 Barmoor Drive, NE3 5RG) on Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 4pm-6pm. Just bring yourselves, all are very welcome for a bit of festive fun!

**MUSICAL BUDS CONCERT** – at St Aidan's on Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Dec at 5:30pm. Please come to support the young Suzuki Recorder & Piano students, the more friendly faces in the audience the better! The concert ends c.6:15, followed by bring & share refreshments. Entry is free, though donations are welcome to enable local disadvantaged children to learn an instrument too: <https://www.musical-buds.com/donate.html>

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP** – will resume its study of Luke's gospel in the New Year.

**ZOOM CODES** – all our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOURtQT09> Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

**BOOKING ZOOM MEETINGS:** if you would like to use the St Aidan's Zoom account for a church meeting, please contact Janice

**USED STAMPS** – if you have any used stamps, please save them and put them in the box at the back of church to raise fund for St Oswald's Hospice.

**CHURCH OPENING** – church is now open during the day, every day. Please come in at any time for some quiet time or prayer.

**FOOD BANK** – any items placed in the box at the back of church will be donated to Kenton Foodbank who are appealing for donations.

**DONATIONS** - to make a donation to St Aidan's, please use the following link

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/8a599239-a9bd-4136-8b4b-1dcabb0a2c65>

**For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer**

**For the church** – Mark Edwards, St Cuthbert's & St Matthew's. Sunday School, Youth Group, and all involved in our work with children and young people

**For the community** – Kenton Food Bank

**For the world** – for Ukraine, Pakistan and all countries facing hardship and conflict. For our own national and political life

**For those in need** - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler.

**For those who have died** – Eleanor Swan, and on their anniversaries – Ethel Mackay, Kenneth Hylton, Margaret McMillan, Joyce Audrey Boston, Jean Stephenson, Rhys Jones, William Gilchrist



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