



**Team Parish of Christ the King**

**St Aidan's Brunton Park**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024**

**Advent 4**

Today we reach the fourth Sunday of Advent and the climax of our Advent journey through those who were part of God's preparation for the coming of his son – Abraham, the other patriarchs and David; the prophets; John the Baptist; and today, as we light the final Advent candle, Mary the mother of Jesus.

But on the threshold of the celebration of Christmas, it's not really Mary we're celebrating today – there are plenty of other opportunities to do that in the course of the church year. Rather, the stories Luke gives us about Mary in the opening chapter of his gospel – the Annunciation (Gabriel's appearance to Mary) and, in today's gospel reading, Mary's visit to Elizabeth and the song of Mary that we know as the Magnificat – seek to draw us, like Mary, into a new relationship with God revealed in Jesus, a God who chooses the ordinary through whom to do extraordinary things. They present us with both an opportunity and a challenge: an opportunity to consider our understanding of the nature of God, who since the time of Abraham has been a God of justice and compassion, who hears the cry of the oppressed and calls people to join with him in turning the values of the world upside down, and a challenge as to how we respond to his continuing call today.

### **A Christmas message from Gerard:**

As there won't be another newsletter until the New Year, alongside Ken's reflection above, I want to add a few words. To all who receive this, whether at church, or delivered through your door, or online via email, I want to wish each of you every blessing for a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year. However you mark Christmas, and it's a time that brings a range of emotions with it, it's my prayer that as we hear again the mystery of Jesus born as Emmanuel, 'God with us', the wonder of that moment might inspire your hearts with hope, joy, and peace. May God be with you, this Christmas, and always.

### **Micah 5:2-5a**

The LORD says to his people:

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.

### **Luke 1:39-55**

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 be a fulfilment of what was  
spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

## **TODAY**

9.30am: **Advent 4** Rev'd Dr Hannah Malcolm presides and Mr Ken Newitt preaches

## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Tues** 4.30pm, Church: **Nativity**  
11.30pm, Church: **Midnight Mass**

**Wed** 9.30am, Church: **Christmas Eucharist**

**Sat** 10.00am, Community Room: **Saturday Cafe**  
10.30am, Church: **No Kids Zone**

**Sun** 9.30am: **Christmas 1** Rev'd Ray Devenney presides and preaches with readings from Colossians 3.12-17 and Luke 2.41-52  
(Revd Rundell at St Columba's)

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> 2.00pm: **Prayer and Praise**, Community Room  
8.00pm: **Men's Group – Quiz Night**, Community Room

Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm: **Film Club – The Miracle Club**, Community Room

Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm: **Friends Having Fun**, Community Room

Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> 2.00pm: **Chat and Craft**, Community Room

**NOTICES** - today's service link is <https://bit.ly/StAidan4thAdvent2024>

**NEWSLETTER** – there will be no newsletter next week Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas 1). The service link is for Christmas Day and Christmas 1 are: <https://bit.ly/StAidan2024ChristmasDay> & <https://bit.ly/StAidan2024Christmas1>

**FAMILY SERVICE** – please note, there will be no family service during January.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** - Anyone wishing to make a donation towards Christmas flowers in church please use the brown envelopes at the back of church or speak to a church warden.

**THANK YOU** - Carols on the Green raised £172 for the Salvation Army and we sent £95 to Royal British Legion poppy appeal.

### **Living on God's good earth**

#### **December 2024: Christmas is for Sharing**

It's the most expensive time of the year! As we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus, the pressure to spend a lot - and waste a lot - can be very high. This month, look for ways to live and give more simply. You could give one Christmas card to the whole church on our community card board, or try 'Secret Santa' style giving with family or friends, donating any money you save. When present shopping, buying experiences and consumables are a great way to cut down on waste!

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

**For the church** – Gerard Rundell, Hannah Malcolm, Ray Devenney and Jean Skinner. Sacred Heart RC and St John's URC. Lay ministers Ken Newitt and Bernie Troughton. Pastoral care team. Social committee, welcome team, tea & coffee, flower arrangers – all who make church an inviting place.

**For the community** – Our shared outdoor spaces and the wildlife who live there, especially efforts to protect and restore the Ouseburn. Christian Aid, especially their Middle East appeal, and the Children's Society. Assemblies and presence in local schools: Brunton First, Havannah

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

**For those in need** – Esther Wooler, Martin Seaton, Sue Bates, Sheila Lonie, Christine Crompton, Alan Vout.

**For those who have died** – and on their anniversaries: Jean Stephenson, Rhys Jones, William Gilchrist, Margaret Pitkethly, Robert Michael Tiffin, Kim Giles Harrington, Shirley Pentland, Alice Bottomly, Hiram Williams, John Ward, Lily Seargeant, Hazel Nicholls, Sheena MacLeod, Eleanor Swan, Alice Vout, Joyce Russell, Minnie Browne, Doris Bartle, Charlotte Holmes, Robert Smith, Gavin Pitkethly, Martin Orde, Arnold Venus, Dorothy Elsie Lithgow, Robert Norman Hedley, Emily Thain, Irene Sunderland, Liz Hepplewhite, Pat Page

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