

St. Paul's Heaton Moor

Part of the Heaton's Team

Welcome to our Service of Morning Worship



Fourth Sunday of Advent
18th December 2022

Led by
Margaret Hardstone

Today's Hymns

Numbered hymns are in the English Hymnal (green book)

Come thou long expected Jesus **3**
The Angel Gabriel from heaven came (*back of sheet*)
Come thou redeemer of the earth **19** omit verses 4,5,6.
Hills of the North rejoice **7**

Readings

Isaiah 7.10-16 (The Message)

God spoke again to Ahaz. This time he said, "Ask for a sign from your God. Ask anything. Be extravagant. Ask for the moon!"

But Ahaz said, "I'd never do that. I'd never make demands like that on God!"

So Isaiah told him, "Then listen to this, government of David! It's bad enough that you make people tired with your pious, timid hypocrisies, but now you're making God tired. So the Master is going to give you a sign anyway. Watch for this: A girl who is presently a virgin will get pregnant. She'll bear a son and name him Immanuel (God-With-Us). By the time the child is twelve years old, able to make moral decisions, the threat of war will be over. Relax, those two kings that have you so worried will be out of the picture. But also be warned: God will bring on you and your people and your government a judgment worse than anything since the time the kingdom split, when Ephraim left Judah. The king of Assyria is coming!"

Today's Gospel

Matthew 1.18-25 (The Message)

The birth of Jesus took place like this. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. Before they enjoyed their wedding night, Joseph discovered she was pregnant. (It was by the Holy Spirit, but he didn't know that.) Joseph, chagrined

but noble, determined to take care of things quietly so Mary would not be disgraced.

While he was trying to figure a way out, he had a dream. God's angel spoke in the dream: "Joseph, son of David, don't hesitate to get married. Mary's pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God's Holy Spirit has made her pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus—'God saves'—because he will save his people from their sins." This would bring the prophet's embryonic revelation to full term:

Watch for this—a virgin will get pregnant and bear a son;
They will name him Immanuel (Hebrew for "God is with us").

Then Joseph woke up. He did exactly what God's angel commanded in the dream: He married Mary. But he did not consummate the marriage until she had the baby. He named the baby Jesus.

We are praying for...

In memoriam

We pray for those whose anniversaries fall this week

Norah Smith	18 th December 2000
William Trevor Ashworth	18 th December 2008
George Bolderson	19 th December 2001
Margaret Eunice Davies	19 th December 2001
Olivia Poppy Jacklin	20 th December 2000
Philip Trevor Knowles	24 th December 2001

'May they rest in peace, and rise in glory'

Also in our prayers

Raymond; Jeremy; Jean; Rev Canon Marcia; Derek; Peggy; Sandra; Pam.

Our neighbours

In December we are praying for Shaw Road, Green Lane, Heaton Moor Road, and all our local shops and businesses.

Services this week

(services are at St Paul's unless otherwise stated)

We are a people of prayer and we would like to encourage others to pray with us or just to sit in the presence of God in our churches.

Tuesday 20th December St John's 9:30am Morning Prayer followed by light breakfast (and bible study during Advent, please see Diary Dates below)

Wednesday 21st December 9.45am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion followed by 'Brew in a Pew' see below in Diary Dates

Thursday 22nd December 6.00-6.30pm Evening Prayer.

Advent and Christmas Diary dates

(at St Paul's unless otherwise stated)

Tuesday 20th December St John's 09:30 Morning prayer, 10:00 light breakfast, 10:15 bible study/discussion group led by

St. Paul's Heaton Moor

Part of the Heatons Team

Peter Smith. People can attend for just morning prayer, or just the bible study, or both!

Sunday 18th December 11:00am St John's. Carols and Christingles featuring St. John's School Choir and St John's Steel Band. Followed by refreshments.

Saturday 24th December 3.00pm Crib Service. Interactive Family service. Please come dressed as Mary, Joseph, a King, a star or an animal!

Saturday 24th December 11:30pm St John's Midnight Service of Holy Communion for Christmas.

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day 10:30am Family Holy Communion St Paul's.

Christmas Tree festival. The churches will be open during Advent for the community to see the trees :

St Paul's:

Wednesdays 10.00am- 12noon

Thursdays 5.00pm-6.00pm

St John's:

Mondays 3.30-5.00pm

Tuesday 10.00-11:30am

Reverse Advent Calendar People are invited to donate an item of food to the food bank for every day during advent. The idea is instead of getting a treat when you open an advent window, you give a gift of an item of food . There will be a box at the back of the church for your donations. These will be blessed on Christmas Day morning at St Paul's and taken to Wellspring/ food bank.

Every Wednesday 'Brew in a Pew' 10.30-12.00 Tea, coffee and cake following Holy Communion, with quizzes, piano and singing, or just enjoy a 'Warm Space'.

Every Monday at St John's 1.30-3.30 Coffee and Conversation in a 'Warm Space' Light-hearted conversation and friendly company every Monday.

Advent and Christmas Volunteers

The church will be open for the community to view the trees in the **Christmas Tree Festival** during December on

Wednesdays 10.30-12.00

Thursdays 5.30-6.30

We are looking for volunteers to welcome people into church during those times, and serve refreshments on the Saturdays – could you help?



We also need additional volunteers to welcome people and help with refreshments during our additional Christmas services

You don't need to have done it before or have been coming to church for a long time – just be able to smile and say hello. If you think you could help please see Liz or Eleanor.



We are also looking for help with our coffee morning on Wednesday mornings

We are having a regular gathering from Heaton School. If you think you might be able to help, even if just occasionally, you would be very welcome!



Can you help Stockport Lamplighters (Rotary) with their Santa Float on 20th December?

It is an opportunity for us to reciprocate the generous help they have given us this year! They need help outside Morrisons in Reddish on Tues 20th December either 12.00-2.00 or 2.00-4.00. Please could you let Liz know if you would like to help.



Contact details:

Team Vicar:

Revd Liz Rowles revlizrowles@gmail.com

0161 964 3928 (usual day off Friday)

Churchwardens:

Eleanor Doyle 07942 490524

Ann Worthington 07831 747416

Please take this sheet home with you for reflection and prayer and another one for someone who may like it.

**St John's & St Paul's
Together in Mission and Ministry**
www.heatons-team.org.uk

Hymn

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden, Mary,
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be.
All generations laud and honour thee.
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said.
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.'
Most highly favoured lady! Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn;
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
'Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

