



22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

St James' Church  
www.stjamesexeter.org Exeter

**Rector**

Fr Henry Pryse 01392 431297  
Day off: Thursday

**Parish Office** 01392 420407  
office@stjamesexeter.org  
Charity register number: 1128877

Notices

**No Coffee After Church Next Week**

The hall will be closed for floor polishing from Fri 27<sup>th</sup> to Sun 29<sup>th</sup> December. There will therefore be no refreshments in the hall after church on Sun 29<sup>th</sup> December.

**Church Decorating for Christmas**

Please see Liz Holland, Pat Snell or one of the churchwardens to make a donation today towards the cost of flowers for Christmas.

**Bring Your Friends!**

Eagle-eyed readers of *Contact* magazine will have spotted the concert series on Sunday afternoons in January. In the quieter days after the hustle and bustle of Christmas, this is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends to a relaxed event in the church.

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.*

Advent Wreath Prayer

*Lord Jesus, Light of the world, blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news, blessed is Mary, your mother and ours. Bless your Church preparing for Christmas; and bless us, your children, who long for your coming.*

10.00 am Music

<b>Processional hymn</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</b>
<b>Offertory hymn</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>For Mary, Mother of our Lord</b>
Communion anthem		Magnificat in C (by C V Stanford)
<b>Recessional hymn</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord!</b>

**This Week**

Morning Prayer is said at 8.30 am

Online: Mon

In the church: Tue, Fri

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> December** Luke 1: 57 – 66  
7.00 pm Choir practice

**Tue 24<sup>th</sup> December** Luke 1: 67 – 79  
4.00 pm Crib Service  
11.00 pm Midnight Mass

**Wed 25<sup>th</sup> December** John 1: 1 – 14  
10.00 am Parish Eucharist for  
Christmas Day

**Thu 26<sup>th</sup> December** Matthew 10: 17 – 22

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> December** John 21: 19b – 25  
Hall closed for floor polishing

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup> December** Matthew 2: 13 – 18  
Hall closed for floor polishing

**Next Sunday: 29<sup>th</sup> December**

**Feast of the Holy Family**

Luke 2: 41 – 52

Hall closed for floor polishing  
8.00 am Holy Communion  
10.00 am Parish Eucharist

Sharing God's love through worship, fellowship and service

### First Reading: 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.

### Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' When Christ said, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

### Gospel Reading: Luke 1: 39-45

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.'

### 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.**

