

Parish News

Sunday 20th December 2020

Advent 4

Parish Clergy

Revd Vicky Fleming 01543 502857 (Not Fridays)

Revd Gill Joynson 01543 502131

Parish Office 01543 502131

Mon– Fri leave message on
machine and we will call you back

Email: stlukesparish@btconnect.com

<http://www.stlukescannock.org.uk>

It is so frustrating trying to make contact with Vicars so Vicky will endeavour to be in her study every evening except Fridays and Sundays between 6pm and 7pm so that you can be sure of speaking to her. You are welcome to ring at other times but you may have to leave a message!

Important Reminder

If you like a member of the Pastoral Care Team to make contact with you, or anyone you know in need, you should inform the Parish Office. Because of Data Protection legislation access to contact details is restricted and so the person concerned must give permission.

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.

First Reading - *Romans 16.25-27*

²⁵To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Second Reading– Luke 1.26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was **Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.** ²⁸And he came to her and said, **'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'** ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰**The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.** ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be

called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of **Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.** ³⁴Mary said to the angel, **'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'** ³⁵The angel said to her, **'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.** ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will **be impossible with God.** ³⁸Then Mary said, **'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'** Then the angel departed from her.

Post 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.



Advent Promise—Advent Bible Study
online led by Rev. George Fleming. Study
notes and video can be found on the
'Bible Studies' page of our website.

Please look at the notes prior to
watching.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES ON TV AND RADIO

If you are unable to get to church during the Christmas season, or watch on our online services you might like to tune into the following some of the programmes which are available for you to watch or listen to. There are also hymns reflections and prayers on the free phone line for Daily Hope

Advent 4 December 20th

11.00am BBC1 Songs of Praise Big Sing - **UK's favourite Carol**

Christmas Eve

3.00 pm Radio 4 Carols from Kings College Cambridge
5.50 pm BBC2 Carols from Kings College Cambridge
11.30pm Radio 4 Midnight Mass Manchester Cathedral
11.45pm BBC1 Midnight Mass St Peter and St Paul RC
Bristol

Christmas Day

9.00am **RADIO 4** **St. Martin's in the Field London**
10.00am BBC1 Christmas Service Aberdeen



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Faith in Later Life

CONNECTIONS

What Does Christmas Mean To You? By Colin Hammacott

When you prepare for Christmas
What matters spring to mind?
The coming of the Saviour
Or the gifts that you can't find.

Do you think of baby Jesus
As you deck the halls with holly?
Or are your thoughts preoccupied
With piling high your shopping trolley.

Will you be moved this Christmas
By the sound of carol singing
Or are you more in tune with
The sound of shop tills ringing

On that family occasion
When you choose your Christmas tree
Do you think of how that tiny babe
Came to die for you and me?

Christmas to you could mean much more
If you're prepared to see
The reasons why each Christmastime
Just mean so much to me,

So as you celebrate this Christmas
Why not resolve to start anew?
And change your whole perspective
Of what Christmas means to you.



Please continue to support the foodbank by donating during these difficult times. The foodbank needs the following per week to ensure there are sufficient stocks. Please donate if you can. Every week they need:

- **200 BOXES OF CEREALS**
- **600 TINS OF BEANS**
- **170 TINS OF TOMATOES**
- **552 TINS OF MEAT**
- **410 TINS OF RICE PUDDING**
- **410 TINS OF FRUIT**
- **205 JARS OF JAM**
- **255 PACKS OF BISCUITS**
- **355 BOTTLES OF JUICE/SQUASH**
- **255 BOTTLES OF UHT MILK**

If you can help by bringing these items the box is at the back of Church **It would be good to include some Christmas treats too.** Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE

We are under Tier 3 restrictions be extra careful.

Remember **HANDS, FACE AND SPACE**

If you take risks you are not caring for others!

Dear Friends,

One of the saddest losses this year in our worshipping life is the Carol Service. There will be a carol service recorded at **St. Luke's on the website which we hope everyone will join in with** on Sunday 20th at 6.00pm. Obviously we shall miss meeting together in church, sharing in the singing of the carols that we love, some of which have been sung in churches for centuries.

The oldest carol, written in Latin in the 4th century, is thought to be, ***"Jesus refulsit omnium", this being translated as, "Jesus devoted redeemer of all nations, has shone forth."***

Another lovely old carol written in the 14th century is entitled The Friendly Beasts in which the animals in the stable tell of the gifts that they gave to Jesus. The donkey carried Mary to Bethlehem, the cow gave its manger, the sheep wool for his blanket and the dove cooed him to sleep. This carol and all the carols that we sing have the same purpose, to remind us that we have been given a most precious gift in Jesus, to praise God for this gift and to fill us with a sense of wonder as we reflect on the amazing truth that, as St. John tells us,

*"the Word became flesh and lived among us, and
we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's
only son, full of grace and truth."*

The Carol *Gaudete*, which was written in the 16th century, indicates what our response to the incarnation should be and in what frame of mind we should approach our Carol Service.

***"Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary.
Bless the Lord! Greetings to our King."***

May you all have a blessed and joyful Christmas



Services this Christmas

Sunday 20th December 10.00am

Holy Communion

6.00pm Online sing along Carols and Readings

St Luke's Facebook and Website

And the service sheet with the carols in will be on the website

24th December 11.30pm

First Communion of Christmas (Bookings Only)

Christmas Day 10.00am

Holy Communion (Bookings Only)

If you wish to come to either the First Communion of Christmas 11.30pm on 24th or 10am Holy Communion on Christmas day please book by telling the office. Thank you

Christmas 1 - 27th December 10am

Holy Communion

Please Note that the Church will be CLOSED on
Wednesday 30th December