



18<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

St James' Church  
www.stjamesexeter.org Exeter

**Rector**

Fr Henry Pryse 01392 431297  
Day off: Thursday

**Assistant Priest**

Fr Martin Poolton 01392 477488  
Day off: Saturday

**Parish Office**

Mount Pleasant Road, Exeter. EX4 7AH.  
01392 420407. office@stjamesexeter.org  
Charity register number: 1128877

**Notices**

**Christmas Refreshments**

There will be no refreshments after the Parish Eucharist on 25<sup>th</sup> December and 1<sup>st</sup> January. To join the rota in 2023, please speak to Charlotte Payne.

**Decorating for Christmas**

To help with decorating the church, please come on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon. Cash donations for flowers are also welcome: please see Liz Holland, Pat Snell or a churchwarden.

**This Week**

Morning Prayer is said at 8.30 am  
Online: Mon, Wed  
In the church: Tue, Thu, Fri

**Mon 19<sup>th</sup> December** Luke 1: 5 – 25  
10.30 am Old Rectory, Communion  
6.00 pm Community Carol Singing,  
Rosebank Crescent  
7.00 pm Choir practice

**Tue 20<sup>th</sup> December** Luke 1: 26 – 38

**Wed 21<sup>st</sup> December** Luke 1: 39 – 45  
12.00 noon Holy Communion

**Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> December** Luke 1: 46 – 56

**Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> December** Luke 1: 57 – 66

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

**Next Sunday: 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**Christmas Day** Matthew 1: 18 – 25  
8.00 am Holy Communion  
10.00 am Parish Eucharist



Greetings cards, 'thank you' notelets or simple Christmas gifts: these high-quality cards with envelopes feature the 'Compassion' sculpture inside St James' Church and are available at only £1.00 for a pack of 5. Purchase at the back of the church or contact the parish office with your order!

**TODAY**

11.30 am **News Flash! 11-Ups and JAM**  
**Nativity Production**  
3.00 pm Exeter Nativity  
4.00 pm Choir Practice  
6.00 pm Carol Service

10.00 am Music

**Entrance hymn 469 O Come, O Come Emmanuel**  
**Offertory hymn 475 Of the Father's Love Begotten**  
**Recessional hymn 612 Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord!**

Sharing God's love through worship, fellowship and service

## 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.**

## 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: 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.'

## Second Reading: Romans 1: 1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Gospel Reading: 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.

## 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.**