

Parish of St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr, Ipswich

19th December 2021—4th Sunday of Advent

Hymn Numbers: 395, 467, 295, 358

Collect:

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A reading from the Book of Hebrews (10:5-10)

Consequently, 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 he said above, '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.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

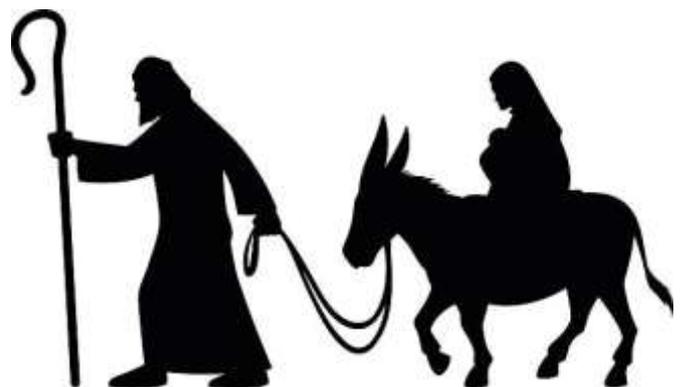
Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (3.1-6)

In those days 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.'

This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.



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. **Amen.**

Notices:

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust: Many thanks to everyone who took part in, helped organise or contributed to the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Bike Ride in September. It raised £72.50 for St Thomas's, with another £72.50 being retained by the Trust for the repair of churches that have applied to them for assistance. Well done all!

Funding Committee: we are looking for volunteers to be on a funding committee. The purpose is to find and apply for grants for our building work. If this might be you, please speak to Rachel or John.

Christmas Notices:

Christmas Flowers: if you'd like to donate towards our Christmas flower display in church, please give the money to Alison. Thank you!

Inspiring Angels: visit <http://www.inspiringangels.org.uk> and get out on the angel trail this Christmas! Why not take a photo with our giant angel wings too? We'd love you to share your pictures!

Thank you for all that every single one of you has done throughout this last year. Wishing you all peace, joy and love this Christmas, and the happiest and healthiest of new years.
- From the clergy team at St. Thomas



Church Website:

[http://stthomasipswich.org.uk/](http://stthomasipswich.org.uk)

Sunday Worship & other Worship resources on the Church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasipswich/>

This Week:

Sunday 19th December (Advent 4)

10am: Eucharist with Facebook livestream
6pm: Carol Service

Monday 20th December

11.30-1.30: Church open for prayer

Tuesday 21st December

7.30pm: Zoom Meditation Group. Contact Lucy for details & link:
lucydrake22@gmail.com

Wednesday 22nd December

10am: Eucharist

Thursday 23rd December

11.30-1.30: Church open for prayer

Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

4pm: Crib Service
11:30pm: Midnight Mass

Saturday 25th December (Christmas Day)

10am: Christmas Celebration Eucharist

Sunday 26th December (Christmas 1)

8.15am: BCP Eucharist
9am: Big Church Breakfast
10am: Eucharist with Facebook livestream



Chris Chapman (19th)
Angela Waldrige (20th)
Jan Wright (20th)

Please pray for:

Rosemary, Eric, Jenny, Kathy, Andrew, Peggy, Margaret, Natacha, Samantha, Theresa, Gloria, Angela, Helen, Pat, Daniel, Ezra, Eddie, Penny, Naomi, Andrew C.

Contacts:

Priest in Charge: Revd Rachel Revely

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Rachel's days off: Fridays and Saturdays

Assistant Curate: Revd Cat Connolly

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Cat's day off: Mondays

Assistant Curate, SSM: Revd John Irwin

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John's Parish days (normally): Wednesday and Thursday

Lay Evangelist: Malcolm Gibbs **m:** 07906 663530

Director of Music: Simon Clark BA FLCM FRCO

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Treasurer: Lucy Drake

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Church wardens: Roger Elmer **m:** 07810 274586

Stephen Marginson 01473 258791

If you would like to chat, you could also ring:

Mary Bullass 625135

Gloria Elmer 745590

Rev Jackie 07962 172639

Rev Pat 464748

Rev Canon Chris 462109