

**Chesterfield Parish Church
Saint Mary & All Saints**



Keeping Promises

Jesus is conceived as a result of an exchange of promises. Not contract-style promises, but the trust that God will keep his word, and that Mary will maintain her 'Yes' to God as her child grows in her womb and beyond.

Promises and commitment tend to be seen as less formally binding today than they may have been in earlier times, even though there has been plenty of informal bending of promises throughout history.

Our promise to put God and his work first in our lives is the basis of God's hopes for the world of today. This may be a time when busy commitments compete with each other, but we should remember that the salvation of today's world depends in a great measure on how we keep our promises to God.

**Advent IV
(20th December 2020)**

- 10.30 Choral Mass
15.30 Nine Lessons & Carols
(Ticket only)

ALSO THIS WEEK:

Monday 21st December

- 09.00 Morning Prayer
12.15 Mass
16.00 Evening Prayer

Tuesday 22nd December

- 09.00 Morning Prayer
09.30 Mass
16.00 Evening Prayer

Wednesday 23rd December

- 09.00 Morning Prayer
09.30 Holy Communion (BCP)
16.00 Evening Prayer

Thursday 24th December

- 09.00 Morning Prayer
09.30 Morning Mass
19.15 Nine Lessons & Carols
(Ticket only)

Friday 25th December

- 08.30 Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30 Solemn Choral Mass

Saturday 26th December

- 12.15 Mass

**Please note that attendance
at Nine Lessons & Carols
on 20th or 24th December
is by ticket only.**

**Mass on Wednesdays and
Sundays—and the Choral Mass
on Christmas morning— is live-
streamed on Facebook, and also
uploaded to the Crooked Spire
YouTube channel.**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - CHORAL MASS

Introit: O come, O come, Emmanuel

Setting: Darke in A minor

Collect Prayer

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. **Amen**

A reading from the Second Book of Samuel 2 Sam 7.1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Gradual Hymn: The Lord whom earth and sea and sky

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

Luke 1.26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The 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. And 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. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then 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.

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

Homily, Creed, Intercessions & Peace

Offertory Hymn: Lo! He comes with clouds descending

Communion Motet: The truth from above (*Ralph Vaughan Williams*)

Voluntary: Chorale (*William Mathias*)

NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

Special Order of Service

Prayer Intentions This Week:

Today 20th December - Advent IV

- For the Hospice Movement
- ◊ Mission agencies of the Anglican Communion
- ✦ Heather Lacey

Monday 21st December

- For health workers and hospital chaplains
- ◊ S W Tanganyika (Tanzania); Esan (Nigeria)

Tuesday 22nd December

- For retired clergy and those with PTO
- ◊ Etche (Nigeria); Etsako (Nigeria)
- ✦ George Leonard Insley
- ✦ Peggy Wood

Wednesday 23rd December

- For children's real understanding of Christmas
- ◊ Evo (Nigeria); Exeter (England)

Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve

- For God's light throughout the world
- ◊ Ezo (S Sudan); Faisalabad (Pakistan); Falkland Islands
- ✦ Marjorie Yarnold
- ✦ Michael Mann

Friday 25th December - Christmas Day

- For peace throughout the world
- ◊ The Peace of Jerusalem and the People of Bethlehem
- ✦ Mary Leech

Saturday 26th December - Stephen

- For all who suffer persecution for their faith
- ◊ Fianarantsoa (Indian Ocean); Florida (TEC); False Bay (Sn Africa)
- Diocesan Cycle of Prayer
- ◊ Anglican Worldwide Cycle of Prayer
- ✦ Year's Mind

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Parish Reader: John Gascoyne
Churchwardens: Colin McKenna
Malcolm Wilkinson

Vergers: 01246 206860

Organist & Choirmaster: Dr Paul Nash
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Our prayers have been asked for:

John Robinson; Sheila Laverick; Carol Kingham; Joan Lidgate; Teddy; June Frankland; John Herring; Michael Catton; Patricia Mitchell; Sue Hastings; Jean Madin; Jane Jackson; David Staves; Laura; Robin Glasson; Kenneth Hughes; Jane Stretton; Paul Taylor; Margaret; Ray Hearn; Tom Pierce; Anthony & Katie; Ivor Maltby; members of the Wolf-Kidd family

Between Christmas and New Year, the church will be open to visitors from 10.00am to 2.00pm on Monday 28th, Tuesday 29th, Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st December. Many thanks to those who have volunteered as Stewards during this period.

The Gift Shop will close at 4.00pm on Thursday 24th December, and is expected to reopen on Monday 4th January 2021.

COVID19 HAS DEFINITELY NOT GONE AWAY, AND ALL THE MEASURES WE HAVE TAKEN TO REDUCE THE RISK OF INFECTION STILL CANNOT ELIMINATE IT. PLEASE, IF YOU ARE ILL STAY AT HOME; IF YOU ARE VULNERABLE IN ANY WAY, THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE RETURNING TO CHURCH.

If you need support in prayer or any other way please contact the team on 01246 206506 or contact@crookedspire.org

Next Sunday - 27th December - John, Apostle & Evangelist

10.30 Morning Mass

Readings: Exodus 33.7-11a
John 21.19b-end

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