

NEXT WEEK

Sunday 29 December - First Sunday of Christmas

- 8.00am HOLY COMMUNION**, page no 61
President: Canon Imogen Nay
- 10.30am EUCHARIST with the Harsnett Choir**
President: Revd Kate Moore
Preacher: Canon Imogen Nay
- 3.30pm EVENSONG with the Harsnett Choir**
Preacher: Revd Kate Moore

THE WEEK AFTER

Sunday 5 January - Epiphany

- 8.00am HOLY COMMUNION**, page no 65
President: Revd Kate Moore
- 9.30am PARISH EUCHARIST**
President: Revd Kate Moore
Preacher: Canon Alison Kennedy
- 11.15am CHORAL EUCHARIST**
President: Canon Alison Kennedy
Preacher: Revd Kate Moore
- 3.30pm EVENSONG**
Preacher: Canon Alison Kennedy

THIS WEEK

Sunday 22 December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8.00am HOLY COMMUNION**, page no 52
President: Canon Alison Kennedy
- 10.30am EUCHARIST**
President: Canon Imogen Nay
Preacher: Canon Ivor Moody
- 3.30pm EVENING PRAYER**
- 6.30pm FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS (2)**

Daily Prayer through the Week (Mon to Sat):

Morning Prayer: 7.45 am

Holy Communion: 8.15 am (also Wed at 12.35 pm & Thurs at 10.00 am)

Midday Prayer in St Cedd's Chapel

Evensong/Evening Prayer: 5.15 pm (sung on Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri,
said on Wednesday & Saturday)

On certain Saturdays Evensong is sung by a choir
– please check the Music & Services list for dates

CATHEDRAL LIFE WEEKLY

Advent 4, 22nd December &

1st Sunday of Christmas 29th December 2019

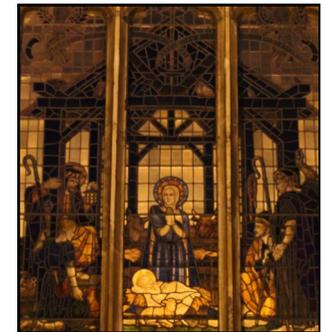


A Christmas Message from the Vice Dean

THE VICTORIANS have given us much for which to be grateful; but I'm not sure their 'romanticisation' of Christmas is one of them.

Christmas trees, cosy mantelpiece nativity scenes and many of our best known and loved carols may help to give a rosy hue to Christmas, but it can mask what the nativity is; a dangerous, precarious birth of the Messiah in filthy conditions and abject poverty to an unmarried girl escaping from genocide.

But that's why we need the Christmas message of love and peace more than ever, because God chose that dangerous precariousness for his beloved Son to bring full and true meaning to 'Emmanuel', which



means 'God is with us'. In a world which continues to be no stranger to all those threats and horrors which surround the stable in Bethlehem, the story of the Incarnation is one which continues to comfort and reassure us at the deepest level that God stands alongside us, and knows all our needs.

A happy, loving and peaceful Christmas to you all.

Canon Ivor Moody

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and visit our website: chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

Facebook: /chelmsfordcathedral Twitter: @CCathedral

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**Diocese of
Chelmsford**



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Study Notes on the Sunday Gospel

Readings for Advent 4 (22 December):

Isaiah 7.10-16, *Magnificat*, Matthew 1.18-25

Emmanuel, God-is-with-us

This Sunday brings us nearer to the mystery of the Incarnation. As Advent draws to a close I renew my commitment to prepare a welcome for the Christ child in my heart. I try to make space, in this busy week, to spend some quiet time with the readings.

The **First Reading** brings us Isaiah's prophecy to King Ahaz—a maiden is with child, his name is God-is-with-us.

The **Magnificat** is Mary's glorious song of praise to the God who is turning the world upside down by becoming one of us in Jesus.

The **Gospel** tells the story of Joseph, his predicament over Mary's pregnancy and the dream that he accepts as coming from God. He takes Mary to his home and the child will be called Emmanuel, God-is-with-us.

Readings for Christmas I (29 December):

Isaiah 63.7-9, Ps 148.7-14, Matthew 2.13-23

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD

Today's readings make hard reading together: the first reading speaks of God's mercy and love; the Psalm is a great hymn of praise; then the Gospel places before us one of the most tragic events in the birth stories of Jesus: the massacre of young children by Herod in his attempt to kill Jesus.

How do we make sense of this? Our contemporary ideas of justice and mercy find this deeply offensive. Some try to explain it away – that it is just Matthew embroidering on Jeremiah's prophecy. But that simply isn't good enough. However many children were killed, this is a real act of barbarism.

But of course that is precisely the point. We see what is happening in Yemen, in NE Kenya, in the destruction of rainforests, ice sheets and oceans, and know the depths to which human beings sink. God is not a magician who can wave a wand and make it all better. But what the scriptures do tell us is that there is no place so dark that we cannot sing praise, and that indeed it is the job of the Christian community to sing praise into the darkness and to find the wounded Christ who reaches out to a broken world in love and mercy.

THE WEEKS AHEAD

Sunday 22 December

6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (2)

Monday 23 December

12.30pm Carols for Kids

6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (3)

Tuesday 24 December

4pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Wednesday - Christmas Day

8am Eucharist

9am Family Eucharist

10.30am Choral Eucharist

5.15pm Evening Prayer

Saturday 28 December

5.15pm Evensong

7.30pm Rotary New Year Concert

Tuesday 31 December

10am Stay and Play Lego

Saturday 4 January 2020

10.00am Coffee in the Cathedral

are new to the Cathedral community, a long standing member or simply interested in exploring faith why not join our new Fellowship Group? Held on a Tuesday evening from 7pm, in Great Leighs the group will be hosted by Gary Fleming our ordinand who is on placement with us for two years. For more details email: garyalanfleming@gmail.com or talk to Canon Imogen Nay.

Charitable Giving: the annual charitable grants have gone to the following charities: a health programme in Embu, Kenya, to enable the purchase of 360 mosquito nets which will help to protect 300 families

from Malaria; the St Martin-in-the-Fields Vicar's Relief Fund which operates nationally to provide small crisis grants to those at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness to assess accommodation or prevent eviction; the Essex Clergy Charity Corporation which provides support to retired clergy, surviving spouses and dependent children; and the Children's Society project in Springfield Road which provides support and treatment intervention for young people affected by substance abuse.

NOTICES & DATES FOR THE DIARY

A very warm welcome to Chelmsford Cathedral especially if you are a visitor or here for the first time. Everything you need for the celebration is contained in the service booklet. Please ask one of the welcome stewards on duty at the doors if you have any questions.

Yellow Envelopes If you are a UK tax payer, please use a yellow Gift Aid envelope (available at the doors) to increase the value of your donation by 25% at no extra cost to you. Remember to fill in your full name, house number and postcode and the date.

New Archbishop: *The Dean writes:* It was announced on Tuesday that Bishop Stephen is to be the next Archbishop of York. This is a hugely significant appointment in the life of the national church and indeed the wider Anglican Communion. As the Bishop's Cathedral we have the special job of praying for the Bishop, and for the great challenges and opportunities ahead both for him and here in the Diocese of Chelmsford. +Stephen's great gifts as an evangelist and teacher; his power as a preacher, broadcaster and writer; and above all his ability to articulate God's love and mercy beyond the boundaries of the church are wonderful things he will bring to this new and extraordinary role. Please pray for +Stephen and Rebecca, and for those here who have already begun the process towards the appointment of the next Bishop of Chelmsford.

Saturday 18 January 7.15 for 7.45pm

Cathedral Ball: Tickets are now available for the annual Christmas Ball. A four course meal followed by dancing to live music. Tickets are £37.50 and available from yvonne spence@hotmail.com

Cathedral Groups: If you have a programme for 2020, please could you email or send me a copy so I can include your events in Cathedral Life Weekly and (where applicable) update the website. Many thanks. Clare Broome clare.broome@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

New on the Bookstall: Cathedral magnets, coasters and mouse mats - ideal stocking fillers for Christmas.

Thursday 19 December 10.45am

The Prayer Group will be meeting in the Jacob Room in December. Do join them to pray for the world, the diocese and the city.

Sunday 5 January

An **Epiphany Lunch** in support of English for Women and the Cathedral Choirs will be held at Cuton Hall, the home of Yvonne and John Spence. Gathering from 12.30 for a two-course hot lunch with wine and soft drinks. Tickets £15. Call 01245 465108 or email yvonnespence@hotmail.com

At Chelmsford Cathedral we are committed to helping each other live out our Christian lives in the context of loving relationships. Whether you

Sunday 5 JANUARY	9.30 & 11.15	3.30 pm
THE EPIPHANY	Isaiah 60.1-6 Ps 72.10-15 Matthew 2.1-12	Pss 96, 97 Baruch 4.36 – 5.9 John 2.1-11

Daily Gospel Readings, to use in your daily prayer:

23 December	Luke 1.57-66
24 December	Luke 1.67-79
25 December	John 1.1-14
26 December	Matthew 10.17-22
27 December	John 21.19b-25
28 December	Matthew 2.13-18
30 December	Luke 2.36-40
31 December	John 1.1-18
1 January	Luke 2.15-21
2 January	John 1.19-28
3 January	John 1.29-34
4 January	John 1.35-42

You can find a simple 10 minute reflection at: pray-as-you-go.org

Please pray for:

- Teresa Hipgrave, Rita James, Winnie Towers, Norman Sharpe, and all those receiving home communion and all in need of our prayers
- Mid-Essex Hospitals Chaplaincy, Broomfield, Nigel Bolitho Evangelism Consultancy
- North Springfield Baptist Church, Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre, Melbourne, Prison Fellowship Prayer Group, House of Eternity Ministries, Melbourne, St Francis Community Church, Beaulieu
- Members of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary and the Company of Servers and all people who serve Christ at the altar
- The staff of the Cathedral, the events to be held there and for all who will visit during the coming year. Give thanks for those who generously give their time as volunteers
- Christians in other denominations, the Dioceses of Gasabo (Rwanda) and Gboko (Nigeria)

CATHEDRAL LIFE

A busy weekend at the Cathedral!



More than 750 people enjoyed the first Lunchtime Carol Service where they heard the Christmas story, sung familiar carols and were entertained by the choral scholars. As usual there was mulled wine and mince pies and staff from Birkett Long helped serve this year. Another service takes place on 20th.

A final lunchtime carol service for children is at 12.30pm on Monday 23rd, this time with squash and biscuits served after the service!



The Cathedral choirs entertained a large audience at their annual Christmas Concert.



Children and their families enjoyed the Christingle service on Sunday afternoon where children were each given a Christingle. Money was donated to the Children's Society and all the children were encouraged to read prayers in the service.

