



# The Parish of Thorpe St Andrew

**Weekly Newsletter and Service Sheet**  
**27 December – The First Sunday of Christmas**



## **Look out! Listen in! Love kindly!**

The Bishop of Norwich has launched a social media campaign across the Diocese for these Twelve Days of Christmas. He writes: *“I believe that our greatest gift is our time. Many people will need support through these challenging days when so many are lonely, isolated or just need their spirits lifting. Look out for those on their own or lonely. Listen in to people’s stories, giving them your time, and love kindly so that we reduce stress at a challenging time.”* The shepherds found themselves on the margins of their community but with the encouragement of the angels they hurried to the stable to see the Christchild. Our picture (Hugo van der Goes’ *Adoration of the Shepherds*) shows them leaning in, looking out, listening in and loving kindly:

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:  
O come let us adore him...Christ the Lord.

May God bless you, as we look out, listen in and love kindly  
this Christmas and always, Fr James



## The Eucharist for the First Sunday of Christmas

### Introductory Voluntary

**Welcome** *Words of welcome to the congregation and those watching online.*

**Carol** Joy to the world  
Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive its king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

**Joy** to the earth, the Saviour reigns!  
Let all their songs employ  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

**He** rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

## **The Greeting**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

## **Prayers of Penitence**

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' Let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness to stand in your presence as your children.

**Forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.  
Forgive our disobedience to your will.

**Forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger.  
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

**Forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.  
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

**Forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King.  
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

**Forgive and heal us.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself,  
and cleanse us from all your sins that we may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Reading** Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the

Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.  
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Carol** While shepherds watched  
**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,**  
**All seated on the ground,**  
**The angel of the Lord came down,**  
**And glory shone around.**

**"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread**  
**Had seized their troubled mind; "**  
**Glad tidings of great joy I bring**  
**To you and all mankind.**

**"To you, in David's town this day**  
**Is born of David's line**  
**A Saviour who is Christ the Lord;**  
**And this shall be the sign:**

**"The heavenly Babe you there shall find**  
**To human view displayed,**  
**All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,**  
**And in a manger laid."**

**Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith**  
**Appeared a shining throng**  
**Of angels praising God, who thus**  
**Addressed their joyful song:**

**"All glory be to God on high**  
**And on the earth be peace;**  
**Good-will henceforth from heaven to men**  
**Begin and never cease."**

## **Gospel Reading Luke 2:15-21**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.** Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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

## **Sermon**

### **The Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*The response to the bidding*

Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

### **The Peace**

The angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.' The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### **The Preparation of the Table**

*The table is prepared, and bread and wine are placed upon it. Organ music is played. At the end this prayer is said.*

Word made flesh, life of the world,

in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:

by your Spirit may we share in your riches. **Amen.**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, and on this night was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us. In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his

light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph, St Andrew and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread** *The minister breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us, light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

## **Agnus Dei** *The Agnus Dei is said as the bread is broken.*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

## **The Giving of Communion**

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

**Lord, give us this bread always.**

## **Communion** *The sacrament is distributed. Organ music is played.*

## **Prayer after 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. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

## **Notices** *The notices and announcements are given.*

## **Carol In the bleak midwinter**

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for him, whom angels Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel Which adore.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man I would do my part;  
Yet what I can, I give him - Give my heart.

## **The Blessing**

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## **Closing Voluntary**

# ***Forthcoming Services***

*These are subject to restrictions operating at the time.*

**Sunday 3 January (The Epiphany) 9.30am** Sung Eucharist  
at Parish Church with Procession of the Three Wise Men

**Sunday 10 January 8.00am** Eucharist at the Good Shepherd Church  
9.30am Family Eucharist at Parish Church with prizegiving for the  
Christmas Eve Colouring Competition

# PRAYER INTENTIONS

## THE CHURCH

**Our Ministry Team** James Stewart, Taylor Wilton-Morgan, Nicole King

**Our Bishops** Graham, Alan and Jonathan. **Archdeacons** Karen Hutchinson, Steven Betts, Ian Bentley **Ecumenical** Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement: His Holiness Pope Francis; His All Holiness Archbishop Bartholomew; The General Secretary of the World Council of Churches; Bishop Ivan M Abrahams, General Secretary World Methodist Council; The Reverend Chris Ferguson, General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches.

## THE WORLD

**All those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic** all key workers in NHS and all fields of frontline, particularly our Care and Nursing homes - Broadland View, Larchwood, Dussindale, Mary Chapman

## THE COMMUNITY

**Streets of the Parish** Furze Road, Gargle Hill, Girlings Lane

**Our community** For all those in our community struggling with the new Tier 4 restrictions

**THOSE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYER** including Brian Riseborough, Paul Carter, Mark Little, Monique Rowland, Jennifer Jones, Janet Fancy, Colin Hicks, Alan Harrison, Grace Howes, Peter & Gaynor Garrood, Rita Ward, Joy & Andy McCall, Jean High, Jean Mayhew, Brother Gabriel, Craig Fransham, Anthony Travis, Paul Rayner, Mark King, Fr Patrick Kerley, Chloe Smith MP, Alan Fleming

## THE DEPARTED

**The recently departed**

Diane Marley (23<sup>rd</sup> Dec-12.30pm), Sybil Nunn (5<sup>th</sup> Jan), Richard Chapple (5<sup>th</sup> Jan), Douglas Horrex (6<sup>th</sup> Jan), Joan Ducker (7<sup>th</sup> Jan), Brian Goodswen (14<sup>th</sup> Jan – PC, 12noon), Frances Parker, Brian Goodswen

**Those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time** including Thelma Trimble, Ronald Brinded, Frederick Grimes, Kenneth Reed



## 100 Club WINNERS DOUBLE CHRISTMAS DRAW

£25 each: Sue Seymour and Arthur Morley;

£15 each: Robert Chalmers and Margaret Hope

# OTHER NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **SOME GUIDELINES FOR SERVICES IN TIER 4**

At the time of preparing this notice communal worship is still permitted in Tier 4. The Bishop has given permission to suspend worship but we have decided to go ahead this Sunday and will wait to see what happens with the regulations next week. We very much hope to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany in church, but if restrictions have changed we will let you know. It is important that the social distancing measures are now **STRICTLY** adhered to.

- Please use hand sanitisers on entering and leaving the church.
- Please wear a face covering at all times in church, other than to receive the host. Please do make sure it covers your nose and mouth.
- Alternate pews are being used and within the pews please ensure we remember to sit 2 metres away from others (1 metre plus with face mask), unless from the same household or 'support bubble'.
- We will not shake hands in the peace. Ensuring social distance we can place our hands together in prayer form (Namaste form) – to offer peace.
- Please can you place your much needed offerings and collection on the brass plate, as you come in.
- At the Parish Church, when you come up for communion we will not be using the rails. Please form a queue, ensuring 2 metres distance in order to receive the bread (host). Please fully extend your arms fully to ensure social distance. The celebrant alone will receive the wine on behalf of us all. Please return to your seats using the one-way system. The side aisle will be invited up first. The celebrant and deacon will use hand sanitiser before distribution and communicants will receive the host in their hand. For those requiring a blessing, hands will not be laid directly on the head.
- We will keep a list of those attending in order to comply with Government guidance which includes a request for names of attendees to be recorded and kept for 21 days to assist 'track and trace' if required.

**PRIVATE PRAYER** The Parish Church is open for private individual prayer.  
**Monday CLOSED Tuesday - Saturday 10am to 4pm Sunday 11am to 5pm**

**ZOOM GATHERING** I would have held a lovely drinks party after the service on 27 December. Sadly this is something to hope for in 2021. We will hold another Zoom Gathering at 12 noon for a maximum of 30 minutes on 27 December (TODAY). The Zoom code will be sent out on 26 December.  
**Bring your own sherry and mince pies!! Other drinks are available!!**

**THANK YOU TO YOU ALL** Thank to you all for the way in which you have responded to giving during this pandemic. Please continue to give as generously as you can. If you have a question in relation to giving please contact our Treasurer on her email: [treasurersa@gmail.com](mailto:treasurersa@gmail.com)

**BAKING THROUGH THE LOCKDOWN: Recipes from the Parish of Thorpe St Andrew and friends during the Covid-19 pandemic**

Copies can be purchased from church, Mazzoni's Newsagents, Hair by Diane, Gordon Barber Funeral Directors and the Town Hall (when open). They can also be ordered by email from Christine Cutting ([cutting248@btinternet.com](mailto:cutting248@btinternet.com)) or by phoning the Rectory or leaving a message on the answerphone **01603 439160**. We will deliver free in Thorpe St Andrew/Thorpe End. Beyond that postage and packing starts at £2.00.

**POTTED BULBS and JAMS AND CHUTNEYS**

Alistair raised the wonderful sum of £165.50 with his potted bulbs and plants. Sue Short has donated £120 to us from the sale of her jams and chutneys and other produce. A huge thank you to them both for their hard work.

**COMFORT AND JOY** The Church of England have brought out a delightful booklet. I have a good number of them. A suggested donation of £1 would be appreciated. They weren't provided free!

**THANK YOU** A huge thank you to all for their part in all our Christmas services. The people who came obtained great comfort from the services and I am a very proud Rector to have such helpful and committed people around to do all of this. It is a great achievement in a very difficult year - and you all should right feel very proud too. A particular shout out to our intrepid choir and Dominika for her lovely Midnight Mass solo, which really made my Christmas - thank you! Thank you also for all the cards, messages and gifts received, which are a great source of encouragement..

**The Rector, Churchwardens, Ministry Team and Parochial Church Council thank you all for your joyful participation in the life of our parish and wish you all a Happy New Year!**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

Please contact our Rector,

The Revd James Stewart (Fr James)

Tel: 01603 439160 or email him at [rector@thorpeparishchurch.org](mailto:rector@thorpeparishchurch.org)