

St Mary, Whitegate and St Peter, Little Budworth
Readings for Sunday 21st December – Advent 4
Morning Prayer or Holy Communion

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.

PSALM: 80:1-8

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, ♦
you that led Joseph like a flock;
Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, ♦
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your mighty strength ♦
and come to our salvation.
Turn us again, O God; ♦
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
O Lord God of hosts, ♦
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?
You feed them with the bread of tears; ♦
you give them abundance of tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of our neighbours, ♦
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Turn us again, O God of hosts; ♦
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. AMEN

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Again 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:

Matthew 1: 18- end

Now 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:

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.

AFTER THE SERVICE:

Please join us for refreshments. At St Mary's these are served in the Mews which is at the bottom of the steps leading to the village green. Toilets are available in the Mews.

At St Peter's refreshments are served in Church and there is a toilet at the back of church.

SAFEGUARDING:

St Mary's & St Peter's take our duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues of a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information at: <https://www.chesterdiocese.org> and click on the "Safeguarding" tab



Advent 4 21.12.25

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES			
Sun 21st	St Mary's	6.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols
Christmas Eve	St Mary's	4.00pm	Crib Service Nine Lessons & Carols Midnight Communion
	St Peter's	6.30pm	
	St Mary's	11.30pm	
Christmas Day	St Mary's	9.30am	Christmas Communion
	St Peter's	11.00am	