

Please remember in your prayers

Pray for those who are not well at this time and pray for the souls of the recently departed, may they rest in peace.



The Church of England

Holy Cross Church

The church at the heart of our community

Team Vicar:

Revd. Simon Douglas (212405)

Church Wardens: Janet Pugh (844981)

Mike Spragg (845222)

Website: <http://holycross.bilbrook.info/>

Parish Office: 01902 751622

(10am-12noon Monday-Friday)



**The Church Wardens
would like to wish everyone
at Holy Cross,
a Holy and Joyous Christmas**

Janet & Mike

2019 Church Diaries

Parish Diaries are now available for a suggested donation of £1.

Christmas Eve Crib Service

As is our custom we ask that gifts put under the tree be suitable for people who need to call on the services of The Haven in Wolverhampton.

The Haven provides a refuge for women and children who have to escape from home because of violence. We usually ask for gifts for the children, but their Mothers also need a cheer up. These gifts will be used for Birthdays or other occasions.

The Haven are always grateful for our donations.



Our gift of items to the Food Bank last week weighed 14.45kg and included a Christmas Pudding!

Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 23rd December 10.45am

Welcomers: Jill, Victor

Reader: Rebecca

Prayers: Carole

Offertory: Grace, June, Rebecca

Assist: Malcolm, Rebecca

Pebble Pool: Jessica

Christmas Eve 11pm

Welcomers: Jill, Ruth

Reader: Mike

Prayers: Jo

Offertory: June, Rita, Sheila

Assist: Janet, Carole

Christmas Day 9am

Sides, Offertory, Assist: Malcolm

Reader: Carole

Christmas Day 10.45am

Welcomers: Jean H, Jean M

Reader: Kathryn

Prayers: Mark

Offertory: Gill, Mary, Victor

Assist: Mark, Rebecca

Sunday 30th December 10.45am

Welcomers: Mary, Victor

Reader: Rosemary

Prayers: Carole

Offertory: Grace, Sheila, Malcolm

Assist: Malcolm, Mike

Pebble Pool: Mary

Sunday 23rd December Fourth Sunday of Advent

9am Eucharist

(Celebrant: Revd Richard Reeve)

10.45am Sung Eucharist

(Celebrant: Revd Richard Reeve)

Hymns for Sung Eucharist

Introit: **136** For Mary, mother of our Lord (St. Botolph)

Gradual: **295** Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Offertory: **358** O come, O come Emmanuel

Communion: **467** Tell out, my soul

414 Peace, perfect peace

Recessional: **471** The angel Gabriel from Heaven came

This Week

Mon	24	Christmas Eve 4pm Crib Service 11pm Midnight Mass
Tues	25	Christmas Day 9am Eucharist 10.45am Celebration Eucharist
Wed	26	
Thur	27	9.30am Eucharist (Holy Innocents)
Fri	28	
Sat	29	
Sun	30	10.45am Sung Eucharist

Fourth Sunday of Advent

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

People of God: prepare!
God, above all, maker of all,
is one with us in Christ.

Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God, the mighty God,
bends down in love to earth.

Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God with us, God beside us,
comes soon to the world he has made.

Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

We are God's children,
we seek the coming Christ.

Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Heavenly Father,
you exalted the humble and meek:
give us humble and contrite hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb:
be planted also in our hearts and lives.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you overshadowed Mary,
that she might become the God-bearer:
fill us with your heavenly gifts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

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 forever.

FIRST READING Micah 5.2–5a

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

The LORD says to his people: But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

SECOND READING Hebrews 10.5–10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

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 Christ said, '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.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL Luke 1.39–55

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord

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 forever.'

Priest: This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ

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.