

Christmas Holiday Period

From 26th December— 3 January St Anne's and St Andrew's will be closed. The office will not be open. There will be no weekday morning prayer between Christmas and New Year. There will be a Wednesday evening Mass at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27th.

Exploring Scriptures of World Faiths

New 6 week course commencing on Wednesday January 10th at 2.00pm looking at the origins, use and interpretation of world scriptures. The course runs for 90 minutes for 6 Wednesday afternoons.



For our Prayers— For Shelter and Crisis and all who will care for others this Christmas time. Maurice, Rev. Jane , Gale, Yaa, Estelle, John Q, Floret, Trish, Cleo, Bob, Marguerite and Ruth **For those who have died recently** Lois Romain **and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time** including Cecil Nymn,

Lionel Patrick Salmon, Ed Anderson, Albert Beauchamp, Richard Killick and Gerry Clist

Services during the week 24th December 2017

Sunday 24th 5pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Monday 25th 10am Sung Mass with Carols

Wednesday 7.30pm Said Mass in Trinity Chapel
27th

Sunday 31st 8.30am Morning Prayer in Trinity Chapel
9.30am Sung Mass



Parish contact details

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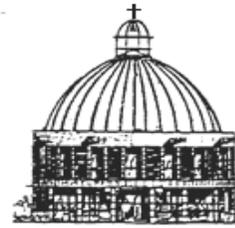
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St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Sunday 24th December 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent

HYMNS TODAY - 692, 700, 140 and 288

President Mo Christine **Preacher** Mo Christine

Welcome to worship today—it is great to have you with us. We hope that you will feel welcome in our worship today. If you are new, please do say hello—we would love to get to know you. If you are unsure where to find something, or about what is going on, please do ask and we will be happy to help. Our worship style is quite formal- but we hope relaxed-as we come to worship God in our midst. Please do join us for coffee after the service. Large Print Service books available.

Our first reading.— Within David's checkered story (a patchwork of triumph and downfall) comes a pivotal glimpse into the Lord's relationship with David, Israel, and ultimately all of history by way of the promise of an eternal "house."

1st Reading— 2 Samuel 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.

Our Second reading : The doxology of Romans 16:25-27, as well as the past sixteen chapters of the epistle centre on the project of bringing all humanity to the obedience of faith in the Gospel in order to bring great glory to God.

2nd Reading— Romans 16: 25-end

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Our Gospel reading today is Luke 1: 26 – 38 as the angel Gabriel appears to Mary and responds to God’s call on her life. This Advent season, the Gospel of Luke’s version of the birth story is our focus.

Because of the busy and image-rich Christmas holidays full of nativity plays and orations -- many of which combine Matthew’s wise men with Luke’s shepherds -- it is easy to miss Luke’s distinctive theological voice and contribution to the season of Advent. Harmonizing the stories into a single, easily digestible account bespeaks a long interpretative tradition in Christianity. The message Gabriel provides Mary makes several points. First, he tells Mary twice that she is favoured by the Lord (Luke 1:28, 30) and declares the Lord is with her (Luke 1:28). Moreover, Gabriel tells her the news , that she will conceive by the Holy Spirit and bear the Son of God (Luke 1:35) who will reign as the divine King and ancestor of David (Luke 1:32-33).

Mary is a young woman who lacks all of the power, positioning, and prestige associated with Zechariah’s position. Mary is not only a young woman of puberty age (ages 12-14 years old) and is in the period of betrothal (Luke 1:27). Whereas Zechariah is an elder, head of household, and powerful, Mary is one who is young, inexperienced, in between households, and vulnerable. Despite this she has the courage

to stand boldly and not be afraid. In what situations may we need to do the same? (*An exert from a commentary written by Shively Smith , Assistant Professor of New Testament, Wesley Theological Seminary Washington, D.C.*)

Our Community Life Together and Dates for your Diary

Finance—St Anne’s

Our current monthly target for congregational giving is **£2180**. At present our average congregational giving hits this target. With gift aid—in October we did do this. *A huge thank you to all who have revised their giving already!!*

Laurence’s Larder and Food Bank

The Larder is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am-1.30pm. Volunteers are also to help with preparation between 10– 1pm on Wednesdays. We are still asked to bring in a can a week. While all non-perishable goods are welcome, we have agreed to focus as a church on providing **‘tinned fish’**. This coming Thursday Laurence’s Larder will host a Giant Christmas Lunch for all their guests. Please pray for them all over the difficult time of the year. From Thursday ‘Crisis at Christmas’ will take over hospitality for Guest over the 2 week holiday period. We pray for all the volunteers too.

Giving Tree—opens on Friday 15th!

Our Christmas Trees is now up and you an opportunity to consider your charity giving this Christmas.

1. Gift Box for St Mungo’s—Fill a shoe box with items that would be useful for a homeless man. Warm socks, hats, gloves, toiletries, tea bags, cup of soups. Wrap the box and place under the tree.
2. Gift to St Anne’s for its ministry -This Christmas you are invited to give a gift to St Anne’s. We invite you to simply place your gift to St Anne’s in the envelope provided, and post it under the tree.

Carols by Candlelight

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with Carols by Candlelight last Sunday, and with all our Christmas preparations.

Christmas and New Year Hours

Tea and Chat is now in recess until the 5th January. From January we are trialling being open every Friday afternoon. We may also finish slightly earlier on these dark afternoons.

My Move is also on a break now and re-opens on Friday 5th January