



# St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

*Confidently sharing the love of Christ*

## **Fourth Sunday of Advent 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

*Welcome to St Anne's today—it is great to have you with us. St Anne's is the local Church of England parish church and we are a very diverse group of people. 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. 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.*

*All the words for the service will be on the screens at the front however, if you would prefer to have a printed copy in your hands, there are hymn books and service sheets at the back.*

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***During Advent we wait for the coming of Christ, not only in the story of the Nativity, but in the here and now. We wait for the coming of God's Reign on earth, when peace and justice will be a reality. The concepts of Advent are often difficult as they speak of judgement and end times. Equally they talk of new life beyond our understanding. As we come to***

***this Advent Season, let us not be afraid of our waiting, or of the uncertainty it may raise. Rather we are invited in our prayer and meditation to call out 'Come, Lord Jesus, Come!'***

*Please stand as the bell is rung as we sing our opening Hymn 535 – O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

**We meet in the name of God who is (+) Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*The President will introduce the service*

*As we begin the New Christian Year and the start of Advent we come before God with our prayers of confession*

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*Silence is kept*

**Almighty God,  
long-suffering and of great goodness:  
I confess to you,  
and to these my brothers and sisters,  
I confess with my whole heart my neglect and forgetfulness  
of your commandments,  
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;  
the hurts I have done to others,  
and the good I have left undone.  
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you; and raise  
me to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*We sing together.*

**Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,  
Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

*We are reminded of God's forgiveness.*

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, (+) pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*We turn to the Advent Wreath which helps us to mark our journey through Advent. There are five candles, one for each week. On this Fourth Sunday we remember **Mary** – who had the courage to carry the Christ Child. We light the **final purple candle** as we wait for the coming of Jesus.*

*As we turn to the Advent wreath, we sing the Third verse and chorus of **Hymn 452***

*We light the first candle then pray:*

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!**

*The Priest introduces a period of silent prayer before the collect.*

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Liturgy of the Word** *(please sit as the young people leave us for their lessons. We hear a reading from the Old Testament.*

*In our passage, following many years of a peripatetic existence and fresh off of his triumphant return of the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6), David is enjoying an interlude of peace and is settled in his own house (2 Samuel 7:1). Perhaps feeling refreshed with time to reflect, David suddenly notices that he has a permanent home of cedar, while the ark of God has no such abode. The prophet Nathan endorses David's decision to remedy this problem, only to be warned off the project by God in a vision that same night. Nathan reports this message from God to David.*

A reading from the second book of Samuel  
(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 forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

*We hear a reading from the New Testament.*

*Paul often concludes a letter with a summary of what he has written earlier in the letter, to emphasize the main points. Like in other letters, Paul is dealing with congregations that are having difficulties living together. After the various greetings, Paul gives the Roman congregation some final instructions, reminding them to cease unnecessary divisions, as those are contrary to what they had been taught as disciples of Christ. These divisions are not only selfish (redirecting attention from Christ to the self), but they can also cause harm to those who are young in the faith. As in his exhortation at the end of 1 Thessalonians Paul reminds the congregation to do good and refrain from evil.*

A reading from the letter to the Romans

(Romans 16:25-27)

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 forever! Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*We sing our **Gradual Hymn 59 – Away in a manger** during which the Gospel is processed – please stand.*

*Imagine an angel showing up at someone's home or workplace entirely unexpectedly and making a life-altering announcement. Luke tells two such stories in a short span and juxtaposes them. Since the story of angel Gabriel announcing the birth of Jesus comes on the heels of the account of Gabriel's encounter with Zechariah, it is hard not to compare the two.*

*Mary and Zechariah respond to angel Gabriel's announcement in vastly different ways. Unlike Zechariah, Mary's final response to Gabriel's announcement was one of complete affirmation. Theologian, Luke Timothy Johnson noted that Mary's response (let it happen to me as you have said) is similar to Jesus' prayer on the Mount of Olives before his death (Luke 22:42). It is a declaration of trust in God even as Mary, and later Jesus, was going into the unknown.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

(Luke 1:26-38)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

*We sit to listen to the sermon. After the sermon silence is kept.*

*We stand to affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene 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.**

*We sit as we prayer for the Church, the World and for this community.  
A member of the congregation will lead these*

*After the biddings we pray*

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

Rest Eternal Grant unto them O Lord  
**And let light perpetual shine upon them**  
May they rest in peace  
**And rise in glory**

*At the conclusion of the prayers*

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour  
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Sacrament*** (please stand)

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in  
heaven and glory in the highest.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*We share the peace with those around us in a way we are  
comfortable until the offertory Hymn is announced.*

*We sing Hymn 700 – **The angel Gabriel from heaven came** during  
which a collection is taken.*

As this bread was scattered and then gathered and made one,  
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.  
**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

Wisdom has built her a house; she has mixed her wine;  
she has set her table.  
**Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

The Lord be with you,  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*The preface continues until we sing.*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

*After the Consecration :*

Great is the mystery of faith

**Christ has died: Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again**

*At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer we sing **Amen.***

*We join in the prayer that Jesus taught his friends to say in our preferred version and language.*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

*We sing the Agnus Dei.*

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us**

**Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,**

**have mercy on us  
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

*The Elevation*

God's holy gifts, for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*We receive communion, during which we listen to Magnificat. All who would normally receive are welcome to receive here. We receive God's grace in one kind or two. **(Please do not intinct (dip)).** You may also like to come forward for a blessing; and you may wish to light a candle. At the end of communion the priest will lead us in a period of silence, and then a short prayer:*

**Post Communion Prayer**

Heavenly Father,  
who chose Blessed 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.**

*We listen to notices about our community life.*

*We receive God's blessing for the week ahead.*

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and 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**

Go in the peace of Christ  
**Thanks be to God**

We join in our **final hymn 692 – Tell out my soul** during which the clergy depart.

You are invited to join us for refreshments downstairs.

## **Our Community Life Together and Dates for your Diary**

### **Laurence's Larder**

You can leave your donations, tinned fish or any non-perishable food in the basket at the top of the stairs. You can see updates on this work at [www.laurenceslarder.org.uk](http://www.laurenceslarder.org.uk)

### **Finance—St Anne's**

Our current monthly target for congregational giving is **£2180**. In November we raised £1869. Thank you to everyone for your generosity!

We are also going contactless! From this week, visitors to St Anne's, or even regulars will be able to donate using a contactless point at the back of church. For regular members, a Standing Order or Envelope is best as it helps us plan.

*The funds we raise support the Mission work of St Anne's, from ensuring worship takes place to provision of Playgroup, tea and chat, bereavement support and care of the local community. We receive no funds external to support what we do, we need to raise all we need to continue our work in Queen's Park and beyond.*

### **Thank you**

Thank you to everyone who helped with Wreath making on 9<sup>th</sup> December – a special thank you to Rhona for all her hard work!!!

Thank you too, for all who helped with Christmas Parties on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> and at Carols by Candlelight last week!! What an amazing team.

**24<sup>th</sup> of December is both the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
and Christmas Eve**



**For our prayers—** Olawale, Eunice, Marco, Irene, Patsy, Jean, Joyce, Guy and Renate, AnneMarie and Marion, Emma, Peter and Rhona, Florret, John and Josephine, Harriet, May, Mavis, Kay, Comfort, Jean, Pearl, Peter, Ruth, John and Cecilia. We remember those who have died recently including Gordon and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Albert Beauchamp, Richard Killick, Gerry Clist and Isobel Robinson.

### **Services during the week 24th December 2023**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>**    **9am** Morning Prayer in Chapel and Zoom  
*Advent 4*            **10am** Sung Mass

**Christmas**            **5pm Crib Service**  
**Eve**                    **8pm Zoom Service for Christmas**  
                              **11pm Midnight Mass**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup>**    **10am Sung Eucharist with Carols**  
*Christmas Day*

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>**        **9am** Morning Prayer in Chapel and Zoom  
*Christmas 2*        **10am** Sung Mass

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Public Weekday Morning Prayer will not take place from  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and will resume  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024!

Church complex is closed from  
Boxing Day till New Years Day.

Admin Office is closed from 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec  
until the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.