



*Happy Christmas and New Year!*

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## **Bible Readings**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 19 <sup>th</sup> December | The Fourth Sunday of Advent<br>Micah 5.2-5a; Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45[46-55]        |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> December | Christmas<br>Isaiah 9.2-7; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-20                                    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> January   | The Epiphany<br>Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12                          |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> January   | The Baptism of Christ<br>Isaiah 43.1-7; Acts 8.14-17; Luke 3.15-17,21,22                 |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> January  | The Second Sunday of Epiphany<br>Isaiah 62.1-5; 1 Corinthians 12.1-11; John 2.1-11       |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> January  | The Third Sunday of Epiphany<br>Nehemiah 8.1-10; 1 Cor 12.12-31a; Luke 4.14-21           |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> January  | The Presentation of Christ in the Temple<br>Malachi 3.1-5; Hebrews 2.14-18; Luke 2.22-40 |

## **Prayer & Worship**

Currently there is scaffolding inside the church building which unfortunately might need to remain for some time. However, we are hoping to open the church again soon on *Wednesdays and Thursdays* (subject to volunteer helpers). This will be for prayer and also for visitors. (On Wednesdays between 10am and 11am the church will only be open for prayer.)

We respectfully request that ALL visitors wear a face-covering and use the hand sanitiser. Please be aware that it is not possible to clean the church every day – so we ask people not to go beyond the roped-off areas, and to avoid touching things unnecessarily.

We will be continuing our *9.15am Sunday services in the church building and (on most Sundays) our 11am Sunday services over the internet and by telephone*. (On 26<sup>th</sup> December there will be no services and on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January there will only be one service: at 10am in the church building.)

## Daily Prayer

*(Be still and quiet for a moment or two. You may like to light a candle to remind yourself of the light of Christ.)*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

*(from Gloria in Excelsis)*

Bible Reading(s) *(You could use one of the readings opposite)*

### Prayers

*(Speak to God whatever is on your heart. You might like to finish with this prayer, and then the "Lord's Prayer".)*

Jesus, Word of the Father and brightness of his glory,  
whom angels desire to behold:  
teach me to do your will that, guided by your Spirit,  
I may come to that blessed city of everlasting day,  
where all are one in heart and mind,  
where there is safety and eternal peace, happiness and delight,  
where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, world without end.  
Amen.

*(adapted from Gregory the Great, 604AD)*

Our Father ...

### The Conclusion

May the light of Christ our Lord shine in all our hearts. Amen.

## **Remembrance Sunday**

Thank you to all those who supported our service in the Pannier Market. £546.43 was raised for the work of the Royal British Legion.

## **Services**

### **Sunday services in church at 9.15am**

Sunday morning services in church continue at 9.15am (except on 26<sup>th</sup> December, when there is no service, and on 2<sup>nd</sup> January when the service will be at 10am). Holy Communion will on 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

There is now no need to pre-book. In order for us to keep everyone safe – and as a way of caring for others - we ask you to wear a face-covering whilst inside our building and to give other people space. If you would prefer more space, the pews on the left-hand side next to the north wall are intended to provide more social distancing. We ask you to keep your face-covering on whilst singing.

(It is important that if you have a cough, temperature or any other sign of infection you stay at home.)

### **11am Sunday services via the internet or telephone**

These half-hour 'live' services, where we share in worship together at home, will continue for the time-being.

(In due course we are hoping to link this in with our other services in church.)

If you would like to join in, please let Michael know and he will explain how to do so. Please note: There will be NO Zoom service on the 26<sup>th</sup> December or the 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

Please check our website for updates.

## Christmas & New Year Services

19<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am (in church)

Carol Service

19<sup>th</sup> December at 11am (on Zoom)

Carol Service

24<sup>th</sup> December at 11.15pm (in church)

Christmas Eve Holy Communion

25<sup>th</sup> December at 10am (in church)

Family Communion Service

25<sup>th</sup> December at 11am (on Zoom)

Christmas Service

2<sup>nd</sup> January at 10am (in church)

Morning Worship

(There will not be a Zoom service)

We look forward to seeing you at any of these services!

## Christmas Tree Festival

South Molton Parish Church's 11<sup>th</sup> Christmas Tree Festival continues **online for the whole of December**. Pay it a visit and see the 63 original and quirky trees! Please go to the church website ("google" South Molton Parish Church), or <https://xmastreefestival.godaddysites.com/>

Sponge cakes, fruit cakes and mince pies are available to buy (contact Margaret to order on 573558 or email [margaret.crosseview@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:margaret.crosseview@hotmail.co.uk) ).

## **Funerals**

We pray for the family and friends of Sandra Barker, whose funeral we were involved in this month.

## **Some brief notes from the PCC**

- We covered, as usual, a wide range of topics.
- Thank you to all those who have signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme. This is a way of regularly donating to the church, and for tax-payers it makes it a lot easier and quicker for the church to receive the Gift Aid (at no extra cost to donors). Please consider using this Scheme: further details from Bob Redwood.
- Our two Sunday services continue to be valued and we will continue with our current pattern for the time being. This is being kept under review, and we are exploring other options.
- Several inside areas of the church roof are affected by dry rot which will require expensive repairs. For safety reasons, we will need to keep the scaffolding erected. This will reduce some of the space inside the church, so we ask for your forbearance.
- Thank you, everyone, for all your support as we move forward into the future together.

## **The Church Hall**

The Church Hall is now available for booking during the day. Please contact Tom Bayliss (07731 845512).

## **Happy Birthday Denny!**

Congratulations to Denny Kingdon, who has served the church over many years, on his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday!

## **The 200 Club October results**

In November, 85 numbers were entered into the draw. The 1<sup>st</sup> prize (£85) was won by Lyn Winter (no.16), the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize (£51) by Tom Bayliss (no.76) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize (£34) by Margaret Dullam (no.85). Thank you, all members, for your support of the church. To join in, contact Margaret White (573558), Sally Ann Kingdon (574278) or call in at Printworkx (2 King Street).

## **Carol Supper**

Eighty-four people enjoyed a hot meal and dessert delivered to their doors for this year's Carol Supper on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December. We tucked into either delicious roast chicken casserole or vegetable bake with creamed potato and fresh vegetables followed by mincemeat and apple crumble or fresh fruit salad – with clotted cream, of course! At 7.15pm we tuned-in to Michael's Zoom session of Christmas Carols, Poems and Stories. Thank you to Stella and her mother, Margaret, and Margaret for providing the excellent food, to those who delivered it and to those who took part in the Celebration afterwards.

## **Christmas Grand Draw**

A big thank you to everyone who bought a draw ticket in our Grand Draw. The first prize of £50 was won by P Byers, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of £30 was won by Mrs Squire and the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of £20 was won by R Hutchings. Ten other prizes of wine and various boxes of chocolates were won by Spencer-Ellis, M Woollacott, L Edgell, D Smaldon, D Snow, Mrs Pacey, R Banham, V Chancellor, R Everett, P Hardwick and U Parker.

We estimate a £1,300 profit for the church: thank you all very much.

## A Christmas Carol

by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

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 midwinter  
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.

Angels and archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air;  
But only His mother  
In her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.

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.

*(This was originally written as a poem in 1871 and was later adopted as a hymn in 1906, by Gustav Holst. It has since become one of the nation's favourite Christmas carols.)*

