

# **The Parish of Cannock and Huntington**

*Building Community with Christ at the Centre*

## **Parish News**

Sunday 22nd & 29th December 2024

Advent 4 Christmas 1

### **Contact Information**

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### **Office hours**

**Parish office will close 12pm Friday 20th December  
and re-open Thursday 2nd January 2025**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

The Church takes the safety of everyone within the church very seriously and expects that everyone will work within the church safeguarding policy. In particular, the Church expects anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk or of actual abuse, to report it immediately to our Safeguarding Coordinator,

Teresa Atherton

## Collect 22nd December

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.

## Collect 29th December

God in Trinity,  
eternal unity of perfect love:  
gather the nations to be one family,  
and draw us into your holy life  
through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Post Communion 22nd December

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.

## Post Communion 29th December

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:  
help your Church to live as one family,  
united in love and obedience,  
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1st Reading 22nd December Micah 5.2-5a

The LORD says to his people: <sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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; <sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

2nd Reading 22nd December Luke 1:39-45

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>**When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb.** And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with **a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.** <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that **there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'**

## Readings

22nd December Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:39-45

29th December Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

5th January Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

12th January Isaiah 43:1-7

Luke 3:15-17,21-22

19th January 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

*1st Reading 29th December Colossians 3.12-17*

<sup>12</sup>**As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with** compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*2nd Reading 29th December Luke 2.41-52*

<sup>41</sup>Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>**Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's** journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, **'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.'** <sup>49</sup>He said to them, **'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?'** <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

**We are God's Family and like other Families it would be good to celebrate birthdays and other milestones of life.**

Why not give permission to the Parish Office to publicize your special days?



**Happy Birthday to Teresa Atherton, our Church Verger, who celebrates her Birthday on the 27th December**

We give thanks for you and pray for God's blessing as you celebrate. Love from your Church Family.

### **Parish Office Christmas Closure**

**The office will be**

**Closed on Monday 23rd December and will re-open**

**Thursday 2nd January 2025**



**Our JustGiving Page can be found on the St Luke's Church website <https://www.stlukescannock.org.uk/> for people to be able to make a donation towards the Fabric of our church. Or type "St Luke's Church Cannock" into the search box on the JustGiving Website**

**<https://www.justgiving.com>**

**We really appreciate your donations.**



**St Luke's Friendship Group**  
are going to the pantomime!

Robin Hood at The Prince of Wales  
Saturday 25th January 2025 2.30pm

We still have seats available

Adults £20

Over 65s £18

Contact Margaret Walker (text or WhatsApp  
07548 310011)

or Linda Hopley 01543 503369

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**An invitation to join us for prayer as we pray together for  
God's blessing and empowerment for ministry and witness in  
our communities.**

**No Morning Prayer until**

**January 7th 2025 and a new time of 9.30am**

**Please come along and join us**

**Every Tuesday Morning Prayer at 9.30 in the Centre unless  
otherwise announced.**

Prayer Group at 85 Dartmouth Road will re-start on  
Thursday 9th January 2025 at 3pm

## Diary

Tue 24th	4.30pm	Crib Service	St Luke's
	11.00pm	First Communion of Christmas	St Thomas'
	11.30pm	First Communion of Christmas	St Luke's
Wed 25th	9.30am	Family Communion	St Luke's
Sun 29th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Luke's
Wed 1st	10.00am	No Service	St Luke's
Sun 5th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Luke's

**Everyone welcome**

St Thomas' Coffee Morning will take place on

Sat 11th January 2025

10.00am

everyone welcome



At this Christmas Time we pray for:

The Church, especially in places of conflict

In areas around the world we pray for peace with justice, and  
reconciliation

Refugees and asylum seekers and all those that support them,  
Homeless people,

Families, especially those with young children and all those  
people living and working within our Church Parishes.

May God Bless Them All

## **Future Services**

### **St. Luke's**

Sunday 22nd Dec

6.00pm Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday 24th December

4.30pm Crib Service

11.30pm First Communion of Christmas

Sunday 29th Dec 9.30am Holy Communion

Wed 1st January 2025—No Service

### **St. Thomas'**

Christmas Eve 11.00pm First Communion of  
Christmas

Sunday 29th December 2024 No Service

***We look forward to welcoming you***

*Please be generous and help those who have  
less than yourself*

**WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF: SOUP, BEANS AND PASTA.  
WEEKLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS: TINNED MEAT, RICE  
PUDING, TINNED FRUIT, JAM, SQUASH AND UHT MILK.**

**\*\*NB: THE FOOD BANK ARE DESPERATE FOR CARRIER  
BAGS\*\***

