

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome to our Service this morning. Please find below the Notices for the week, with new and amended ones underlined.

The songs for this morning's All-age Service can be found on the separate Order and on the overhead screen.

Sunday 21st December	10.00am	All-age Worship
	10.00am	Holy Communion at Ashby Puerorum
	3.00pm	Greetham Carol Service
CHRISTMAS EVE	9.30am	Holy Communion
	2.00pm	Children's Nativity Service
	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
	11.30am	Midnight Communion
CHRISTMAS DAY	10.00am	Family Communion
	10.00am	Communion at Thimbleby
Saturday 27th December	10.00am	Coffee in Church

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

We look forward to all the services of this coming week, including the Nativity and the Carols by Candlelight on Christmas Eve and the Family Communion on Christmas Day. Our thanks to the Choir and our musicians, and all who have prepared the Church so beautifully for the season. Please pray for God's rich blessing upon all our celebrations and for our service and witness to the community.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

You might like to give just 'one' Christmas card to the congregation, and donate money that would otherwise have been spent to the 'East Coast Homeless Outreach'. A board has been set up for this at the back, and any donations for 'ECHO' can be left in the Office.

GIVING CAMPAIGN

Our treasurer, Janet Leedham, has reported positive feedback for the financial year ending 2025. As many of you will know, following a deficit last year we organised a Giving Campaign to raise awareness of how much the church costs to run, and how the money is raised and spent. It has been wonderful to see the fruit of this. There have been increased plate collections, more Parish Giving Scheme and Standing Orders set up or increased, and generous donations from individuals within the church. There is more work to be done, and there is always opportunity to review one's giving at any time, but the results of this campaign mean that we are making progress towards being able to meet all our commitments. Thank you to all who have been a part of this positive response. Your support is much appreciated and an answer to prayer.

BIBLE SOCIETY

The Bible Society Committee are organizing a 'Bible Readathon' on Saturday, 24th January from 10.00am until 4.00pm. If you would like to read at this event, please see Jane Luker, Pam, the Rev. Charles or Debbie in the Parish Office. Please tell others about the Readathon and the opportunity to listen to whole sections of the Bible read at one time.

BIRTHDAYS

You may like to have your birthday remembered by the rest of the Church family? If this is the case, please contact Neil and Shelagh Carter by E-mail or through the Parish Office. Please note that Neil and Shelagh have a new E-mail address, which is: Neil637carter@btinternet.com

'ECHO'

Maggie & Bill Anderson are making up Christmas Bags on behalf of 'East Coast Homeless Outreach' for those who are homeless locally. They ask if you can spare £1.00 to buy toiletries or chocolate? Debbie has agreed to keep the tin in the office for cash donations. Thank you.

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 for ever. Amen.

Isaiah 7, 10 - 16 p. 663

Romans 1, 1 - 7 p. 162

Matthew 1, 18 - end Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Lord, please give us the confidence to live the love of Jesus Christ with the community here in Horncastle and in the surrounding villages. Amen.

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday 28th December	10.00am	Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing
	2.00pm	Pastoral Teas
Wednesday 31st December	9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 1st January	<i>N.B. BCP Holy Communion next week</i>	
Saturday 3rd January	10.00am	Coffee in Church

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

THE EPIPHANY

Sunday 4th January	10.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Holy Communion at Thimbleby
Tuesday 6th January	2.30pm	CHAT group meet
Wednesday 7th January	9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 8th January	10.00am	BCP Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Finance Committee meet
Saturday 10th January	10.00am	Coffee in Church

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

On behalf of the Clergy, Churchwardens and our families, thank you for all your Christmas greetings, and we wish you a very blessed and joyful Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

PRAYER FOR THE TOWN

Week beginning the 21st December: please pray for the residents and businesses of Stanley Way and Station Lane

BIRTHDAYS

Sunday, 21st December - Kath Thomas
Christmas Eve - Fiona Martin
Christmas Day - Rev. Cilla Smith

If you would like your birthday mentioned, please contact Shelagh Carter. Her E-mail address is Neil637carter@btinternet.com

At our Communion services, if you would like a gluten free wafer, please let the Stewards or Clergy know before the service starts.

Please note, if you wish to leave a gift by Bank Card, you can use the 'Goodbox' near the entrance. Also, to give via your 'phone, you can use the QR code on the cards in the pews. Thank you.

*Please look at our website for further details on these notes:
www.stmaryshorncastle.org.uk*

