

Fourth Sunday of Advent
22nd December 2019

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 10.30am All-Age Parish Eucharist
with Children's Nativity**
- 6.00pm Christmas carol service
followed by mulled wine and mince pies



Visitation by Ghirlandaio

Welcome to all who are visiting St Mary's for the first time today. We hope that you will find this church a place where you can encounter God, enjoy worship & make new friends.

Christians of all denominations are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Those who prefer to receive a blessing are asked to hold the service leaflet in your hand as a helpful sign to the clergy. Coffee will be served after the service. Please stay and enjoy a few minutes' conversation.

Children are most welcome in the service. We encourage families with children to sit at the FRONT of the church so that children can see what is going on.

For information and help, please see one of the stewards

Today's stewards are: Elaine Hedger, Nora Boateng, Janet Cowen

MINISTRY TEAM	
The Revd Preb. Marjorie Brown (<i>Vicar</i>) Vicarage: 44 King Henry's Road, NW3 3RP	Tel: 020 7722 3062 Email: vicar@smvph.org.uk
The Revd Mark Wakefield (<i>Assistant Priest</i>)	Tel: 0789 9668493 Email: mark.wakefield@blueyonder.co.uk
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OFFICE & ADMINISTRATION TEAM	
Celyn Cooke (<i>Parish Administrator & bookings</i>) Parish office open 9.30am–2.30pm, Mon-Fri	Tel: 020 77223238 Email: office@smvph.org.uk
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YOUTH TEAM	
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PARISH EUCHARIST

Please stand at entrance of choir and clergy.

Mass setting: Hymns

President: The Reverend Nick Walters

Entrance Hymn II: O come, O come, Emmanuel!

All In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

All May the grace and light of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be
with you
and also with you.

The president welcomes the people and introduces the liturgy and the ceremony of the lighting of the Advent Wreath.

The children light the candle and the carol printed below is sung, a cantor singing the verse with everyone joining in the chorus.

All **The holly and the ivy
are dancing in a ring
with the bright and shining candles
giving glory to our king.**

The first is for God's people
in every age and day.
We are watching for his coming
and the light of God's new day.

Chorus

The next is for the prophets
and for the light they bring,
They are candles in the darkness,
burning bright for Christ our king.

Chorus

The third is for the Baptist,
he calls on us to sing:
O prepare the way for Jesus Christ
and the joy that he will bring.

Chorus

The fourth is for our Lady
'I hear and I obey'.
Her child is our Saviour
to be born on Christmas Day.

Chorus

We say this prayer of blessing together

All **Lord Jesus, light of the world,**
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children, who long for your coming. Amen.

The deacon then says

People of God: prepare!
God, above all, maker of all, is one with us in Christ.
Maranatha!

All **Come, Lord Jesus!**

God, the mighty God, bends down in love to earth.
Maranatha!

All **Come, Lord Jesus!**

God with us, God beside us, comes soon to the world he has made.
Maranatha!

All **Come, Lord Jesus!**

We are God's children, we seek the coming Christ.
Maranatha!

All **Come, Lord Jesus!**

We sing to the tune Quem pastores
Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on us all.

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.

All **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 7.10-16

Reader:

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn 3 (ii): Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Please turn towards the deacon's procession as the choir sings a greeting to the Gospel.

Gospel: Matthew 1.18-end

When the Gospel is announced:

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

At the end of the Gospel the deacon says

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Christmas Pageant

Reading I: Luke 2.1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

While the Holy Family comes forward and sit on the stools at the steps, the following is sung (congregation, please join in)

Little donkey, little donkey,
On the dusty road,
Got to keep on plodding onwards
With your precious load.

Been a long time, little donkey,
Through the winter's night.
Don't give up now, little donkey,
Bethlehem's in sight.

Ring out those bells tonight,
Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Follow that star tonight,
Bethlehem, Bethlehem.

Little donkey, little donkey,
Had a heavy day.
Little donkey, carry Mary
Safely on her way.

Little donkey, carry Mary
Safely on her way.

Prayer

Dear God, when Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph couldn't find anywhere to stay. There was no room for them in the inn. Please protect those who are homeless or who have no one to care for them this Christmas.

In our watching and our waiting

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

In our hearts and in our homes

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

In our life and in our world

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Reading II: Luke 2.8-12

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them:

'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

During the singing of the carol (congregation please join in), the shepherds and animals come forward, bow and stand to the right of the Holy Family.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

'Fear not', said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

Prayer

Loving Father, when Jesus was born, the shepherds brought him a lamb. When we share our presents on Christmas Day, help us to remember that Jesus' birth is the best present of all.

All In our watching and our waiting
Come, Lord Jesus.
In our hearts and in our homes
All **Come, Lord Jesus.**
In our life and in our world
All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Reading III: Luke 2.13-24

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

Prayer

Lord Jesus, when you were born the angels sang 'Peace on earth, goodwill among men.' Please may there be an end to war and hatred. May your peace fill the hearts of people everywhere this Christmas.

All In our watching and our waiting
Come, Lord Jesus.
In our hearts and in our homes
All **Come, Lord Jesus.**
In our life and in our world
All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Reading IV: Luke 2.15

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in the manger.

During the singing of the hymn (congregation, please join in), the Angels and stars come forward. One star bows and stands behind the Holy Family, little stars in front.

The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world. In our dark moments, when the sky is grey, remind us that you are our light and hope and love.

All In our watching and our waiting
Come, Lord Jesus.

All In our hearts and in our homes
Come, Lord Jesus.

All In our life and in our world
Come, Lord Jesus.

Children sing 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star'

Then children sing 1st verse alone, congregation joining in for 2nd & 3rd verses.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay.
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

All **The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my bedside till morning is nigh.**

All **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay**
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Prayer

Dear God, bless us this Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. When Christmas comes, may we be ready to welcome you. Come and make your home with us. Give us big hearts: big enough to love everyone, big enough to say sorry when we hurt people by what we say and do, big enough to share what we have with others, big enough for you.

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

In our hearts and in our homes

All **Come, Lord Jesus.**

In our life and in our world

Come, Lord Jesus.

All (including congregation) sing "Go Tell It On The Mountain" – during the singing, children return to their seats.

Go tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watch over silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light

Go tell it on the mountain...

The shepherds feared and trembled when low above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth

Go tell it on the mountain...

Peace

The president says

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All **and also with you.**

The deacon says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn 7: Hills of the North, rejoice

Today's collection is in aid of Marie Curie Hospice

Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mary bore with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came. In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory, for ever praising you and singing:

Remain standing to sing the Sanctus to the tune Slane

All **Holy, most holy, all holy the Lord,
in power and wisdom for ever adored.
The earth and the heavens are full of your love;
our joyful hosannas re-echo above.**

**Blessed, most blessed, all blessed is he
whose life makes us whole, and whose death sets us free;
who comes in the name of the Father of light,
let endless hosannas resound in the height.**

Remain standing, or kneel or sit if you prefer, for the rest of the prayer.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke it and give it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him he pleased with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

The deacon says

Christ is the bread of life:

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with Blessed Mary, John the Baptist, and all your prophets and saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom in the words our Saviour taught us:

**All 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 Breaking of the Bread

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

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

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

All who normally receive communion in their own church are warmly invited to receive Holy Communion. Others are welcome to come forward for a blessing. (Please bring this leaflet with you to show that you wish to receive a blessing.)

*The reply to the words "The Body of Christ" and "The Blood of Christ" is a clear **Amen** as we receive the risen Lord in our outstretched hands.*

During the distribution we sing the Agnus Dei to Repton

**All O Lamb of God, come cleanse our hearts and take our sins away.
O Lamb of God, your grace impart,
and let our guilty fear depart,
Have mercy, Lord, we pray, have mercy, Lord, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, our lives restore, our guilty souls release.
Into our lives your Spirit pour
and let us live for evermore
in perfect heav'nly peace, in perfect heav'nly peace.**

Anthem: Bogoroditsye Dyevo - Rachmaninov

All stand for final prayers.

Post Communion

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.

All **Amen.**

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Notices

Final Hymn

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

NOTICES

Sharing Reflections for Advent with St Luke in the Fields

In this season of Advent, our partner parish St Luke's welcomes us to share our reflections on their Facebook page. It could be a simple thought, a poem or some Scripture – whatever moves you during Advent. This joint effort with St Luke in the Fields is found here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/805281309834731/>.

Lifts to church

A few of our older members would be grateful for lifts to and from church, especially in the winter months. If you are able to help, even occasionally, please let the clergy know.

The funeral of well-known local shopkeeper **June Beechey** will take place at Golders Green Crematorium at 1 pm on Thursday 9th January. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Calling any children who can play an orchestral instrument (grade 5 or above); if you would like to join the Christingle orchestra for the service on Christmas Eve at 5 pm please contact Ruth Kitching: ruth@kitching.clara.co.uk or 07952 835336'

The **tearoom and Carers and Sharers** will meet this week and then take a fortnight break, starting again on 9th January.

Please check the postboxes by the King Henry's Road door and collect your **Christmas cards**. Many thanks to all those who have sent seasonal greetings to the ministry team!

On **Christmas Eve** children are invited to make **Christingles** in church at 10 am. We would be grateful for any adult help at the same time to dust and polish the church. Refreshments provided!

The Parish office will be **closed** from 26th December until 3rd January inclusive. In case of emergency, please text Marjorie on 07725 406477.

ACTION BY CHRISTIANS AGAINST TORTURE

Receiving a Christmas card means a great deal to a prisoner of conscience. It can be like a candle in a dark cell. Action by Christians Against Torture has prepared information on such prisoners -each on separate sheets of paper which are at the back of the church on the Welcome Table. If you would like to send a card please choose a prisoner and take a page-or more if you like. Three 1st class stamps and AIRMAIL written on the envelope will suffice for postage anywhere (in case you are not near a post office). Thank you very much
Audrey Wells

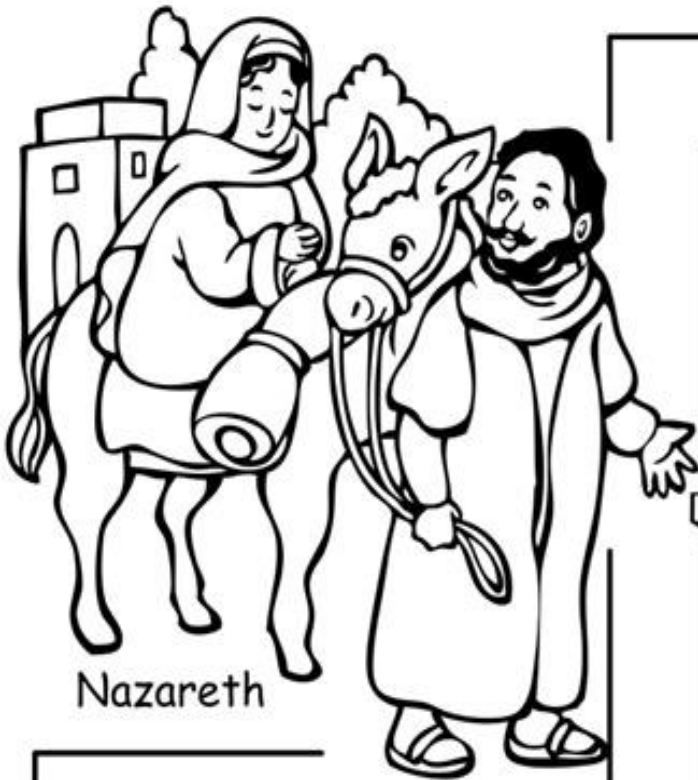
Should you wish to join ACAT the email address is uk.acat@gmail.com and the website is www.acatuk.org.uk

Bible Course for all the family

On the first Sunday of each month, beginning on 5th January, we will be running the Bible Society introductory course to the Bible after the parish eucharist. Each session will last about 45 minutes, including some video. We warmly welcome families to attend together, with children in KS2 and above.

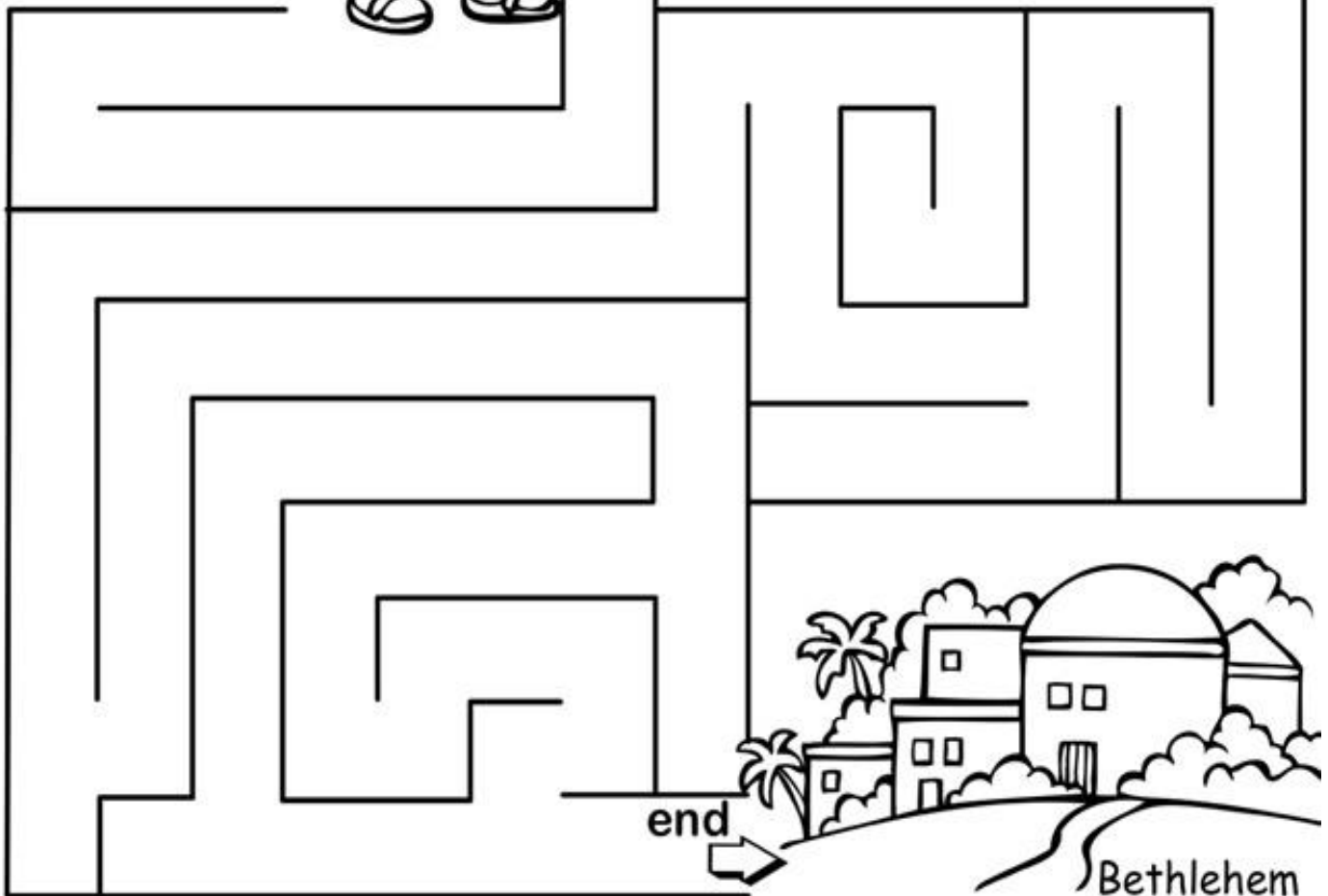
A LONG JOURNEY

Help Mary and Joseph find the way to Bethlehem.



Nazareth

start
→



end
→

Bethlehem

Joseph and Mary went on a long journey from the town of Nazareth to the town of Bethlehem.

(Luke 2:1-5)

SERVICES IN THE COMING WEEK

MONDAY	23rd December	
10am 1pm – 3.30pm	Morning Prayer Primrose Hill Community Lunch	
TUESDAY	24th December	Christmas Eve
9am 10am 5pm 6pm 11.30pm	Morning Prayer Christingle making/church cleaning Christingle service Carol singing for Crisis on Primrose Hill Midnight Mass & Procession to Crib	
WEDNESDAY	25th December	Christmas Day
10.30am	Christmas Day Parish Eucharist	
THURSDAY	26th December	<i>Stephen, deacon, first martyr</i>
4 – 9pm	Christian Harmony singing – all welcome	
FRIDAY	27th December	<i>John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>
		<i>No services today</i>
SATURDAY	28th December	The Holy Innocents
		<i>No services today</i>
SUNDAY	29th December	First Sunday of Christmas
8am 10.30am	Holy Communion Parish Eucharist Preacher: The Revd Mark Wakefield	