**Psalm 80.1-8**

1  Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, •
   you that led Joseph like a flock;
2  Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, •
   before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
3  Stir up your mighty strength •
   and come to our salvation.
4  Turn us again, O God; •
   show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
5  O Lord God of hosts, •
   how long will you be angry at your people’s prayer?
6  You feed them with the bread of tears; •
   you give them abundance of tears to drink.
7  You have made us the derision of our neighbours, •
   and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
8  Turn us again, O God of hosts; •
   show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now**

**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

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**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.**

**Micah 5.2-5a**

**The Ruler from Bethlehem**

2 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.
3 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.
4 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;
5 and he shall be the one of peace.

   If the Assyrians come into our land
   and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
   and eight installed as rulers.

**Luke 1.39-45, 46-55**

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

46 And Mary said,
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,
47   and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
48 for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
   Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
   and holy is his name.
50 His mercy is for those who fear him
   from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
   he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
   and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
   and sent the rich away empty.
54 He has helped his servant Israel,
   in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
   to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

**Post Communion Prayer**

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.

**Amen.**

***Advent 4***

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle:
to you be praise and glory for ever!
Your light has shone in our darkened world
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;
grant that we who have seen your glory
may daily be renewed in your image
and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,
who is the Lord and Saviour of all.
**Blessed be God for ever.**

*The fourth candle is lit*

God our Father,
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary
that she was to be the mother of your Son.
Though Mary was afraid,
she responded to your call with joy.
Help us, whom you call to serve you,
to share like her in your great work
of bringing to our world your love and healing.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the Light who is coming into the world.

**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**

**NOTICES:**

At the end of the service please take this sheet home with you. If you could put your hymnbook on the shelf by the door please and the service book in the box.

For events, contact details and notices please see the December newsletter or magazine.

To enable us to make pastoral visits in as safe a manner as possible please contact the Vicar if you would like a visit.

**Present Aid at St Mary’s**

If you would like to place a Christmas card on a window and place a donation towards Present Aid in the box at the back of church. Full details in the December newsletter.

**Confirmation Service**

We are pleased that Bishop Mark will be with us on 30th January for our Confirmation Service. If you would like to know about Confirmation please speak to the Vicar in good time beforehand.

**Mothers’ Union Christmas Project**

St Peter’s Mothers’Union is collecting new ladies and gents socks, gloves, scarves and basic underwear which will be given to the Salvation Army for distribution to the homeless in Winsford and neighbouring areas. There is a box at the back of the church.

**St Mary’s Christmas Flowers**

Contributions towards flowers for Christmas would be welcome.

19th December Advent 4

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary’s

11.00am Holy Communion at St Peter’s

11.30am Baptism of Bessie Tomlinson at St Mary’s

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols at St Peter’s

24th December Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service at St Mary’s

11.15pm Midnight Communion at St Peter’s

11.30pm Midnight Communion at St Mary’s

25th December Christmas Day

9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary’s

11.00am Holy Communion at St Peter’s

Please note we will not be holding services on Boxing Day, Sunday 26th December.

28th December Tuesday

1.00pm Wedding of Sarah Kirwan and Stuart Smith at St Peter’s