

THIS WEEK

Sunday 18 December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.00am HOLY COMMUNION, page no 52

President: The Canon Theologian

8.30am Breakfast with the Bible, led by Heike Prentice

9.30am PARISH EUCHARIST and welcome to Olatokunbo & Omolara Oluwakuyide

President: The Canon Theologian

Preacher: The Dean

11.15am CHORAL EUCHARIST

President: The Vice Dean

Preacher: The Canon Precentor

3.30pm CHORAL EVENSONG

Address: The Canon Theologian

6.00pm CEREMONY OF CAROLS

NEXT WEEK

Sunday 25 December - Christmas Day

8.00am HOLY COMMUNION, page no 54

President: The Dean

9.00am FAMILY EUCHARIST

President: The Vice Dean

Preacher: The Dean

10.30am CHORAL EUCHARIST

President & Preacher: Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell,

Bishop of Chelmsford

Daily Prayer through the Week (Mon to Sat):

Morning Prayer: 7.45 am

Holy Communion: 8.15 am (also Wed at 12.35 pm & Thurs at 10.00 am)

Midday Prayer in St Cedd's Chapel

Evensong/Evening Prayer: 5.15 pm (sung on Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri,
said on Wednesday & Saturday)

On certain Saturdays Evensong is sung by a choir

– please check the Music & Services list for dates



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CATHEDRAL LIFE WEEKLY

Fourth Sunday of Advent, 18 December 2016



News from the Cathedral School

WHILST The Cathedral School starts the season of Advent in thoughtful preparation, there is an underlying hubub of plays and music in hand for the coming weeks, and our stage comes into use to retell the Nativity story. Familiar tunes with adjusted words are leaking out of Infant Classes as "the main parts" are sought.



some ex-pupils and staff played at the Cathedral Fair on 3 December.

Our distinctive uniform will be found around the City Centre as we sing at shopping centres, the library, or when we support Poverty in Action at the Railway Station.

The children particularly enjoy visiting the local homes of Balmoral Court, Tyrell's Lodge and Havencourt, where they are met with smiles and enjoy conversations with members of the audience afterwards. Then our enthusiastic orchestra, supported by

We started our events on Thursday, when Mrs Cuthill and I took thirty-eight children to sing in the Barnados Carol Concert at Westminster Cathedral, supported by parents, before we returned to our own Cathedral, to sing at the WI Carol Service on Tuesday and join the Eastwood choir for the J's Hospice Light's of Love event on Thursday. We wish everyone a happy and blessed Advent.

Linda Wiskin
Headteacher

Contact us at:

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and visit our website: chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk
Facebook: /chelmsfordcathedral Twitter: @CCathedral
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Diocese of
Chelmsford

Study Notes on the Sunday Gospel

Matthew 1: 18-end

Introduction & Context

Joseph's and Mary's families have signed a marriage contract but Joseph has not yet *taken her* (v. 20) into his house. If Mosaic law on sexual relations was fully observed then, Joseph could have brought charges against her, and she could have been stoned to death ("public disgrace", v. 19) for *adultery* (then including pre-marital sex). Joseph is compassionate: he "planned to dismiss her quietly". God had intervened in the birth of someone he has chosen – Isaac, Jacob and Samuel – but never before has he replaced the whole male role. Even so, the messenger from God points out Joseph's role: Jesus is legally descended from David through him. In Aramaic and Hebrew, "Jesus" (v. 21) and "he will save" sound similar. Matthew is keen to show that Jesus fulfills God's promise made through Isaiah (v. 22). In v. 23, the Greek word translated "virgin", *parthenos*, is rendered as *unmarried daughter* in Acts 21:9. Perhaps *maiden* is a better translation; it has the same range of meanings as *parthenos*. Through Jesus "God is with us" (v. 23) but Joseph names him Jesus, not Immanuel.

Once you are settled and are ready to go:

- Read the passage slowly and reflectively
- Note anything that particularly strikes you and refer to the notes if they are helpful
- Spend a few moments in quiet reflection
- If you are a group, share your reflections in pairs or as a whole group (remembering that each person will have different perspectives and views on the passage)
- Read the passage for a final time and give thanks to God for the gift of his holy word.

Next Sunday's Readings - 25 Dec 2016 : Christmas Day

9.00 am & 10.30 am:

Isaiah 52: 7-10,
Psalms 98
Hebrews 1: 1-12
John 1: 1-14

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday 18 December

6.00pm A Ceremony of Carols with the Girls' Choir and Essex Dance Theatre

Monday 19 December

7.00pm Fellowship Groups pre-Christmas Social (Chapter House)

Wednesday 21 December

9.30am Parent and Toddler Group (Chapter House)

12.35pm Eucharist

1.00 - 3.00pm Welcome on Wednesday: coffee and cake in the North Transept

Thursday 22 December

10.00am Eucharist

Friday 23 December

12.30pm Lunchtime Concert - Carols for Everyone!

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Saturday 24 December

2.00pm Crib Service

4.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass

2017

or email: yvonespence@hotmail.com

Thursday 5 January 8pm

Mothers' Union Meeting:

'Red Pepper Soup and Recycling', in the Chapter House.

Sunday 15 January 12.45pm

Meeting Point Lunch at Côte

Book with Penny tel: 07872 942625.

Thursday 12 January

12.30 for 1pm

Mothers' Union New Year Party: in the Chapter House.

Saturday 14 January

7.15 for 7.45pm

Cathedral Ball Dancing with The Julie Cooper Band until 11.30pm. Four course meal and licensed bar. Tickets £35 from Yvonne Spence tel: 01245 465108, 07889 610048

BBC Essex

on New Year's Day

Start the new year by joining the Dean on BBC Essex as he presents the *Sunday Breakfast Show* 6 - 9am on New Year's Day.

NOTICES & DATES FOR THE DIARY

A very warm welcome to Chelmsford Cathedral especially if you are a visitor or here for the first time. Everything you need for the celebration is contained in the service booklet. Please ask one of the welcome stewards on duty at the doors if you have any questions.

Junior Church meets today, starting at 9.30am in Chapter House. This week's theme is Elizabeth, Zechariah, John the Baptist, Mary and Jesus.

Yellow Envelopes If you are a UK tax payer, please use a yellow Gift Aid envelope (available at the doors) to increase the value of your donation by 25% at no extra cost to you. Remember to fill in your name, house number and postcode and the date.

Christmas Cards of the Cathedral are now available from the Bookstall.

On 24 December at 2pm the Cathedral will be holding its traditional crib service. Come dressed up as a favourite character from the Christmas story - donkeys welcome! The **Christingle Service** will take place at 3.30pm on 29 January.

The new Cathedral's visitor App is free to download available for both Apple and Android. It provides information about events, concerts and services at the

Cathedral. It is ideal for use when out and about. It can be downloaded before a visit or by using the free Wi-Fi in the Cathedral. There is also an audio guided tour lasting about 20 minutes which gives visitors information on many of the features in the Cathedral.

4th Chelmsford Cathedral Brownies

Request for used stamps: the Brownies are collecting used stamps for a charity called knitted knockers: www.fundraisingstamps.com/form-clbf So far they have collected nearly 2kg of stamps, want to collect even more. If you have used stamps, particularly once Christmas cards start arriving, please bring them to the Cathedral and leave them in the labelled glass jar by the South door.

The newsheet covering 25 December and 1 January has to go to print at 9am on Monday 19 December so please email any notices by 8.30am tomorrow to clare.broome@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

For young people (11-25) interesting in exploring faith, and potentially confirmation, Tim will be running an introduction to Christianity course, starting in January. For details, please contact him on tim.leeson@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

Daily Gospel Readings for this week, to use in your daily prayer:

<i>Sunday:</i>	Matthew 1: 18-end	<i>Thursday:</i>	Luke 1.46-56
<i>Monday:</i>	Luke 1.5-25	<i>Friday:</i>	Luke 1.57-66
<i>Tuesday:</i>	Luke 1: 26-38	<i>Saturday:</i>	Luke 1.67-79
<i>Wednesday:</i>	Luke 1.39-45	<i>Sunday:</i>	John 1: 1-14

You can find a simple 10-minute reflection at: pray-as-you-go.org

Thought for the day

Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human. - *Henri Nouwen*

Please pray for:

- Gwen Barnard, Margaret Beverley, Sue Cockett, Rosemary Duffin, Antoin Irtelli, Julie Liney, Janet Wallace; all those receiving home communion and all in need of our prayers
- The friends and family of Pat Dean who died this week
- The work of the Diocesan Evangelical Association and its Chair Gordon Simmonds
- The Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh (Armagh, Ireland)
- Moulsham Lodge Methodist Church

A new recording featuring the Girls' Choir, Cathedral Choir Gentlemen and full Cathedral Choir, in music for the Cathedral's three Patronal Festivals has just been released. It includes *Here, while the Cherubim (Jordan)*, *Morning Service in C (Stanford)*, *the Essex Service (Bullard)*, Canon Edward Carter's hymn for St Cedd *Sing Praise to Christ*, and many more.

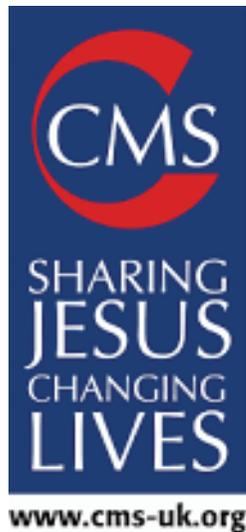
Featuring both Cathedral organs and many singers, and a booklet featuring some of the Cathedral's art, this will make an ideal present or souvenir. The CD is available priced at £10 from the bookstall or music staff.

CATHEDRAL LIFE

Freely you have received, freely give!

The Cathedral Chapter gives to charity 5% of congregational giving each year. And a similar amount is given through special appeals. This year there has been a major review of the Cathedral's charitable giving to bring it into line with current legislation.

There has been a long process of consultation with stakeholders in the life of the Cathedral in order to get this right. In line with other cathedrals and charities, the Cathedral is focussing on a smaller range of charities in order to make a more significant contribution to each. And the aim has also been to have a clearer spread across international, regional and local causes. The following charities have been nominated to receive the Cathedral's charitable giving for 2016.



£2,250 for The Church Mission Society: this Anglican Mission Society works in developing countries providing financial help and practical expertise. Projects range from providing doctors and nurses to clergy to people with expertise in project management,

£2,250 for The Children's Society (Eastern Region): this grant will go to support the drug and alcohol support service for Essex young people; for children caring for a parent; for children at risk of exploitation; and for those facing challenging behaviour.



£2,250 for CHES: our local homelessness charity, founded on Christian principles, which seeks to provide emergency accommodation for homeless people.

£2,250 for The Essex Clergy Charity: supporting clergy widows, those in financial need, and support for retired clergy.

IN ALL THIS I HAVE GIVEN YOU AN EXAMPLE THAT BY SUCH WORK WE MUST SUPPORT THE WEAK, REMEMBERING THE WORDS OF THE LORD JESUS, FOR HE HIMSELF SAID, "IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE." ' ACTS 20.35