

# CATHEDRAL LIFE WEEKLY



Christmas Day, Sunday 25 December 2016  
& Sunday 1 January 2017

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Wednesday 28 December

12.35pm Eucharist  
1.00–3.00pm Welcome on Wednesday coffee and cake in the North Transept

### Thursday 29 December

10.00am Eucharist

### Monday 2 January

7.30pm Rotary New Year Concert

### Wednesday 4 January

12.35pm Eucharist  
1.00–3.00pm Welcome on Wednesday: coffee and cake in the North Transept

### Thursday 5 January

10.00am Eucharist  
8.00pm Mothers' Union (Chapter House)

### Saturday 7 January

8.15am Holy Communion with Laying on of Hands  
10.00am Coffee in the Cathedral

## A Christmas Message from the Dean

Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus - the extraordinary **GOOD NEWS** that God chooses to become a human being. That is the miracle we witness as we come to the **crib: God becomes one of us that we might become one with him.**



That means God says a big YES to human beings, to the dignity and value of every human life. This is the extraordinary good news that God loves us no matter what.

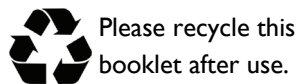
Jesus is and Jesus shows us that God loves people just as they are.

Luke's account of the birth of Jesus helps us see this very clearly: God is born of the wrong kind of parents in a lean-to at the back of a pub. That's the kind of person

So let's today celebrate this wonderful good news - that God in Christ loves us as we are and invites us to love others in exactly the same way.

### Contact us at:

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01245 294 492 (Emergency out of hours contact: 07518 124858)  
and visit our website: [chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk](http://chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk)  
Facebook: /chelmsfordcathedral Twitter: @CCathedral  
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Diocese of  
Chelmsford

## Study Notes on the Sunday Gospel

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### John 1: 1-14 (25 December)

#### Introduction & Context

John begins his Gospel with creation: "In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth ..." (Genesis 1:1), the Word, he who became a human (v. 14a), already existed. He was "with God" (v. 1); he was God. He was the agent through whom "all things came into being" (v. 3). Through him, life began: life given by God, "the light of all people" (v. 4). It shines in a world of unbelief and wins out (v. 5).

John the Baptist came to "testify" (v. 7) to goodness, to point to Jesus (v. 8), the embodiment of perfect goodness, who was to come (v. 9). Jesus was rejected by most people (v. 11), but to those who believed in him, in who he was, he gave the opportunity to be adopted by God, as his children (v. 12) – and so to become one with him. Believers are *reborn* into God's family through the Holy Spirit ("of God", v. 13). The Word, Christ, became human ("flesh", v. 14) and "lived among us". God's manifest power ("glory") is seen uniquely in Jesus.

#### 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.

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### Next Sunday's Readings - 1 Jan 2017: Naming of Jesus

#### 9.30am & 11.15am:

Numbers 6.22 - end

*Psalms* 8

Galatians 4.4-7

Luke 2.15-21

#### 3.30 pm:

*Psalms* 115

Deuteronomy 30: 11 - end,

Acts 3: 1-16

**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 - Almost full.** 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 or email: yvonnespence@hotmail.com

#### Friday 13 January 12.30pm

The lunchtime concerts resume this week. Please see the Cathedral website or the poster in the porch for details.

#### Sunday 15 January 12.45pm

##### Meeting Point Lunch at Côte

Book with Penny tel: 07872 942625

#### Monday 16 January

**The Salvation Sculptures** arrive in the Cathedral: six life-sized sculptures by Iranian artist Saloomeh Asgary will be on display. Please do come and visit this free exhibition

and invite family and friends. There will be information displayed alongside each piece.

#### Wednesday 25 January 8pm Theological Society

'Christian Concern for Justice: defending and delivering access to justice today'. A talk by Andrew Caplen, Past President of the Law Society of England and Wales. The meeting is being held in Chapter House, entry is £3.50 payable on the door and all are welcome.

#### Sunday 29 January 3.30pm

**The Christingle Service** will take place in the Cathedral. Please come along and encircle the Cathedral in light with your Christingle.

#### 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 - 9 am on New Year's Day.

#### Please pray for:

- Judith Allen, Gwen Barnard, Beverley, Sue Cockett, Rosemary Duffin, Antoin Irtelli, Julie Liney, Janet Wallace; all those receiving home communion and all in need of our prayers
- Members of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary and the Company of Servers and all people who serve Christ at the altar
- The Diocese of Kitale (Kenya)
- The Diocese of Kolhapur (North India)
- The friends and family of Grace Dodman who died recently

## 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.

**There is no Junior Church** today as it is the school holidays, but a crèche is available in the St Cedd's Chapel.

**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.

**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: fund raisingstamps.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.

**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](mailto:tim.leeson@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk)

**Hamish Barrell's** book titled 'Build Over There: The Government's Role in Shaping Our Cities' is due to be published on 10th January. It addresses the moral and ethical issues involved for those making choices about our urban areas. If you would like to order a copy please go to Amazon or directly to Arena Publishers.

### Becoming a Spiritual Companion - First Steps!

#### Starts 9 January

A new six session taster course is being held in the Chelmsford Diocesan Offices on Monday evenings between 6pm and 7.30pm, cost £30. For more information or to book a place contact Ann Coleman email: [annvcol@gmail.com](mailto:annvcol@gmail.com)

#### Thursday 5 January 8pm

#### Mothers' Union Meeting

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

## Daily Gospel Readings to use in your daily prayer:

### 25/12/16 - 1/1/17:

<i>Sunday:</i>	John 1: 1-14	<i>Thursday:</i>	Matthew 10: 28-30
<i>Monday:</i>	Matthew 10.17-22	<i>Friday:</i>	Luke 2.36-40
<i>Tuesday:</i>	John 21.19b-end	<i>Saturday:</i>	John 1.1-18
<i>Wednesday:</i>	Matthew 2.13-18	<i>Sunday:</i>	Luke 2.15-21

### 1 - 8/1/17:

<i>Sunday:</i>	Luke 2.15-21	<i>Thursday:</i>	John 1: 43-end
<i>Monday:</i>	John 1.19-28	<i>Friday:</i>	Mark 1: 7-11
<i>Tuesday:</i>	John 1: 29-34	<i>Saturday:</i>	John 2: 1-11
<i>Wednesday:</i>	John 1: 35-42	<i>Sunday:</i>	Matthew 2: 1-12

You can find a simple 10-minute reflection at: [pray-as-you-go.org](http://pray-as-you-go.org)

### Luke 2.15-21 (1 January)

#### Introduction & Context

The shepherds go visit the new born king. Note "with haste" in v. 16; as Mary set out to visit her cousin Elizabeth "with haste" in 1:39; Jesus will later stress the urgency of his mission. The shepherds find the infant where the angel has told them in v. 12, "in the manger" (v. 16). They *make known*, tell Mary and Joseph – and others – the good news the angel has delivered. Mary tries to understand ("pondered", v. 19) all that she has experienced and been told. Being a Jew, Jesus is circumcised (v. 21). As a member of God's chosen people he will bring salvation to the world. Before Jesus was conceived, an angel has said "you will name him Jesus" ( 1:31). His name means *God saves*. The Hebrew and Aramaic forms of *Jesus* are similar to *he will save*.

### Thought for the day

Christmas is the renewed invitation not to be afraid and to let him-whose love is greater than our own hearts and minds can comprehend-be our companion. – *Henri Nouwen*

## Readings for Sunday 8 Jan 2017: The Epiphany

### 9.30am & 11.15am:

Isaiah 60: 1-6  
Psalm 72 10-15  
Ephesians 3.1-12  
Matthew 2.1-2

### 3.30pm:

Psalm 98  
Baruch 4.36 - end of 5  
John 2.1-11

## THIS 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*

*This morning Canon Edward Carter is taking the family service at Trinity Methodist Church, Chelmsford*

## WEEK COMMENCING 1 JANUARY 2017

### Sunday 1 January - The Feast of the Naming of Christ

8.00am **HOLY COMMUNION**, page no 63

*President: The Vice Dean*

8.30am **Breakfast with the Bible** led by Revd Kate Moore

9.30 am **PARISH EUCHARIST**

*President: The Dean*

*Preacher: Revd Kate Moore*

11.15am **CHORAL EUCHARIST** sung by the Voluntary Choir

*President: The Vice Dean*

*Preacher: The Dean*

3.30pm **CHORAL EVENSONG** sung by the Voluntary Choir

*Address: The Canon Precentor*

## WEEK COMMENCING 8 JANUARY

### Sunday 8 January - The Feast of Epiphany

8.00am **HOLY COMMUNION**, page no 65

*President: The Canon Precentor*

9.30am **PARISH EUCHARIST**

*President: The Canon Precentor*

*Preacher: The Canon Theologian*

11.15am **CHORAL EUCHARIST** with incense

*President: The Canon Theologian*

*Preacher: The Canon Precentor*

3.30pm **CHORAL EVENSONG**

*Address: The Dean*

### 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



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.