

## **THE BENEFICE OF EAST CLEVEDON**

*All Saints, St Mary's, St Peter and St Paul, St Paul's*

**Advent 4 – 24<sup>th</sup> December**

***United Benefice service at St Mary's***

### **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.

### **2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16**

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place

for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

### **Luke 1: 26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

### **IN OUR PRAYERS...**

In our benefice we pray for those who are sick; Roy Guest, Denise Richardson, Shirley Logan, Jean Jones, Fr. Ron Farrell,

Andrea Greening, Brigit de Waal, Terry Richards, Anna Mylam, Peter Dodd, Norma Selwyn.

We pray for those who have recently died;

In our year's mind we remember, Marjorie Redman, Dennis Thompson, Viv Jones, and we pray for all who are mourning the loss of loved ones at this time.

### **Notices**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** All the Christmas Eve Candlelit Communion services taking place across the Benefice start at **9pm** (not 10pm as advertised in the Christmas services notice on p.17 of the magazine) Please spread the word!

**The Parish Office** will be closed between Christmas and the New Year, but for any urgent pastoral matters please contact the Rector on 873257.

**Christmas services** - all our services over the Christmas period are accessible and inclusive, and we warmly invite you to bring family and friends along with you to join us at this special time.

### **Christmas flowers at St Mary's**

Pulpit pedestal - in loving memory of Andrew James Blease, requested by his wife Rosemary June.

Welcome table—in loving memory of Bill Cox, requested with love from his wife Jeannie and family.

### **Wednesday communions**

*There will be no mid week Communion on 27th December. It will resume on Wednesday, 3rd January.*

### **Next Sunday (31<sup>st</sup> December)**

10.30am United Benefice Holy Communion, All Saints