



The parish of St Margaret, Holyrood, Prestwich

St. Margaret's, Prestwich & St. George's, Simister

Sunday 21st December – Fourth Sunday of Advent



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.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Pat Waghorn

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.’ **7.10–16**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Joan Evans

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **1.1–7**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

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. **1.18–25**

Welcome to St Margaret's & St George's. Postcards with service times and clergy contact details are available at the back of the church. Take one for yourself or for a friend.

HYMNS

Introit	438	Make way
Gradual	605	Sing we of the blessed mother
Offertory	634	Gabriel's message
Communion	W37	God's surprise
Recessional	631	Tell out my soul

Events Happening This Week

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve

10.00 am Holy Communion at St. Margaret's followed by coffee
4.00 pm Crib service at St. Margaret's
11.00pm Community Carol Singing at St. Margaret's
11.30pm Midnight Mass at St. Margaret's

Thursday 25th December Christmas Day

10.00 am Holy Communion at St. George's

Sunday 28th December Holy Innocents

8.00 am Holy Communion at St. Margaret's
9.45 am Holy Communion at St. Margaret's
11.15 am Holy Communion at St. George's

Please pray for: -

The Sick: Jill Dodge, Brian and Barbara Faulder, Sue Goergen, Ruby Hewitt, Alan and Michaela Jones, Joan Knott, Iain Marshall, Carol Olive, David Porter, Gail Tyldesley, Florence Webb.

Ongoing Prayers for Healing & Wholeness: Celia Barnett, Becky, Mike Chadwick, Ros Cope, Audrey Dalton, Philip Dawson, Rev Christine, Charlie Heywood, Hilda Hyde, Brian Jones, Robert Lyne, Ella McConville, Peter North, Peter Owen, Rev Pauline, Mike Richards, Pierce Smeaton, Barbara Southworth, Rev Keith Trivasse, Brian Wareham, Alice White.

Recently Departed:

Anniversaries of Death: Eric Garner, Jean Mundy, Gina Swallow.

Columbarium Flowers: Gina Swallow 22nd December.

NOTICES:

The BBC Daily Service **Carol Concert featuring our choir** will be broadcast in 5 x 15 min Daily Service programmes on Radio 4 Extra at 9:45am from December 22nd to 26th, and in its entirety on Radio Manchester on Christmas Day at 9.00 am and 1.00 pm, and "Joy to the World" will be featured in BBC Breakfast on Christmas Day. After they have been broadcast you can also listen to them on BBC Sounds.

There is still time to donate towards the cost of this year's **Christmas flowers**. The box for donations is at the back of church. We really appreciate all contributions which enable us to decorate our lovely Church for the festive season.

Porch Boxes: St Margaret's Church will be open between **9.30 am and 11 am on Thursdays** for donations. Many thanks.

All notices for next week's **Service Sheet** to be sent to David McConville no later than Tuesday. please send to: wardendm@stmargaretsprestwich.com