

The Parish Church of All Saints St Ives

## ***Welcome to All Saints today***

**21 December 2025:  
the Fourth Sunday of Advent**

### **SERVICES TODAY**

**10.15      Sung Parish Eucharist**  
**16.00      Contemplative Prayer**



### **Services and events for this Week**

Monday to Wednesday: Morning Prayer will be said at 09.05

22 Mon	19.30	Bell Ringing Practice
23 Tues	10.00	Community Café
24 Wed	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
	16.00	Nativity from Scratch
	23.30	Midnight Mass
	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
25Thurs	10.00	Christmas Day Eucharist with Carols

**NEXT SUNDAY 28 December**  
**The First Sunday of Christmas**

**10.15      Parish Eucharist**

**Please take this booklet with you when you leave**

*Throughout this booklet, where indications for posture are given, please treat them as being for guidance only. Should it suit you better to adopt an alternative posture, please feel free to do so.  
Large print copies and gluten-free wafers are available.*

## **Introduction to the Season**

*Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church waits for the coming (adventus) of Christ, both in his incarnation and as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies therefore look forward not only to Christ's birth, but also to his final Coming, and challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement: 'Every eye shall now behold him robed in dreadful majesty.' (Charles Wesley)*

*The characteristic note of Advent is expectation rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. The anticipation of Christmas under relentless commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness. Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas. The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century and is now a common practice.*

*The Advent Wreath has four candles (three purple and one rose pink) in a ring around a white candle. The first purple candle is lit on Advent Sunday, with the others being lit on successive weeks; the pink candle is lit on the Third Sunday ('Gaudete') which signifies the rejoicing that we are at the midpoint of the season and the focus shifts from the ancient message of the prophets to the forerunner of Christ, John the Baptist. The white candle is lit on Christmas Day itself. The new candle each week is lit during the Prayers of Penitence.*

*There are several traditions about the meaning or theme of each candle. The scheme that accords best with the Common Worship Lectionary as used in the Church of England is:*

*Advent 4:           The Blessed Virgin Mary*

*Each of the four Sundays thus reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ. 'The Patriarchs' can naturally focus on Abraham, our father in faith, and David, Jesus's ancestor, in whose city he was born. 'The Prophets' gives an opportunity to reflect on the way the birth of the Messiah was 'foretold'. John, who proclaimed the Saviour, and Mary, who bore him in her womb, complete the picture.*

**¶ Stand when the bell is rung for the Processional Hymn**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel**

That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save,  
And give us victory o'er the grace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,  
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Words *Veni, veni Emmanuel*: 13th century Latin, based on the Great Advent  
Antiphons, translated by John Mason Neale (1818–1866)

Tune *Veni Emmanuel*: from a 15th-century French Franciscan Processional

## ¶ Remain standing for the **Invocation and Greeting**

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us worship God together.  
**Thanks be to God**

## **Prayers of Penitence at the Advent Wreath**

*The third Advent Candle is lit.*

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 third Advent Candle is lit.*

Heavenly Father, you exalted the humble and meek: give us humble and contrite hearts.



Lord Jesus, you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb: be planted also in our hearts and lives.



Holy Spirit, you overshadowed Mary that she might become the God-bearer: fill us with your heavenly gifts.



May God in his mercy forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¶ *Remain standing for the* **Collect**

*The priest introduces a period of silent prayer with the words*  
Let us pray.

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## ¶ ***The Liturgy of the Word***

¶ *Sit for the* **First Reading** (Isaiah 7: 10–16)

*At the end the reader says*  
This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

¶ *Remain seated for the* **Responsorial Psalm** (Ps. 80)  
*and join in singing the Response*



○ shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
○ Lord, rouse up your might,  
○ Lord, come to our help. *(Response)*

God of hosts, turn again, we implore  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. *(Response)*

May your hand be on the one you have chosen,  
the one you have given your strength;  
and we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life, that we may call upon your name. *(Response)*

¶ Sit for the **Second Reading** (Romans 1: 1-7)

*At the end the reader says*  
This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

¶ Please stand for the **Gospel Acclamation**  
*And turn towards the Gospel reader*



Cantor: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,  
a name which means, God is with us.

**All:** **Alleluia** (as above)

¶ *Remain standing for the* **Gospel** (Matthew 1: 18–25)

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end of the Gospel the reader says:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

¶ *Sit for the* **Sermon**

*Conon Simon Kershaw (Licensed Reader)*

¶ *Stand for the* **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,  
Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten,  
not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

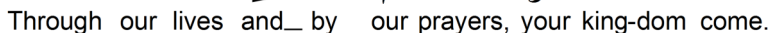
*Please bow for the next three lines:*

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**¶ Kneel or sit for the Prayers of Intercession**

*To the bidding Let us pray to the Lord please respond by singing:*



**and rise in glory.**

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.



**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now,  
and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

*Silence is kept.*

*The priest says the concluding prayer:*

Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek  
and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the  
completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

**¶ Stand for the Peace**

God will speak peace to his people,  
to those who turn to him in their hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**¶ Remain standing for the Offertory Hymn**

*A collection is taken for the mission and upkeep of the Church.  
The Altar is prepared and gifts of bread and wine are placed on it.*

Sing we of the blessed Mother  
Who received the angel's word,  
And obedient to his summons  
Bore in love the infant Lord;  
Sing we of the joys of Mary  
At whose breast that child was fed  
Who is Son of God eternal  
And the everlasting Bread.

Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,  
Of the sword that pierced her through,  
When beneath the cross of Jesus  
She his weight of suffering knew,  
Looked upon her Son and Saviour  
Reigning high on Calvary's tree,  
Saw the price of man's redemption  
Paid to set the sinner free.

Sing again the joys of Mary  
When she saw the risen Lord,  
And in prayer with Christ's apostles,  
Waited on his promised word:  
From on high the blazing glory  
Of the Spirit's presence came,  
Heavenly breath of God's own being,  
Manifest through wind and flame.

Sing the chiefest joy of Mary  
When on earth her work was done,  
And the Lord of all creation  
Brought her to his heavenly home:  
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,  
Raised on high and crowned with grace,  
May your Son, the world's redeemer,  
Grant us all to see his face.

Words: George B Timms (b.1910)    Tune *Abbot's Leigh*: Cyril Taylor (1907–1991)

¶ *Remain standing for the* **Prayer Over the Gifts**

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands,  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

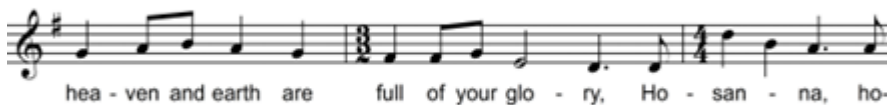
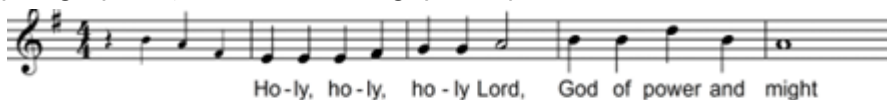
Lord, may the power of the Spirit, which sanctified Mary the mother of your Son, make holy the gifts we place upon this altar. **Amen.**

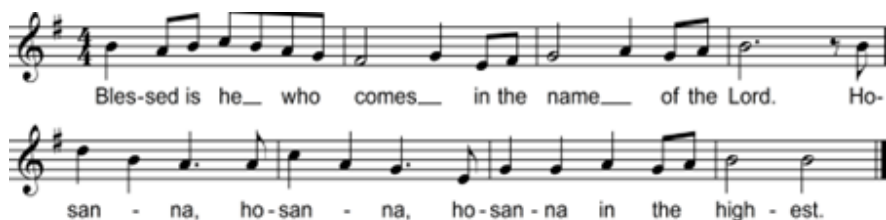
¶ *Remain standing throughout the* **Eucharistic Prayer (B)**



It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came. In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise:





Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: 'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'

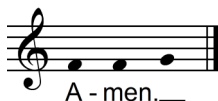
In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: 'Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me'.

### Praise to you Lord Jesus



And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.



¶ *Remain standing for the* **Lord's Prayer**

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, and so we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

¶ *Remain standing for the* **Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

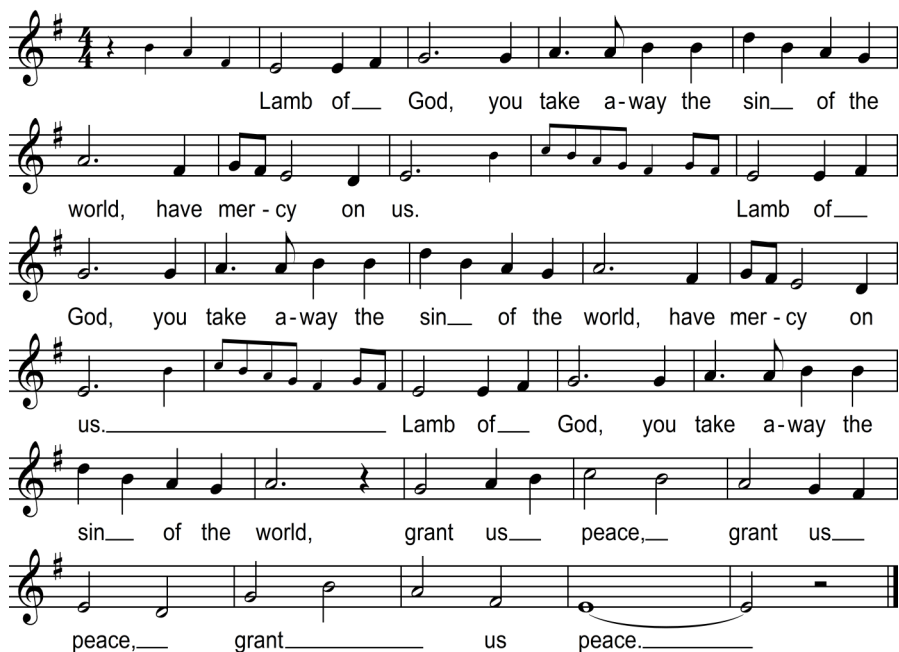
¶ *Remain standing for the* **Invitation to Communion**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

¶ *Kneel or sit for the* **Lamb of God**



## Distribution of the Sacrament

*Anyone who has been baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
and wishes to receive the love of the Lord Jesus in their life,  
is welcome to receive communion at this service.*

*The Chalice is there for those who wish to receive it.*

*There is no compulsion about this. If you are worried about receiving the  
Chalice, please remember that making your Communion in one kind  
is entirely valid.*

**We ask you not to dip the wafer into the chalice.**

*Alternatively you may wish to come for a blessing: please keep your hands down  
and your head bowed to indicate that this is your preference.*

¶ Remain kneeling or seated for the **Communion Hymn**

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.  
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be;  
All generations laud and honour thee.  
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.  
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said.  
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.'  
Most highly favoured lady! Gloria!

Of her, Emmauel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn;  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
'Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

Words: Sabine Baring-Gould (1843–1924)

Tune: Traditional Basque Carol, arrr. Edgar Pettman (1866–1943)

### ¶ *Please stand for the* **Post Communion Prayer**

*The priest introduces a period of silent prayer with the words*

Let us pray.

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.**

## ¶ *The Dismissal*

¶ *Remain standing for the* **Dismissal Gospel**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord;  
let it be to me according to your word.' (Luke 1: 38)

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

¶ *Remain standing for the* **Notices**

¶ *Remain standing for the* **Blessing**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

Please bow you heads and pray for God's blessing.

May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy,  
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body, for the  
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; and the blessing of God almighty,  
† the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain  
with you always. **Amen.**

¶ *Remain standing for the* **Final Hymn**

Mary sang a song, a song of love,  
Magnified the mighty Lord above;  
Melodies of praise his name extol  
From the very depths of Mary's soul:

'God the Lord has done great things for me,  
Looked upon my life's humility;



Happy shall they call me from this day  
Merciful is he whom we obey.

'To the humble soul our God is kind,  
To the proud he brings unease of mind.  
Who uplifts the poor, pulls down the strong?  
God alone has power to right the wrong!

'He who has been Israel's strength and stay  
Fills the hungry, sends the rich away;  
God has shown his promise firm and sure,  
Faithful to his people evermore.'

This was Mary's song as we recall,  
Mother to the Saviour of us all:  
Magnify his name and sing his praise,  
Worship and adore him, all your days!

Words and tune *Mary's Song*: Michael Perry (1942–1996), based on the *Magnificat*

¶ *Remain standing for the* **Acclamation and Dismissal**

**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.  
Amen.**



## **Organ Voluntary**

Chorale Prelude: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland  
(Come now, Saviour of the Heathen), BWV 659

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

### **THE SICK:**

Sylvia Boyce, Simon Calverly, Dorothy Goodhew,  
Christopher Jackson, Sally Jackson, Peter Lavender, Harold Marie,  
Philip Parker, Mary Popham, Mike Tassell, Karina Woods, Brandon

### **THE RECENTLY DEPARTED**

James Garrard (priest)

**YEAR'S MIND:** Ellen Gray (21st)

## **NOTICES**

**Clearance of Books:** Fr Mark is downsizing his library before moving! There are some boxes of books near the North door: please help yourselves—there is no charge as such, but donations for the organ fund will be gratefully received!

### **Distribution of the Langley Bread**

Continuing a tradition from 1656, the Langley Bread will be distributed at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 14 January in the Corn Exchange. This tradition is open to all widows and widowers who are on the town's electoral register. For more information please see Callum or John.

## **Jackie's Kitchen**

A selection of home-made jams and chutneys will be available after the service from Jackie Greenwood in return for a donation to church funds.

## **Christmas Services: please share with family & friends!**

### **Christmas Eve:**

**15.30      Nativity Service**

**23.30      Midnight Mass**

### **Christmas Day:**

**10.00      Sung Family Eucharist with Carols**

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## **CONTACT DETAILS**

If you would like to know more of what is happening in your parish,  
please visit the calendar on the parish website  
[www.stivesparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.stivesparishchurch.org.uk) or contact one of the following:

### **Vicar** (Revd Fr Mark Amey)

The Vicarage, Westwood Road, St Ives. PE27 6DH  
Telephone 07905 122090 email: [vicar@stivesparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stivesparishchurch.org.uk)

### **Churchwardens**

Callum Dickerson 07747 189732  
John Bacon 07535 063459  
[churchwardens@stivesparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:churchwardens@stivesparishchurch.org.uk)

### **Reader & Treasurer**

Elaine Midgley c/o Parish Office 07967 045984  
[treasurer@stivesparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stivesparishchurch.org.uk)

For online donations please use the following:  
St Ives Parochial Church Council - 20-43-63 - 60775193

### **Parish Safeguarding Officer:**

Peter Smith 01480 461329 or 07711 131573  
[safeguarding@stivesparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stivesparishchurch.org.uk)

### **General Enquiries and items for inclusion in the sheet**

should be directed to [office@stivesparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@stivesparishchurch.org.uk)  
Requests for Baptisms Marriages (including Banns) and funerals:  
please look on the website or contact  
[admin@stivesparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@stivesparishchurch.org.uk)

**Musical enquires** (to join the choir or to discuss wedding music)  
please contact the Director of Music: Martin Everett, MA, MMus  
[music@stivesparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:music@stivesparishchurch.org.uk)

### **For enquiries relating to the Bells**

[bells@stivesparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:bells@stivesparishchurch.org.uk)