

The Good News for Nettleham

Sun 22nd December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

No 347

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.30am

Said Holy Communion

10.00am

The Parish Communion

11.15am

BCP Holy Communion at St Mary's Riseholme

3.00pm

Christingle

6.00pm

Youth Christmas Special

Mon 23rd

10.00am

Christmas Fun for YR-Y6 in church

Tues 24th

4.00pm

Nativity

7.00pm

Carols on the Green

11.00pm

Midnight Mass

Weds 25th

8.30am

Holy Communion on Christmas Day

10.00am

The Parish Communion on Christmas Day

Fri 27th

12.00pm

BCP Holy Communion

Sun 29th

First Sunday of Christmas

8.30am

Said Holy Communion

10.00am

All Age Parish Communion

Thu 2nd

11.00am

Standing Committee Meeting in Rooms 19/20

Fri 3rd

12.00pm

BCP Holy Communion

Sun 5th

Epiphany

8.30am

Said Holy Communion

10.00am

All Age Parish Communion *(with a little background incense)*

1.00pm

Baptism of Sophia

The First Sunday of Christmas

1 Samuel 2.18-20,26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3.12-17

Luke 2.41-end

Epiphany

Isaiah 60.1-6

Psalm 72

Ephesians 3.1-12

Matthew 2.1-12

Prayer for our Community

Sunday	22 nd Streets: Ridgeway, Willowfield Avenue, Mill Hill, Vicarage Lane Community: Nettleham Junior School
Monday	23 rd - Streets: Greenfields, The Vinyard Community: Tennis, Football and Cricket Clubs at Mulsanne Park
Tuesday	24 th Streets: Eastway, Field Close, Westway, Parkside, The Dales Community: Hospitality
Wednesday	25 th Streets: Poachers Meadow, Bramble Court, Lacy Close, Squires Place Community: PC's and PCSO's
Thursday	26 th Streets: Sudbrooke Lane, Larch Avenue, The Hawthorns, The Oaks Community: The Rugby Club
Friday	27 th Streets: Lodge Lane, Mulsanne Way, Weldon Drive, Arnage Court Community: Nettleham Surgery
Saturday	28 th Streets: The people of our church who live outside the parish. Church Life: Bellringers, Musicians Churchwardens, Flower Team, Pastoral Visitors, Welcomers, Youth, Worship Leaders, Children's Teams...
Sunday	29 th Streets: Wragby Road East, Westfield Drive, Westfield Approach, Westfield Avenue Community: Wragby Road East Businesses
Monday	30 th Streets: Lime Crescent, Lawley Close, Westacre Court Community: Self-Employed People
Tuesday	31 st Our whole community. Giving thanks for all we have shared in 2024 and asking God's blessing upon everyone in 2025.
Wednesday	1 st Streets: Riseholme Lane, Hall Lane, St George's Lane Community: St Mary's Church
Thursday	2 nd Streets: Grange de Lings, Riseholme Farms Community: University of Lincoln
Friday	3 rd Streets: Lincoln Road, Welton Road Community: Beckside Nursery
Saturday	4 th Streets: Washdyke Lane, Cliff Avenue Community: Conservation Groups

In need of prayer.... Steve Jackson, Lynne and Barry Combes and Mavis Kirton.

RIP.... We give thanks for the lives, pray for the souls, and ask comfort for the relatives and friends of Jan Townsend and Neil Bean.

Year's Mind... Judy Binnington, Phyllis 'Gwen' Beaumont, Joyce South, Clara Wood, Margaret Brumby, Harry Bellingham and Kathleen Beckers

St Mary's, Riseholme...

Our pattern of worship is:

2nd Sunday in the month BCP Matins at 11.15am

4th Sunday in the month BCP Holy Communion at 11.15am

You will always find a warm welcome at St Mary's. Richard Smith – *Churchwarden.*

Growing Faith:

Alpha: Alpha will run at Nettleham Methodist Church in January 2025.

Scam Emails: We are so sorry to let you know that it seems (yet again) some people have received fraudulent emails, purporting to be from other church folks. Please call a minister or churchwarden if you receive an email requesting money, vouchers or your bank details.

Serving:

Thank You: Thank you to the many people who have contributed towards all that has happened (and is about to happen) at All Saints this Advent and Christmas. Writing a note like this never feels like enough to say a big enough 'thank you' for all you do and words can't really capture how much it is appreciated... but please accept these words as an attempt to convey just how grateful we are for every single one of you!

Community:

A Message from St Mary's Riseholme: Thank you so much to all who supported our memory candles this Christmas. We greatly appreciated the donations given.

Lunch Together: On 13th February, everyone is invited to the Rugby Club for a meal at 12.30pm. Menu: Cottage pie with vegetables and gravy or Lasagne and salad with veggie options on both. Lemon meringue or chocolate fudge cake. With tea or coffee. £15.50.

Insurance: When you're next looking to renew your house and contents insurance please have a look at what Ecclesiastical Insurance, our Church's insurers, could offer. If they are competitive and you decide to buy a policy from them they will, as long as you ask, give our Church £130. Might be worth a look.

Parish Giving: If you would like to change the way you give to our Church from a Standing Order (or cash in the plate) to the Parish Giving Scheme to reduce bank charges, Simon has written a simple (hopefully!) 'how-to' guide. If you would like a copy please contact him at treasurer@asn.church or speak to him direct.

Charities: We'd like your suggestions for the charities we will support next year. Each year we give a sum equivalent to 5% of our planned giving to three charities - one local, one national and one international - and the amount involved is around £600 per charity. Please let Simon (treasurer@asn.church) have your suggestions and then the PCC will make the final decision at its meeting in January.

Contacts...

Priest in Charge: Revd Michelle Webb

michelle.webb@lincoln.anglican.org
01522 595969 and 07939 454605

Associate Priest: Revd Judy Shaw

judeshaw.shaw3@gmail.com
07594 670408

Parish Administration:

07468149695

Treasurer: Simon Hardy

admin@asn.church
treasurer@asn.church

Churchwarden: Andy Lewis 07943 099431

Churchwarden: John Dent 07985554775

Churchwarden: Richard Smith (St Mary's).

01522 542209

All Saints Safeguarding Officer: Russ Coulter.

safeguarding@asn.church

St Mary's Safeguarding Officer : R. Smith.

richard@richbar.plus.com

Revd Michelle writes...

In the quiet of a small village a faithful young woman named Mary was likely going about her day when she heard those first words of an angel: "Greetings, favoured one,". I don't know about you, but I'm not sure I've ever had anyone greet me with those words. As I reflect upon them, I feel they are the kind of words which suggest that something daunting and challenging is about to be requested. I wonder what might happen if I greeted you with the words "Greetings, favoured one... I think you would make a great verger!" Of course, the angels words to Mary were not just a greeting, but a profound declaration of God's love and election. The word *favoured* in Greek, *kecharitomene*, means "full of grace" — suggesting that Mary was chosen, not simply because she had 'earned the job', but because of God's overflowing grace in her life.

Mary's response to this divine invitation is an example of humility and faith. "How can this be?" she asked, puzzled, but, even while puzzled, she remains open to God's will.

Her "Yes" enabled the unfolding of God's great plan for the world. Mary's 'yes' always leads me to contemplation but this year I've been struck by the greeting of the angel, "Greetings, favoured one," and pondered how important it can be for us to greet each other well, to greet each other with recognition of our identity as precious and beloved children of God. Now, I promise not to walk over to you in the coop and call out 'Greetings, favoured one' but perhaps we might ponder what it means to be "favoured ones". How might we open ourselves more fully to God's grace? How can we, like Mary, say yes to God's invitation, trusting in God's plan for us? God's invitation to be part of God's loving purposes was made to Mary and is made to us too. And we can respond, in prayer, in acts of kindness, in the loving support we offer one another, in the serving of our community. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. God calls us, like Mary, to respond with open hearts, trusting in God's plan and eager to share God's love with the world.

Weekly Prayer

A Prayer for Christmas Eve, by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus,

that we may share in the song of the angels,

the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,

and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,

and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,

forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.