



## Sunday 8th December 2024 — Advent 2

### WORSHIP TODAY

10:30am St Peter, Bromyard Holy Communion  
10:30am St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy Holy Communion

### TODAY'S READINGS – Advent 2

Morning: Malachi 3.1-4; Philippians 1.3-11;  
Luke 1.68-79; Luke 3.1-6  
Evening: Psalms 75 [76]; Isaiah 40.1-11; Luke 1.1-25

### COLLECT FOR ADVENT 2

O Lord,  
raise up, we pray, Your power and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered  
in running the race that is set before us,  
Your bountiful grace and mercy  
may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord,  
to whom with You and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

### REFLECTION FOR ADVENT 2

#### Mary's Song:

Mary's Song, or the *Magnificat*, can claim to be the very first Christmas Carol! Mary was visiting her relative, Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist. When Elizabeth saw Mary, baby John leapt in Elizabeth's womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, blessed Mary and the child that she would eventually bear.

Mary's a great model for our discipleship here, as we seek to follow Jesus ourselves. Mary recognised her need (calling God 'my Saviour') and magnified God's greatness. This isn't the magnifying we do under a microscope, where we enlarge something which is small. This is the magnification of looking through a telescope, so we get a better view of the magnitude of something very large indeed. After all, God is big – Mary can't make Him bigger, but she can draw our attention to God's bigness.

Mary rejoices in her smallness and humility, because being God's servant is the best thing. Indeed, it is quite possible to have everything, humanly speaking, and yet to have nothing at all. As Jesus said, life doesn't consist in the abundance of our possessions (a sobering thought at Christmas).

And Mary hears God's promise to her and she rejoices. She rejoices because she's a sinner in need of a Saviour. And she rejoices because she sees the scope of what God is doing – He's a very big God, you see!

And God's grace through this Saviour, whom Mary will bear, isn't just to Mary ... God's mercy is extended 'to those who fear Him', 'He has helped His servant Israel', and He has remembered to be merciful 'to Abraham and his descendants forever'. It's a mercy which spreads outwards, encompassing individuals, a nation, and the whole world.

To talk about Israel stirs strong emotions today because of what we see in the news. But Mary is talking about Israel as the Servant of God in the time of the Old Testament. Back then, Israel was to be a light to the nations by witnessing to the goodness and glory of God, and drawing the nations of the world into relationship with God. We can say, therefore, that salvation comes through Mary and is from the Jews – because Jesus was born of Mary and He was Jewish. But salvation isn't limited to Mary or to the Jews. Instead, God is fulfilling His promises of blessing to Abraham. In other words, bringing blessing to the whole earth (Genesis 12 verse 3).

God's action through Jesus is therefore not something which is completely new. It is a continuation of His mercy to Abraham, and in accordance with the promises that God has already made thousands of years before. It's all part of God's great big plan. Mary sees this, and she rejoices.

*Rev David*

### Wednesday 12th December 2024

10:00am St Peter, Bromyard Prayers

### Sunday 15th December 2024 - Advent 3

9:00am St Peter, Bromyard Holy Communion

10:30am St Peter, Bromyard Morning Worship

6:30pm St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy Carol Service

### READINGS – Advent 3

*Morning:* Zephaniah 3.14-20; Isaiah 12.2-6\*;  
Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18

*Evening:* Psalms 75 [76]; Isaiah 40.1-11; Luke 1.1-25

### PARENTS & TODDLERS

We have an opportunity to start a Parents & Toddlers group in the New Year. If you would be interested in helping with this, please chat to Rev Phil or Rev David.

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

We are looking to provide regular activities for children joining us at St Peter's. If you would be interested in helping with this, please talk to Rev Phil or Rev David. Volunteer's will need to do safeguarding training and have a DBS check.

### CHRISTMAS CAROLS

In the run up to Christmas we have a number of services planned.

Saturday 14th December	4:00pm	St Peter, Bromyard	Bromyard Choral Society Concert
Sunday 15th December	6:30pm	St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy	Carol Service
Tuesday 17th December	11:00am	Highwell House Care Home	Carol Service *
	2:00pm	Whitegates Care Home	Carol Service *
Wednesday 18th December	9:30am	St Peter, Bromyard	QE Yrs 7&8 Christmas Service
	7:00pm	Woodland Drive, Stoke Lacy	Carol Singing
Thursday 19th December	2:00pm	St Peter, Bromyard	St Peter's School Christmas Service
Friday 20th December	11:00am	Froome Bank Care Home	Carol Service *
Sunday 22nd December	3:00pm	Brockhampton Chapel	Carol Service
	3:00pm	Moreton Jeffries	Carol Service
	5:00pm	St Peter, Bromyard	Carol Service

\* *It would be lovely to have a group of church members joining us at our Care Homes*

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our Christmas services for this year will be:

Tuesday 24th December	11:30pm	St Peter, Bromyard	Midnight Communion
Wednesday 25th December	9:00am	Brockhampton Chapel	Christmas Communion
	10:00am	St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy	Christmas Communion
	10:30am	St Peter, Bromyard	Christmas Communion

### QUIET WEEK / Annual Leave

Rev Phil will be taking annual leave for a Quiet Week 9th-13th December.

### BROMYARD FOODBANK

*Items urgently needed this week:*

**Food for diabetics, savoury biscuits, tinned meats, dried dog & cat food, tinned fruit, jam & spreads, pasta, tinned tomatoes, UHT milk, cereal, coffee, tinned big soup**

Foodbank are always willing to welcome potential new volunteers. Please contact Emma Stapley or Rev Phil for more information.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Margaret Hamilton-Herbert, Iain Elliott, Peder Nielson, Alan Seabrook, Helen Combe, Natalie Miller, Peter Cliff

*Recently bereaved:* the families of John Allan, Michael Farrell, Hilda Evans, Gillian Haines, Mary Caiger, Sylvia Darby, Philip Hodgeson, Phillip 'Rupert' Morris, Carolyn Cooper, Derek Hiles, Jeremy Holden, Alex Hoyle, Brenda 'Topsy' Bradford, Netti Evans, Claire Hollis

### CONTACTS

**Revd Philip Miller** - Vicar (rest day—Monday)  
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**Revd David Hall** - Curate (rest day-Friday)  
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The Parish Office is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:30am-12noon 01885 483749 [admin@stpetersbromyard.org.uk](mailto:admin@stpetersbromyard.org.uk)

Parish website: <https://stpetersbromyard.org.uk/>

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