



Sunday 22nd December 2024 — Advent 4

WORSHIP TODAY

10:30am	St Peter, Bromyard	Holy Communion
3:00pm	Moreton Jeffries Brockhampton Chapel	Carol Service Carol Service
5:00pm	St Peter, Bromyard	Carol Service

TODAY'S READINGS – ADVENT 4

<i>Morning:</i>	Micah 5.2-5a; Psalm 80.1-8; Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45 [46-55]
<i>Evening:</i>	Psalms 123 [131]; Isaiah 10.33 - 11.10; Matthew 1.18-25

COLLECT FOR ADVENT 4

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.

REFLECTION FOR ADVENT 4

*Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word:
 For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel. (Luke 2:29-32)*

The life of faith involves waiting – it's enshrined in our church calendar. But Advent and Lent are different seasons of waiting. Waiting can be joyful, but it can be uncomfortable. Before Peter and Oliver were born, we experienced joyful anticipation of their arrival. More recently, during Easter 2023, we experienced anxious waiting at a hospital bedside. Waiting is hard.

We meet Simeon and Anna in Luke 2:22-40. They are two devout Israelites, waiting for the consolation of Israel – this is not the British 'consolation prize', which is achieved amidst an otherwise overwhelming defeat. This consolation is the comfort God speaks to His people through Isaiah, when He says 'Comfort, comfort my people'. Better times are coming soon: their exile will end, and God Himself will come and dwell with them.

And when Simeon and Anna see Jesus, they see that God has fulfilled all His promises. Imagine the moment: Joseph and Mary have travelled from Bethlehem to the temple in Jerusalem. They're here to present Jesus to the Lord as their firstborn son. Then a random elderly man comes up to them and takes their son in his arms. He looks down upon this helpless baby and says to God: "my eyes have seen your salvation."

Did you notice what Simeon doesn't say, though? He doesn't say that he's seen the Lord's Christ, the anointed one who would rule God's people. He's been waiting for that, so we might expect Simeon to say that.

But Simeon says that he has seen "your salvation" (meaning a salvation which belongs to God and comes from Him). This song is called the Nunc Dimittis, and we may know it well from Evening Prayer. But, when we say it together, never forget that Simeon holds the Christ child in his arms. Simeon's not talking about God's salvation in an abstract sense but giving thanks to God for Jesus. And Simeon isn't merely looking to the future. In Jesus, salvation has already arrived.

Though Jesus has come once, we are in a moment of waiting just like Simeon and Anna. We're waiting for Jesus to come back when our waiting will turn to fulfilment in Christ. He will usher in the renewed creation where righteousness dwells, where we'll dwell with God forever as His people. On that day, there will be no more death, suffering or sin. There is much we're still waiting for. But Simeon saw that, whilst there was much still to be done, salvation had nevertheless arrived in Christ. So, as we wait for the second coming of Jesus, may we know that same peace and fulfilment that Simeon and Anna knew as they looked at the Christ child.

Rev David

Tuesday 24th December 2024

11:30pm St Peter, Bromyard Midnight Communion

Wednesday 25th December 2024

9:00am Brockhampton Chapel Christmas Communion

10:00am St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy Christmas Communion

10:30am St Peter, Bromyard Christmas Communion

Sunday 29th December 2024 - Christmas 1

10:30am St Peter, Bromyard Holy Communion

Sunday 5th January 2025 - Epiphany

9:00am St Peter, Bromyard Holy Communion

10:30am St Peter, Bromyard Gather

St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy Holy Communion

Wednesday 8th January 2025

10:00am St Peter, Bromyard Wednesday Prayers

Sunday 12th January 2025 - Baptism of Christ

10:30am St Peter, Bromyard Holy Communion

4:00pm St Peter & St Paul, Stoke Lacy PM Praise

READINGS – Christmas 1*Morning:* Micah 5.2-5a; Psalm 80.1-8;
Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45 [46-55]*Evening:* Psalms 123 [131]; Isaiah 10.33 - 11.10;
Matthew 1.18-25**Epiphany***Morning:* Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.[1-9] 10-15;
Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12*Evening:* Isaiah 60.1-9; John 2.1-11; Psalms 98, 100**Baptism of Christ***Morning:* Isaiah 43.1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8.14-17;
Luke 3.15-17, 21, 22*Evening:* Psalms 46, 47; Isaiah 55.1-11;
Romans 6.1-11; Mark 1.4-11**SERVICE PATTERN 2025**

We are having to change our service pattern in 2025 in order to continue to provide a full range of worship across our churches.

1st Sunday

9:00am Bromyard Holy Communion

10:30am Stoke Lacy Holy Communion

10:30am Bromyard Gather

3rd Sunday

9:00am Bromyard Holy Communion

10:30am Stoke Lacy Holy communion

10:30am Bromyard Morning Worship

2nd Sunday

10:30am Bromyard Holy Communion

4:00pm Stoke Lacy PM Praise

4th Sunday

10:30am Bromyard Holy Communion

3:00pm Brockhampton Evening Prayer

4:00pm Stoke Lacy Sanctuary (6:30pm April-October)

6:30pm Bromyard Come to the River

*Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas!***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, Alan Seabrook, 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, Peder Nielson, Revd Michael Smith**CONTACTS****Revd Philip Miller** - Vicar (rest day—Monday)01885 498200 revphilm@btinternet.com**Revd David Hall** - Curate (rest day-Friday)revdavidhall24@gmail.comThe Parish Office is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:30am-12noon 01885 483749 admin@stpetersbromyard.org.ukParish website: <https://stpetersbromyard.org.uk/>

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