



# Bedhampton Parish

St Thomas & St Nicholas

Serving the community of Bedhampton by sharing God's love and friendship

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Advent 4 – Christmas – Christmas 1**

## **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 may we 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.

## **Rector's Reflection**

When I pray, I often thank our God for the fact that he is the one constant in our lives. The same today, yesterday and tomorrow. Those utterings are not the prayer of a slightly over optimistic church leader, they are the reflection of a promise from God himself. In the Bible we read God say that he does not change, and we are reminded that Jesus is always a constant. With so much uncertainty around us as we head towards 2021, we can trust that God's promises will remain. I am reminded of the parable that speaks of the adult child who wanders away from the father (Luke 15:11-32). The prodigal lives and behaves in such a disrespectful way that they believe they cannot possibly return to the father despite their world falling apart around them. However, the constant love of the father is such that he has been looking for them on the horizon and when he sees them returning, he sprints towards them with open arms. I wonder if this Christmas season you might take just a little time to remember that constant love for you? Just sit for a while and receive it fully as God opens his arms.

We wish you a merry Christmas and pray over you an understanding that you are loved by your father God. With all our love, Max & Suzy.

**[www.facebook.com/BedhamptonNews](https://www.facebook.com/BedhamptonNews) - [www.Bedhampton.church](http://www.Bedhampton.church)**

## **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

**St Nicholas'**  
**Advent 4**  
**9am Holy Communion**

Reader 1: Suzy Cross  
Reading 1: Samuel 7: 1-11, 16  
Reader 2: Service Leader  
Reading 2: Luke 1: 26 - 38  
Prayers: Fleur Bragaglia

**St Thomas'**  
**Advent 4**  
**11am Morning Prayer**

Reader 1: Ann Partridge  
Reading 1: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16  
Reader 2: Julian Delmar-Morgan  
Reading 2: Luke 1: 26 - 38  
Prayers: Max Cross

**Sunday Worship Online - [www.Bedhampton.tv](http://www.Bedhampton.tv)**  
**Available from Sunday online or by phone on 023 9387 7789**

## **What's On This Week**

### **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

8am Parish Prayer: Zoom 997 4841 5600 & [Bedhampton.church/prayer](http://Bedhampton.church/prayer)  
9.30am Holy Communion at St. Thomas' Church.

### **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve**

11.30pm Midnight Communion (Online only) [www.Bedhampton.tv](http://www.Bedhampton.tv)

### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day**

8am Holy Communion at St. Thomas' Church.  
10am All Age Celebration at St. Thomas' Church.

### **Zoom Meetings - [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)**

Use the software or call 0203 481 5240 and enter the meeting ID when asked.

## **Dates For Your Diary**

### **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December**

No Parish Prayer and no Holy Communion Service.

### **The Christmas Experience**

12<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> December 3pm – 6pm in the grounds of St. Thomas' Church.

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

10am Shared Holy Communion at St. Nicholas' Church.

**[www.Bedhampton.church/book](http://www.Bedhampton.church/book) & 023 9248 3013**

### **A New Face**

I am delighted to let you know that Emily Ashworth will be spending some time with us over the next few months. Emily is currently going through the discernment process to see if God is calling her to be a priest. Emily will spend most of her time at St. Nicholas', but no doubt will also join us at St. Thomas' and within other areas of ministry. Do say hello and be praying for her as she continues this process.

### **Questions?**

Early in 2021 we are hosting Alpha, an open and informal dialogue about faith, the person of Jesus, and what it all means. We want to hear your thoughts and questions as we explore these themes together without the pressured atmosphere that usually comes with these conversations. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Everyone is welcome. Contact Max for more information.

### **Small Groups**

Are you a member of a home or life group that meets regularly? We have learnt in lockdown, these are vital as part of our faith walk. Now is the time to join a group. Contact Max for more details.

### **Christmas 2020**

Christmas is not cancelled. we will still celebrate the birth of Jesus. In particular we are going to have 'The Christmas Experience', 3pm – 6pm until 24<sup>th</sup> December. In the grounds of St Thomas', we are placing scenes from the nativity journey. There will be an opportunity to take photos, use your mobile phone to hear the story and listen to carols as you journey with Mary and Joseph towards the stable in Bethlehem. Who are you going to invite?

### **The Living Advent Calendar**

The daily "Living Advent Calendar" is available now. We share it on our Facebook page every day or go to YouTube.com and enter "HPP - Living Advent Calendar".

### **Open Church Over Christmas**

St Thomas' on Bidbury Lane is open for private prayer from 9am – 2pm every weekday up until 24<sup>th</sup>. It will re-open from 28<sup>th</sup>, reverting back to the usual times of 9am – 4pm. Please follow the guidance indicated on the sheet available to you as you enter.

### **Food Bank**

Drop food in the Food Bank bins at Asda, Tesco and Waitrose or in the black box by the front door at The Rectory, Bidbury Lane.

## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December

### St Thomas' Christmas One 10am Shared Holy Communion

Reader 1: Ann Partridge

Reading 1: Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3

Reader 2: Service Leader

Reading 2: Luke 2.15-218

Prayers: Sandra Matthews

### Sunday Worship Online – [www.Bedhampton.tv](http://www.Bedhampton.tv)

Streamed shared Holy Communion live at 10am and available afterwards.  
(Please note the live stream is a test and is not guaranteed to work)

### Please Pray For

#### Those requesting prayer:

Ann Williams; Adam Coe; Adeline; Amelia Norman; Charlie Harckham; Chris Deacon; Cliff Blofield; David Brookes; David Milligan; Gisela; Joe; Jon & Naomi Gould; Kathy; Ken & Thelma; Margaret Gray; Margaret & Brian Medway; Myra Beard; Marilyn & Bernard Mist; Sarah Gazey; Shaun; Wendy Wilbraham.

### Additional Information

**Wednesday Holy Communion Services** – Please note the Wednesday timetable for the festive period is: 23<sup>rd</sup> December service to be held at St. Thomas', 30<sup>th</sup> December there will be no service and 6<sup>th</sup> January will be at St. Nicholas and will be (Mothers' Union). Everyone welcome.

**Fake Emails** - There has been another spate of emails which look as though they have come from the local parish priest, Rev Max Cross, and are asking for money. They **do not** come from him. It is very easy to fake an email, as though it is coming from someone you know. We urge you to take great care when responding to emails or phone calls asking for money. **Note: We will never ask in an email or phone call for money to be transferred to the parish.**

### Contact Us

#### Parish Office:

The office is currently closed.  
Email and phone may still be used.  
[Hello@Bedhampton.church](mailto>Hello@Bedhampton.church)  
023 9248 3013

#### Church Leader (Rector):

Rev Max Cross  
Normal day off is Thursday.  
[Max@Bedhampton.church](mailto:Max@Bedhampton.church)  
023 9245 0955