

A very warm welcome to everyone visiting our church today.

It's great that you're here this morning. We hope that you enjoy today's service. We would love to get to know you better, so please join us after the service for tea and coffee if you are able.

Sunday 15th December 2019

10.30am - All Age Nativity Service

3pm - Rose Garden Church

For your prayers

Continue to pray for the Salmon family- for Margaret's and Millie's healing. May Brenda fully recover and be able to enjoy church family life. David and Alison Pritchard, whilst still grieving the loss of David's father and aunt, still have much to do. Pray for both comfort and strength in the doing and may they find time for rest. Pray for Sarah and Ben G moving this week. May details be sorted.

Christmas is a time with both joy and sadness. Pray for those who miss their loved ones constantly or grieve losses in other ways - health, wealth, divorce, redundancy, homelessness... May we see the hope there is in God becoming baby then man amongst us. Our Father God brings light into the darkness, His presence for today and the hope of a future where all is permanently perfect. Hallelujah! Thank you Jesus.

Luke 1:26-38 NIV

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called [the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth

month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Matthew 1:18-25 NIV

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave

him the name Jesus.

Thought for the week

God so united Himself to us and us to Him, that the descent of God to the human level was at the same time the ascent of man to the divine level.

St. Leo, in F.C. Happold, Religious Faith and Twentieth-Century Man.

A message from Jill and Sid Freeman

By the grace of God, on 20th December we will have been married for 50 years. We will be renewing our wedding vows during the morning service, on Sunday 22nd December and would be delighted if you could be there to celebrate with us. There will be tea, coffee & cake after the service, in the middle hall.

Volunteer needed

Can you fry eggs and make toast? If so, would you be willing to join the Tuesday Breakfast team, from 08.00–10.00, once a fortnight? Rob is standing down, with great sadness, due to other responsibilities. Please talk to Jill F if you feel this is something you could do.

Stonebow Carol Singing

We will be carol singing at Stonebow on Wednesday 18th December 3.15pm.

Singers are required, practice will be Monday 16th time to be confirmed. Please see Jerry Tiffin for more details.

Christmas Cards

Instead of giving out many cards to those within our church family, this year we are encouraging members and regular attenders to just pin one card to this board and to put the money saved in the box below. All donations given will go to support the work of Dream Girls outreach in Klipheuwel, South Africa.

Hymn Singing

Wednesday 18th December
11.30 am at Charles Court
2.00 pm at Oaklands
You are invited to join us! Just meet outside either home 10 minutes before the start time.
Each session lasts about half an hour.

Sunday 22nd December 2019

10.30 AM Morning Service including thanksgiving for Jill and Sid's 50 years of marriage.

5.30 PM "Carols by Candlelight" A service to include all your favourite carols, suitable for all ages, with refreshments before and after the service.

What's on this week

Monday

6.30pm Prayer and fellowship - all are welcome

Tuesday

9am Tuesday Breakfast Club

Wednesday

10am-11.45am TotStop

10.15am-12pm Wednesday Club -

5.30pm-9pm Youth Group - *5.30pm food, 6-8pm Pulse, 7-9pm Ignite*

Thursday

7.30pm Musicians' practice

Saturday

8.30am-5.30pm Private Booking - Large Hall

11.30pm-4am Lean on Me

Sunday

Midnight Night Shift

10.30am Morning Service

5.30pm Carols By Candlelight

3pm Rose Garden Church

Minister: Revd. Steve Ansell // Email: steveansell@herefordbaptist.org.uk

Steve does not work on Tuesdays, please avoid contacting him on his day off.

Tel: 01432 352 209 // Email: office@herefordbaptist.org.uk // Please submit content for the newssheet to the office before Thursday.