

## Christmas Eve Morning/Advent 4

24th December 2023

Includes readings for Midnight Mass, Christmas Day  
Holy Innocents and Christmas 1.



**The Scottish Episcopal Church on the Black Isle**  
**Eaglais Easbaigeach na h-Alba san Eilean Dubh**

Charity Number SC010781

St Regulus' Cromarty + St John's, Arpafeelie + St Andrew's,  
Fortrose

The Most Rev'd Mark Strange,  
Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness  
Interim Rector

Phone: 01463 811333

Email: [bishop@moray.anglican.org](mailto:bishop@moray.anglican.org)

Charge Website: [episcopalblackisle.scot](http://episcopalblackisle.scot)

If you wish to receive the newsletter via email, please  
contact Isla Cruden: [isla@ricruden.net](mailto:isla@ricruden.net) who will add you to  
the circulation list.

### Advent 4/Christmas Eve Morning

#### THE ADVENT WREATH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Good news,

God is filling the hungry with good things!

Good news, God is lifting up the lowly!

Good news, God is about to do his mightiest  
work!

He will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth  
from all nations.

We light the fourth candle remembering that God's  
promised one comes to comfort all who are afflicted  
and to afflict all those who might be too comfortable.

*Light the candle.*

*Sing...(Tune: Away in a Manger)*

A candle is burning, a candle of Love;

A candle to point us to heaven above.

A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth;

For Jesus is bringing God's Love to our earth.

Come, Lord Jesus,

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

#### THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

##### Collect

Stir up your power, Lord, and come: and strengthen us  
by the might of your love; that, although we are  
hindered by our sins, your abundant grace and mercy  
may quickly come and save us; for you live and reign  
with the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one  
God, world without end.

##### +FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the  
LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around  
him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I  
am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays  
in a tent."

Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in  
mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to  
Nathan:

Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD:  
Are you the one to build me a house to live in?

I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up  
the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have  
been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.

Wherever I have moved about among all the people of  
Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal  
leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my  
people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a  
house of cedar?"

Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David:  
Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the  
pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my  
people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you  
went, and have cut off all your enemies from before  
you; and I will make for you a great name, like the  
name of the great ones of the earth.

And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and  
will plant them, so that they may live in their own  
place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall  
afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I  
appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give  
you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD  
declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.  
Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure  
forever before me; your throne shall be established  
forever.

##### +CANTICLE: Luke 1:46b-55

My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

**My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in  
God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the  
lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all

generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

### **+SECOND READING Romans 16:25-27**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

### **+GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you."

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.

And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord;

let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

## **Midnight Mass at 10PM on Christmas Eve in St Andrews', Fortrose. (Midnight in Bethlehem)**

### **Collect**

O God, you have made this most holy night grow radiant with the brilliance of the true Light: grant that, as we have known the mystery of that Light on earth, so we may delight in him in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

### **+ FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

### **+PSALM: 98**

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvellous things. With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory.

**All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

**All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing

together for joy at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

**All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

**+ SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4,**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

**+ GOSPEL: John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES**

**St Regulus', Cromarty. 9.45am**

**St John's, Arpafeelie. 10.30am**

**St Andrew's, Fortrose. 11.30am**

**Collect for Christmas Day**

O God, who wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of our human nature:

grant that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

**+ FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:6-12**

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

**PSALM: 97**

Zion hears and is glad and the cities of Judah rejoice. **Zion hears and is glad and the cities of Judah rejoice.**

The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

**Zion hears and is glad and the cities of Judah rejoice.**

Fire goes before him, and consumes his adversaries on every side. His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth. The heavens proclaim his righteousness; and all the peoples behold his glory.

**Zion hears and is glad and the cities of Judah rejoice.**

All worshipers of images are put to shame, those who make their boast in worthless idols; all gods bow down before him. Zion hears and is glad, and the towns of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O God.

**Zion hears and is glad and the cities of Judah rejoice.**

For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. The LORD loves those who hate evil; he guards the lives of his faithful; he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

**Zion hears and is glad and the cities of Judah rejoice.**

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright

in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

**Zion hears and is glad and the cities of Judah rejoice.**

**+SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7**

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**+GOSPEL: Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Thursday 28th December  
Feast of the Holy Innocents**

**THE HOLY EUCHARIST  
10am at St Andrew's with Rev. Christine**

**Collect**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose Holy Innocents were slaughtered at the hand of Herod:

receive into the arms of your mercy, we pray, all innocent victims; and, by your great might, frustrate the designs of evil tyrants, and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

**+FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31.15-17**

Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country.

**+PSALM 124**

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**Our help is in the name of the Lord.**

If the LORD had not been on our side, let Israel now say; If the LORD had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us; Then would they have swallowed us up alive in their fierce anger toward us; Then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over us;

**Our help is in the name of the Lord.**

Then would the raging waters have gone right over us. Blessed be the LORD! he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth. We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the Name of the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

**Our help is in the name of the Lord.**

**+SECOND READING Revelation 21.1-7**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

## **+GOSPEL Matthew 2.13-18**

<sup>3</sup>Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

<sup>16</sup>When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: <sup>18</sup>"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

**Sunday 31st December 2023**

**Christmas 1**

## **THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

**11.30 am at St Andrews with Rev. Christine**

## **RESERVED SACRAMENT SERVICE**

**9.45am at St Regulus with LR Pat**

**9.45am at St John's with Ann & Jean**

## **Collect**

O God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our Saviour, so we may with confidence behold him as he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

## **+FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

## **PSALM: 148**

Praise, O praise, the name of the Lord.

### **Praise, O praise, the name of the Lord.**

1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

### **Praise, O praise, the name of the Lord.**

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

### **Praise, O praise, the name of the Lord.**

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

### **Praise, O praise, the name of the Lord.**

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!

### **Praise, O praise, the name of the Lord.**

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

### **Praise, O praise, the name of the Lord.**

## **+SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

## **+GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's

Messiah.

Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed--and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

For grace to be Jesus' hands, feet, voice, eyes, and heart in the world...that we may all LIVE and Be the GOOD NEWS.

### **OUR WORLD**

For healing and peace among all nations. For an end to terrorism and hatred in all its forms. For our fellow Christians and all who are persecuted for their faith.

### **OUR COMMUNION**

Pray for the peace and unity of the Church. On 24<sup>th</sup> December pray for our sisters and brothers of The Episcopal Church in the Philippines and on 31<sup>st</sup> December for L' Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda.

### **OUR DIOCESE**

For our brothers & sisters in the Porvoo Communion of Churches. For all who are studying for Ordination or Readership. For their instructors & all who support them. For Mark, our Bishop, and all priests, lay readers and Eucharistic Ministers, helping to maintain our cycle of worship during the interregnum. On 24<sup>th</sup> December for the congregations of Courthill Chapel, Kishorn; All Saints Mission, Kinlochewe: Don Grant: and on 31<sup>st</sup> December for the congregations of

St. Peter and the Holy Rood, Thurso; St. John the Evangelist, Wick; Freswick Castle Chapel: Deacon - Fran Davies. Lay Readers: Alan Finch, Barrie Cran. Lay preachers: Sue Berry, Roger Bamfield. For our sister Dioceses of Québec, Canada & Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe, Ireland.

### **OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY FAMILY & FRIENDS**

For our three congregations, those who can join us in public worship and those joining us in spirit at home. For the Eilean Dubh care home & all care homes and for our church members who are living in them. For Laura S, Stuart T & all studying for ordination & readership. For Igor, Oleksii & Families. For all who are ill in mind, body, or spirit. Pray for our Granny in Guatemala: Santos De La Cruz Mendez. For all we know to need our prayers.

### **A DAILY PRAYER for the WEEK**

*Spend a moment in silence and call to mind any concerns... then pray:*

Christ is the high priest of his people: it is in him that we come together to make our prayers to the father of us all.

*- Father, put new hearts within us.*

We thank you for calling us into the Church: bless us with constant faith and make it a source of life for others.

*- Father, put new hearts within us.*

Lord, bless Mark our Bishop and Primus: we pray that his faith may not fail, and that he may strengthen his sisters and brothers.

*- Father, put new hearts within us.*

Turn sinners back to you: grant us a humble and contrite heart.

*- Father, put new hearts within us.*

Your Son knew what it was to be excluded from his homeland. Be mindful of those who must live far from their family and country.

*- Father, put new hearts within us.*

Give eternal rest to the dead: bring the whole church together in heaven.

*- Father, put new hearts within us.*

*In a moment of silence, call to mind the concerns of your own heart with those listed above and lift them up to God. Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

A reminder that the craft group, normally responsible for the Blythswood boxes, ask that we save our Christmas cards for their later use.

## TIME CHANGE OF MIDWEEK SERVICE

Please note that from the beginning of January the Thursday service at St Andrew's Fortrose will start at **10.30am**

### SERVICES W/C 1st January 2024

**10.30 am Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January Eucharist at St Andrews.**

## THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

**6pm Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January Eucharist at St Andrews**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024**  
**The First Sunday of Epiphany**  
**The Baptism of The Lord**

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST

**11:30am in St Andrew's with Rev. Ellie Charman.**

## RESERVED SACRAMENT

**9:45am in St John's with Donald & Isla.**

**9:45am in St Regulus with Jill & Simon.**

(Readings Gen 1.1-5: Ps 29: Acts 19.1-7: Mk 1.4-11)

## OCTAVOCE

**Friday 22nd December at 7.30pm,  
St Andrew's Church, Fortrose.**

**Followed by festive refreshments**

UNRESERVED SEATING - FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.

**(entry by donation - suggested at £10)**



## Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and people. Luke 2:52

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons (inheritors) of God."

Peacemaking isn't standing back and letting things carry on in whatever way, good or bad, that is around us. It is an active, outspoken force to praise, protect and reinforce peace and to stand up to and work to resolve conflict. Note that Jesus said "peacemakers" - a maker is a creator.

"Build up and don't knock down!" is a good starting point.

Juan Manuel Santos won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end the 52 year internal conflict in Colombia. He insisted that there had to be conversation between the opposing sides. They had to get together and listen and talk. Those viewed as terrorists and those viewed as law abiding citizens had to look at the status quo and say, could it be different? Could anything be changed? Could they be both right and wrong? Could they understand the opposing point of view? Could a way forward together be possible?

And for us individually in our daily lives:

"Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition" Jeremiah Burroughs.

Jesus is the Prince of peace. He says "My peace I give to you". The angels praised God at his birth and said, "Peace to the people on earth on whom his favour rests". May his favour rest on us. 🙏

Amen

*Sally Ann*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR.

*Merry Christmas & a Happy  
New Year to All*

The next newsletter will be published on **3rd January 2024**

A reminder to send any information you want in the newsletter to me by email by noon on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

For the FB page, information about St Regulus' activities should go to Stuart Thomson, St Andrew's, to Alison Garraway & St John's to me.

If anyone is housebound and would like to receive Holy Communion or simply a visit, please contact a member of the Ministry team of your local church who will be happy to arrange.

*Jean (jeanmedavis@gmail.com)*