

St Mary Magdalene, Altofts and St Luke the Evangelist, Charlston

www.stmarysaltofts.org.uk

www.stlukessharlston.org.uk



Please pray for the sick especially:

Christine.

**Please pray for the long-term sick and
housebound:** *Gwen*

Please pray for the departed especially:

Eddie, Linda, Betty, Maureen, Thelma

About today: Here we enter a new stage of Advent: having spent so much time on the Second Coming, now we look back, to remember the details of the Lord's First Coming. Today we focus on the character of Mary, and hear of the angel Gabriel being sent to her, to invite her to take her part in the mystery of the Incarnation, "the revelation of the mystery kept secret for endless ages". This mystery springs from the House of David, and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the establishing of that house. An interesting idea is that the first reading talks of David wishing to build a house for the Lord; through the prophet he is told not of the house that he would build, but the House which is his line: eventually, in Mary (betrothed to Joseph) the House of David does itself become the house of the Lord, the womb wherein he has a dwelling place.

Sunday 20 December 2020

Year B Advent 4

(Year i - Psalter Week 4)

"Everyone is welcome at God's table"

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**Churchwardens at
Altofts**

Mrs Jane Brownbridge

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Mrs Denise Hodgkiss

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**Churchwardens at
Charlston
Vacant**

This Week – Audio Church

Bells on Sunday	Sunday	0543	BBC Radio 4
Sunday Worship	Sunday	0810	BBC Radio 4
Choral Evensong	Sunday	1500	BBC Radio 3 (Repeated Wednesday 1530)
Prayer for the Day	Everyday	0543	BBC Radio 4
Daily Service	Weekday	0945	BBC Radio 4 LW

Telephone Church

Hear a daily recording of the psalm of the day, bible readings and prayers. Call anytime on 01226 668771.

Online Church

Services are uploaded onto the church You Tube Channel (Altofts and Sharlston Churches) along with a meditation on the Sunday gospel reading. For more detailed copies of the services please look at the Universalis website.

Sanctuary lamps burn at St Mary's to the glory of God and in memory of **Judith Roberts** (Aumbry) **Clement Birkby** (Our Lady) **George Schofield** (Requiem Altar) and at St Luke's to the glory of God and in memory of **Jos Southern** Aumbry)

Tier 3 - Keeping each other Safe.

As we return to Tier 3 please remember to follow the following guidance when in church: Please...do use hand sanitizer on entering and leaving the building and wear face masks; fill in from the front of church and move to the other end of the pew so people don't have to climb over you or get you to move; keep 2 metres apart and only sit with those in your household or bubble. Please remember to...refrain from unnecessarily moving about and touching things in church as much as is practical, this includes handing items to people outside of your household. Please leave church promptly. Sadly, "for now" it is not possible to offer refreshments after the services. It is easy to forget these "new ways" but it is vital that we do this in order to protect ourselves and each other and that our church is not just a sanctuary but a safe sanctuary.

Test and Trace.

If you have to take a Covid test and the results come back positive, please tell "Track and Trace" if you have visited church, and inform Fr David as soon as possible so that steps can be taken to protect others in our congregation with whom you may have been in contact.

Christmas Cards Due to increased contact and potential risk of infection, the current advice given is that Christmas cards should not be exchanged in church or left at the back of church. Please exchange Christmas cards outside of the church building.

Advent Resources. In addition to the Advent Booklet published this weekend and delivered this week, there is also an online Advent course with our friends at Ryhill, South Kirby, Grimethorpe, Brierley and Cudworth via zoom on Tuesdays at 1400hrs and Sundays at 1800hrs and then uploaded onto YouTube. If you would like the link for zoom please email Fr David or you can join on the phone, do ask Fr David for more details.

Altofts Church Boiler. It looks as if we need a new boiler as the replacement part is no longer produced due to the age of the boiler. We are asking other engineers to offer advice regarding whether the boiler can be fixed and to provide quotes for a new boiler. In the mean time it would be wise to wrap up well when coming to church. An extra pair of socks

can make the world of difference to our overall body temperature, if our feet are warm then we feel warmer ourselves.

Weekday Mass. Please note NO changes to the of weekday masses this week.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Advent is the traditional time to make our confession, please do speak to Fr David privately if you would like to make your confession, or would like to find out more, or have a spiritual chat.

Christmas Services. At the time of writing it is suggested that this year there will be a **Candlelit Bethlehem Midnight Mass at St Mary's at 2100hrs** where we will celebrate mass when it is midnight in Bethlehem. The **Mass of the Day on Christmas Day** will take place at **St Luke's at 0930hrs** and at **St Mary's at 1030hrs**, whilst in previous years a mass has not been offered on Christmas Day at Altofts through lack of attendance due to people travelling to see family, this year is very different so please do support these services and spread the word. **Masses will also be offered during the octave (week) of Christmas.** In the Octave, each day is like Christmas Day. For those who are shielding or wishing to attend a mass where fewer are gathered and there is even less risk of infection, attending a mass during the octave fulfils the obligation of making our Christmas communion. Masses will be offered at various times that week to account for individual circumstances and commitments for convenience. .

Crib Service and Christingle. Sadly, it looks as if it will not be able to provide our Crib and Christingle services in the usual format this year.

Sunday 3 January Altofts Socially Distanced Gardening. 1200-1400 Help is needed at St Mary's tidying up the churchyard. Bring tools and a flask Burn off some of those Christmas calories.

Thursday 24 December	Christmas Eve	2100 Said Mass St Mary's
Friday 25 December	Christmas Day	0930 Said Mass St Luke's 1030 Said Mass St Mary's
Saturday 26 December	St Stephen	1800 Said Mass St Mary's
Sunday 27 December	St John the Apostle	0930 Said Mass St Luke's 1100 Said Mass St Mary's
Monday 28 December	The Holy Innocents	0930 Said Mass St Mary's
Tuesday 29 December	St Thomas Becket	1800 Said Mass St Mary's
Wednesday 30 December	6th Day in Octave	0930 Said Mass St Luke's
Thursday 31 December	7th Day in Octave	12000 Said Mass St Mary's
Friday 1 January	Mary Mother of God	1100 Said Mass St Mary's

If you are unable to make your Christmas Communion on Christmas Day why not come to one of the masses within the octave 25-31 December. The Church celebrates Christmas all week and would enable people to make their Christmas Communion.

This Week

Sunday 20 December Advent 4

0930	Parish Mass	St Luke's
1000	Said Mass You Tube (Altofts and Charlston Churches)	
1100	Parish Mass	St Mary's

Monday 21 December Monday in Advent 4

Tuesday 22 December Tuesday in Advent 4

1000	Said Mass	St Mary's
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Wednesday 23 December Wednesday in Advent 4

1000	Said Mass You Tube (Altofts and Charlston Churches)	
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Thursday 24 December Christmas Eve

1900	Said Mass	St Mary's
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Friday 25 December Christmas Day

0930	Said Mass	St Luke's
1030	Said Mass	St Mary's

Saturday 26 December St Stephen, Martyr

1800	Said Mass	St Mary's
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Sunday 27 December The Holy Family

0930	Parish Mass	St Luke's
1000	Said Mass You Tube (Altofts and Charlston Churches)	
1100	Parish Mass	St Mary's