

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

- 10.00 Parish Eucharist [S]
- 10.00 Family Service followed by Mayoral Tree Planting [LB]
- 18.00 Carols and Christingles by Candlelight [LB]

19.30 Carols by Candlelight [S]

**\*PLEASE NOTE CHANGE TO MAGAZINE ENTRY**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup>**

- 09.00 Celtic Morning Prayer [St Andrew's Chapel, North Hill Little Baddow]

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>**

- 20.00 Beer and Carols at 'The Crown' in Sandon

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>**

- 09.15 Holy Communion [S]
- 20.00 Beer and Carols at 'The Rodney' in Little Baddow

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- 10.00 House Communion at Longwood Chase, The Ridge Margaret Martin

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

- 16.00 Christingle and Crib Service [S]
- 16.00 Christmas Eve Meditation [LB-URC]
- 23.30 'Midnight Mass' [LB]
- 23.30 'Midnight Mass' [S]

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

- 08.00 Holy Communion [S]
- 10.00 Carols around the Crib [S]

- 10.00 Carols around the Crib [LB] followed by a said Holy Communion

**JANUARY 2012**  
**Sunday 1 NEW YEARS DAY**  
 10.00 Parish Eucharist [S]  
 10.00 Morning Prayer [LB]



**What is a 'Posada'?**

A Christmas festival originating in Latin America that dramatizes the search of Joseph and Mary for lodging. from Late Latin *pausare, to rest*, from Latin *pausa, pause*; People in Sandon have knitted figures of Mary, Joseph and all the nativity characters (including a small flock of sheep) and now they are making their way from home to home during Advent. On Christmas Eve they will, we hope, arrive intact at St Andrew's. We expect Jesus to be their on arrival.

**Prayers at St Mary's**

*If you wish to ask for prayer, for yourself or a dear one, there is now a place to write a request. You will find a prayer table near the lectern and if you wish light a nightlight candle too.*



**Parish Churches of**  
**St. Andrew, Sandon**  
 and  
**St Mary the Virgin,**  
**Little Baddow**

*part of the Chelmer Crouch Group Ministry*

**18<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

When the angel Gabriel told Mary she was favoured by God, he gave her the most difficult task in the world, but Mary instantly pledged her obedience. In our worship today let us listen for the song of the angels and the voice of God, and let us too pledge our obedience, whatever God should ask of us.

**A warm welcome is extended to all visitors.**

*Coffee, tea and squash are normally served after the 10am Service [in Church at St Mary's Church and in The St Andrew's Room at St Andrew's Church].*

***Please stay and meet people.***

**If you are here attending a 'Holy Communion' or 'Eucharist' and normally receive the Sacraments of bread and wine, you are welcome to receive them here too. If you do not normally receive Communion you are very welcome to come and kneel at the Altar rail and receive a blessing (please carry a service book or hymn book with you) you will not be alone.**

***For 5 minutes before the Service begins PLEASE allow others to keep a time of prayerful quiet in preparation to worship our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you.***

**Advent Wreath Prayer**

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world, blessed is Gabriel who brought good news; blessed is Mary your mother and ours; Bless your Church preparing for Christmas; and bless us your children who long for your coming.**

**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 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.

**Amen.**

**First Reading** 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

***David wants to build a magnificent house for God, but God has other ideas. God has not asked for a permanent house. Instead, God promises to establish the royal house and heritage of David for all future generations.***

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>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.' <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

<sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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?' <sup>8</sup>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; <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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, <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

**Second Reading** Romans 16:25-27

***In a final doxology to his book, St Paul proclaims Jesus Christ as God, the revelation of a mystery which was kept secret from human beings for aeons, but is now revealed to the whole world.***

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 <sup>26</sup>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— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen

**Gospel** Luke 1:26-38

***The angel Gabriel visits Mary to inform her that she has been chosen by God to bear God's Son, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary promises obedience to God.***

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a

virgin?' <sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.' <sup>38</sup>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.

**Post Communion prayer**

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord

**Pastoral Care Training**

Starts in January

*Details in the Parish Magazine*