

Collect

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Reading: Isaiah 63: 7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their saviour in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-23

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." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

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. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "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."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in

Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead."

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarean."

Post Communion

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Dates for the Diary

Monday 6th January 7.30 pm

PCC meets in the St Andrew's Room

Tuesday 7th January 12 noon to 2 pm

Soup and Sandwich lunch. All welcome.

No charge but donations accepted!

Sunday 12th January

Sorry **NO** 8 am Communion service

8 am service at Danbury, St John's.

Family service at 10 am

Monday 13th January 1 pm

Memorial Service for Audrey Bryan

at St Andrew's followed by a reception at the Millennium Hall in Great Baddow

Saturday 18th January 7.15 for 7.30 pm

Quiz in the Village Hall

Put the date in your diary and let David Farrar

know ASAP if you can 'field' a team

Thursday 23rd January 12 noon

at the Old Windmill, South Hanningfield

Men's 'Bible Bite and Lunch'

Saturday 9th February 9 am

Butts Green Garden Centre

Ladies breakfast

Congratulations to Bishop Stephen on his appointment as the next Archbishop of York. The present Archbishop of York retires on the 7th June 2020