

## Events & Services this week

Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	O Holy Night – an evening of Christmas Music <i>In aid of the Winchester Hospice Appeal</i>
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10am	Holy Communion – All Saints
	10am	Holy Communion - St John's
	6pm	St John's Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	3pm	Crib Service – St John's
	4pm	Crib Service – All Saints
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass – St Andrew's Chilcomb
Christmas Day	10am	Family Service - All Saints
	10am	Holy Communion - St John's
Wednesday	10.30am	Midweek Communion – All Saints <i>Communion, coffee and relaxed conversation</i>
Thursday	6.45pm for 7-7.30pm	Bible Study Group - 8 Quarry Road
	10.30am-Noon:	<i>Coffee All Saints' every Saturday</i>

### For your prayers

For healing: John Winkworth; Claire & Family; Irene & Family;

### Readings for next Sunday: 30<sup>th</sup> December : 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas Joint Service at St John's

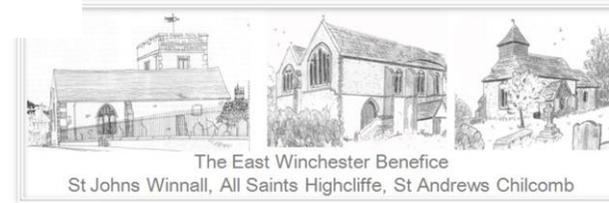
1 Samuel 2.18-20,26 | Colossians 3.12-17 | Luke 2.41-end

### A very Happy Christmas to you all & a blessed 2019

Contact Us	www.eastwinchester.org
Priest-in-charge:	Rev. Mike Griffiths - Tel: 07866 727146 Mike.Griffiths@eastwinchester.org
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## East Winchester Benefice



## 23 December 2018 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent



*Image from the sculpture of the nativity that has been created in front of St Peter's in Rome – entirely made of sand*

### Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Micah 5.2-5a**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

**Hebrews 10.5-10**

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God” (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).’

When he said above, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings’ (these are offered according to the law), then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**Luke 1.39-45/55**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

No war or battle’s sound  
Was heard the world around;  
The idle spear and shield were high uphung  
The hooked chariot stood  
Unstained with hostile blood;  
(The trumpet spake not to the armed throng  
And kings sat with awful eye  
As if they surely knew their sovereign Lord was by)  
But peaceful was the night  
Wherein the Prince of Light  
His reign of peace upon the earth began

***From ‘The morning of Christ’s Nativity by John Milton***

And is it true and is it true  
The most tremendous tale of all,  
Seen in a stained glass window’s hue  
A baby in an ox’s stall.  
The maker of the stars and sea  
Became a child on earth for me.

And is it true ? For if it is,  
No loving fingers tying strings  
Around those tissue’d fripperies,  
The sweet and silly Christmas things,  
Bath salts and inexpensive scent  
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,  
No carolling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
Can with this single Truth compare -  
That God was man in Palestine  
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

***From ‘Christmas’ by John Betjeman***