

**St. Mary's Scottish Episcopal Church, Gatehouse of Fleet**  
**21<sup>st</sup> December 2025**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Celebrant and Preacher: Rev'd Alison Hudson**

**Please pray for** Joyce and Rob Thacker, Laura Durling, Sally-Anne and Peter Madeley, Carol Ducker, Rowan Huggitt, Barbara Graham, Sonia Perry and Dee DuRose

**Our Advent candle prayer**

God of love, you sent your Son, Jesus, to shine bright like the sun, lighting the way for all who walk in darkness. May the light of Christ's hope, peace, joy and love shine bright in us as we approach his coming, that we may be ready to welcome him on Christmas day and every day. Amen

Please do invite family, friends and neighbours to our special Christmas services as we celebrate Jesus 'the greatest gift'.

**Christmas Eve 4.00 pm** Family Carol Service, at which a collection will be taken for 'Arbelour'

**Christmas Day 9.30am** Holy Communion Service

**Epiphany Party 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 6pm:** Sue Davies has kindly invited members of St.Mary's and Greyfriars congregation to a bring and share supper at Belmont, Burnside Loaning. Could you please sign up on the invitation on the noticeboard, by 28<sup>th</sup> December.

**Gift Aid and Giving** If you are a visitor or come occasionally to St.Mary's, and you are a tax payer, you may want to complete one of the green envelopes in the pew (not forgetting to include your name and address) in order that we can reclaim the tax. If you would rather give a regular amount, either by standing order or by weekly envelope, please contact the treasurer Linda Gaston, who is our new treasurer and also treasurer for Greyfriars. Cash bills may still be given to David Hart Tel: 01557 814294 email [david21gatehouse@icloud.com](mailto:david21gatehouse@icloud.com) and invoices to Linda Tel: 07353 283870.

**Christmas Stamps** There is a jar in the porch for used stamps which will be sent to RNIB.

**Website** our new updated website is now up and running, please do look through and let Revd Alison have any feedback, as well as any good quality photographs you are willing to share. The address is the same as before - [www.greyfriarsstmarys.org.uk](http://www.greyfriarsstmarys.org.uk)

We also have a Facebook page – St Mary's Church, Gatehouse of Fleet. If you use Facebook, please do follow and share any posts from this page.



Revd Alison and family would like to thank you for all your support and good wishes this year. We wish you all a very blessed and joy-filled Christmas. May you know the precious gift of God's in this season of goodwill.  
'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.'

Revd Alison's contact details:

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Website: [www.greyfriarsstmarys.org.uk](http://www.greyfriarsstmarys.org.uk)

## 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.

## FIRST READING Isaiah 7:10-16

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,  
"Ask a sign of the LORD your  
God; let it be deep as Sheol or  
high as heaven." But Ahaz said,  
"I will not ask, and I will not put  
the LORD to the test." Then  
Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house  
of David! Is it too little for you  
to weary mortals, that you weary  
my God also? Therefore the Lord  
himself will give you a sign. Look,  
the young woman is with child  
and shall bear a son, and shall  
name him Immanuel. He shall eat  
curds and honey by the time he  
knows how to refuse the evil and  
choose the good. For before the  
child knows how to refuse the evil  
and choose the good, the land  
before whose two kings you are in  
dread will be deserted."

## PSALM Psalm 80:1-8. 18-20

**R** Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your  
countenance and we shall be  
saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are  
enthroned upon the cherubim.  
In the presence of Ephraim,  
Benjamin and Manasseh,

stir up your strength and come to  
help us. **R**

O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your  
people?  
You have fed them with the bread  
of tears;  
you have given them bowls of  
tears to drink.  
You have made us the derision of  
our neighbours,  
and our enemies laugh us to  
scorn. **R**

Let your hand be upon the man  
of your right hand,  
the son of man you have made so  
strong for yourself.  
And so will we never turn away  
from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon  
your name. **R**

## SECOND READING

### Romans 1:1-7

*A reading from the letter of Paul  
to the Romans.*

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ,  
called to be an apostle, set apart  
for the gospel of God, which he  
promised beforehand through his  
prophets in the holy scriptures,  
the gospel concerning his Son,  
who was descended from David  
according to the flesh and was  
declared to be Son of God  
with power according to the  
spirit of holiness by resurrection  
from the dead, Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Through Christ we have  
received grace and apostleship  
to bring about the obedience of  
faith among all the Gentiles for  
the sake of his name, including  
yourselves who are called to  
belong to Jesus Christ, To all  
God's beloved in Rome, who are  
called to be saints: Grace to you  
and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-end

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus  
Christ according to Matthew.*

The birth of Jesus the Messiah  
took place in this way. When his  
mother Mary had been engaged  
to Joseph, but before they lived  
together, she was found to be  
with child from the Holy Spirit.  
Her husband Joseph, being a  
righteous man and unwilling to  
expose her to public disgrace,  
planned to dismiss her quietly.  
But just when he had resolved  
to do this, an angel of the Lord  
appeared to him in a dream and  
said, "Joseph, son of David, do  
not be afraid to take Mary as your  
wife, for the child conceived in  
her is from the Holy Spirit. She  
will bear a son, and you are to  
name him Jesus, for he will save  
his people from their sins." All this  
took place to fulfil what had been  
spoken by the Lord through the  
prophet: "Look, the virgin shall  
conceive and bear a son, and  
they shall name him Emmanuel,"  
which means, "God is with us."  
When Joseph awoke from sleep,  
he did as the angel of the Lord  
commanded him; he took her  
as his wife, but had no marital  
relations with her until she had  
borne a son; and he named him  
Jesus.

## POST COMMUNION

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.