

No collections are taken in this church but running costs are high. If you would like to make a donation, please use the contactless card machine or put it into the red box by the door and complete a pink envelope if you are a UK taxpayer. Thank you.

Tuesday	St Stephen – 1 <sup>st</sup> martyr 11.30 Mass (Acts 6v.8-10, 7v.54-59. Matt.10v.17-22) Int: persecuted Christians
Wednesday	St John, Apostle 11.30 Mass (1John1v.1-4. John 20v.2-8) Int: Bible reading societies
Thursday	Holy Innocents 11.30 Mass (1John v.5-2v.2. Matt.2v.13-18) Int: Children at risk
Friday	St. Thomas à Becket 11.30 Mass (Col.1v.24-29. Matt.10v.28-33) Int: The Archbishop of Canterbury
Saturday	Holy Family 10.00 First Mass of Sunday (readings as Sunday) Int: home and family life
Next Sunday -	Holy Family 9.30 Parish Mass & Address & blessing of Children's Toys (Ecc 3 v 2-6, 12-14; Col 3 v 12-21; Matt 2 v 13-15, 19-23)

### Notices

1. The Crib Appeal is for Christian Aid. You can also donate online at: [www.justgiving.com/page/mendleshamcribappeal23](http://www.justgiving.com/page/mendleshamcribappeal23) Sockbank for homeless in Norwich, cared for by St Martin's Housing Trust. – collecting socks, hats, scarves, gloves & trainers. Both Appeals close 7 Jan. Please give generously. Carol Singing for St Martin's has so far raised £212. Thank you to all who arranged this and took part last Sunday. You may still make a donation until 7 Jan.
2. Sunday 14th Jan: Plough Sunday. We welcome Bishop Mike to preach and as the E Suffolk Morris Men are no longer able to be with us, our procession around the village this year will include tractors. Shared lunch in church afterwards at approx. 12.30. Please sign the list if you can contribute food or drink.
3. The next Healing Service is on Wed 10th Jan at 2.30 pm

## CHRISTMASS DAY

**THEME:** 'The Word was made flesh: he lived among us'. This is the great theme of our Mass today. The Word of GOD who had existed from all eternity took flesh and is born in the stable at Bethlehem. Let us pray that the simplicity of the birth of Jesus will change our lives and make us open to the needs of others.

**Entrance Hymn: 214 v 1 Prayer at crib & singing of Happy Birthday, Lord Jesus. Hymn 214 v 2-4**

### **PENITENTIAL RITE**

**Celebrant:** Forgive us, Lord, when we refuse to be reconciled. Lord have mercy.  
**People:** *sing*) **Kyrie Eleison** (*Ukrainian setting*).

**Celebrant:** Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have preferred darkness. Christ have mercy. **People: Christe Eleison**

**Celebrant:** Forgive us, Lord, when we try to save ourselves without your help. Lord have mercy. **People: Kyrie Eleison.**

*Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness*

### **GLORIA – to tune 'Infant Holy'**

**OPENING PRAYER:** *Let us pray for the glory promised by the birth of Christ.* Lord God, we praise you for creating man, and still more for restoring him in Christ. Your Son shared our weakness: may we share his glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**1st Reading: Isaiah 52 v 7-10:** This reading is part of a long poem on the deliverance of Jerusalem. It is used in the Christmass liturgy because the coming of Christ heralds the deliverance of all mankind from sin.

*How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 97

® **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.

His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. ®

The Lord has made known his salvation;

has shown his justice to the nations.

He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. ®

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. ®

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord.®

**Second Reading: Hebrews 1 v 1-6:** In the letter to the Hebrews we are told how God reveals himself to man in many ways: in creation; in the Law; in the words of the prophets; and finally and definitively in his Son Jesus. In Jesus we have all that we can know of God. As Jesus manifests the Father to us, so must we manifest him to one another.

*At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.*

*God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-Born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.*

**Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth. Alleluia!**

**Gospel Hymn: 30**

**Gospel: John 1 v. 1-5; 9-14:** John is telling us that the Word of God, who has been with God from all eternity has become Man in the person of Jesus. By accepting him, we become children of his Father and will live for ever.

*In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.*

*The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.*

*The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**Creed.** Nicene Creed (Kneel as an act of humility at *Incarnatus* (after: "He came down from Heaven" .. (to).. "and was made Man".)

### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**CELEBRANT:** Jesus is Emmanuel: God with us. Let us pray to him for the world in which he came to live.

**READER:** Let us pray for all rulers: that Christ, the Prince of Peace, may direct their minds and hearts to work for justice and peace on earth. We especially pray for those in suffering in Gaza, Israel and Ukraine.

Let us pray for our family celebrations and for all who are working this Christmass, , that Christ may give them a taste of that peace which the world cannot give.

Let us pray for prisoners and refugees: that Christ may enlighten their darkness.

Let us pray for our parish and our families who welcome Christ into their lives that we may all learn to welcome him in the poor and suffering of our world. We pray for our crib appeal for Christian Aid.

Let us pray for those people for whom this Christmass period will be one of pain, sickness or loneliness. For all suffering from sickness and all recently bereaved.

Let us pray for those who have not yet seen the light of Christ; for those who cannot recognize and accept the truth.

Let us pray for the dead; for all our departed family and friends and for those commemorated in the Parish and American Chantry Books and by the Guild of All Souls and also for Edith Sawyer, Margaret Owen-King, Valerie Keeble, Dick Finbow, Esme Laidlaw, Irene Bennett, Terry Warren, Graham Lockwood, Eva Abbott, Kathleen Carter, Jane Deacon, Joan Little, Hilda Goodall, Kitty Mason, Jack Driver and Lucy Jolley, whose anniversaries are this week.

Let us ask Mary the Mother of Jesus to join her prayer to ours. **Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

### ***SILENCE***

**All: God our Father, you have today sent your Son to be the light of the world. May this light shine in all the corners of the earth where it has not reached, and may we may help carry this light, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Offertory Hymn: 143 v 1      Offertory Prayers      Hymn 143 v 2&3**

*Mass continues page 9 of the hymn book*

**Sanctus: tune Iris (Angels from the Realms) Blessed and praised be Jesus Christ, in the most Holy Sacrament. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in excelsis.**

*Mass continues on page 11 of the hymn book.*

**Agnus Dei: tune Rocking**

*Communicants of other denominations are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you are not a Communicant and/or would like a blessing, please come to the altar holding a hymn book.*

**Hymn at Ablutions: 'Glory to God' on sheet : tune:'O Strength and Stay'**

**Post Communion Prayer      Angelus      Notices Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn: 113**

**Happy Christmass everyone!**