BRENTOR CHURCH

20th December 2020

4th Sunday of Advent

Nativity Service

Led by

The Reverend Tony Vigars and
Mrs Amanda Harris

We warmly welcome everyone joining our service

Scene 1: Mary and the Angel Gabriel

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27** to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30** But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. **31** You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.**"**

38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

1st Carol: Long Ago, Prophets Knew

Scene 2: Mary and Joseph

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. **2** (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3** And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. **5** He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Scene 3: The Birth of Jesus

6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, **7** and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

2nd Carol: Away in a Manger

Scene 4: The Shepherds

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11** Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."
13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
   and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."
15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."
3rd Carol: See Amid the Winter Snow

Scene 5: The Shepherds in Bethlehem

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **17** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Scene 6: Magi on the road

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem **2** and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."
7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."
4th Carol: We Three Kings

Scene 7: The Magi in Bethlehem

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Short talk - Rev Tony Vigars
Prayers
Last Carol: In the Bleak Midwinter

Please pray for all who are ill or anxious at home or in hospital, and those who have asked for our prayers: Mick, Chris Vigars, Nick & Julie, Dave & Wendy, Edward Walter, Lydia, Margaret, Bill Tucker, Lin Bristow, David, Tom, Helen Hardy and family, Izzy de Carles and Margaret.
Please pray for the recently departed, their families & friends.
Your prayers this week are asked for:
Mon- All those for whom Christmas will bring sadness.
Tues- Continuing success of the rolling out of the COVID vaccine.
Wed- All those in Hospital and away from home over Christmas.
Thurs- Families making the most of a very different Christmas.
Fri- All the volunteers working over the Christmas holidays.
Sat- For those working to keep Christmas as peaceful as possible.

Over the next week at Christ Church and St Michaels:
Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at Christ Church- Thursday 24th December 11pm with the Reverend Sue Tucker and the Reverend Dr Hazel Butland
Christmas Day- online short service and St Michaels will be open from 10am-4pm with Carols playing.
27th December 9:45am Family Service, Sally and Christopher Pancheri

Please also to continue enjoying our Advent Calendar online and reflections (see *brentorchurch.org.uk/advent-calendar*)