

**The Fourth Week of Advent
21st December 2014**

LOSS

ON THIS DAY: 21st December 1988 A bomb explodes on board Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, killing 270. Although supposed by many to be a season of good will and cheer, there are of course many for whom this season heralds awkwardness and sadness. The dislocation of being unable to be with those we love; the haunting memory of Christmases past in happier times. Perhaps as we approach the feast of the Incarnation, we will spare a thought for those whose Christmases are beset by the bitter remembering of loss. We need to be attuned to the sensitivities as well as the joys of the season.



It was doubly cruel that it was *this* day, so close to Christmas 1988 that was chosen as the day by Libyan terrorists to blow up Pan Am 103 over Locherbie: a tragedy then, but an ever circling tragedy of remembering every Christmas since.

On this day, as we pray for the victims of terrorism (and for those who resort to violence to achieve their ends, that God will turn their hearts), a poem by Yehuda Amichai: "The Diameter Of The Bomb"

The diameter of the bomb was thirty centimeters
and the diameter of its effective range about seven meters,
with four dead and eleven wounded.
And around these, in a larger circle of pain and time,
two hospitals are scattered and one graveyard.
But the young woman who was buried in the city she came from,
at a distance of more than a hundred kilometers,
enlarges the circle considerably,
and the solitary man mourning her death
at the distant shores of a country far across the sea
includes the entire world in the circle.
And I won't even mention the crying of orphans
that reaches up to the throne of God and beyond,
making a circle with no end and no God.

Fr Alan Gyle

TODAY

ADVENT 4 At 09:00 Fr Alan Gyle is the celebrant. The children of the congregation present their Nativity Play. At 11:00 the celebrant is Fr Alan Gyle. Bishop Michael Colclough preaches. We welcome Ben and Mairi White for the baptism of their daughter Penelope, and Ben's brother Jeremy and his wife Marisa for the baptism of their twins, Henry and Amelia.

TODAY

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE – Wednesday 24th December at 17:00

THIS WEEK

MIDNIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS – Wednesday 24th December, beginning at 23:00

MASSES ON CHRISTMAS DAY – 25th December at 09:00 and 11:00

WEEKDAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS – daily at noon

SUNDAY 28th December – Christmas 1 at 09:00 and 11:00

Throughout the month of December – in order to accommodate the many charity events taking place in the church – **there will be a single daily mass at noon, Monday to Saturday.** This arrangement will continue up to and including Thursday 1st January 2015, New year's Day. Thereafter things will immediately return to normal. There will be **no silent meditation** on Tuesday 23 or 30 December but resume on 6 January.

NEWS OF OUR MUSICIANS



STEPHEN FARR To our Director of Music, Stevie and his wife Jenny, a son: Jonathan Henry James. Our congratulations to them all, and the assurance of prayers.

THOMAS HYDE – member of our congregation whose anthem 'O oriens' is



given its first performance at 11:00 - was born in London in 1978 and educated there and at Oxford where he read music. He studied composition privately with David Matthews

while at school and later as a postgraduate with Simon Bainbridge at the Royal Academy of Music, London. Having gained the M.Mus degree with distinction, he was appointed the Academy's Manson Junior Fellow in Composition for 2001/2. He attended Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's Hoy Summer School in 1996, and worked with Sir Harrison Birtwistle at Dartington in 2000. He returned to Oxford in 2003 to study with Robert Saxton and was awarded a doctorate in composition. In October 2008 he was appointed Lecturer in Music at Worcester College, Oxford and was visiting lecturer in composition at City University, London from 2009 until 2013. He has also held posts at Lady Margaret Hall and Brasenose College, Oxford.

ANDREW WESTWOOD – bass in our choir –



was married in the country yesterday and is now off on his honeymoon! A graduate of King's College, Cambridge, Andrew now mixes his time between freelancing with early-

music consort groups and working 'down the road' at Buckingham Palace.

IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS

THE COLLECT FOR ADVENT 4 :

O GOD OUR REDEEMER, WHO DIDST PREPARE THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY TO BE THE MOTHER OF THY SON: GRANT THAT, AS SHE LOOKED FOR HIS COMING AS OUR SAVIOUR, SO WE MAY BE READY TO GREET HIM WHEN HE SHALL COME AGAIN TO BE OUR JUDGE; WHO LIVETH AND REIGNETH WITH THEE IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, NOW AND FOR EVER. **AMEN.**

POST COMMUNION

HEAVENLY FATHER, WHO DIDST CHOOSE THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY TO BE THE MOTHER OF THE PROMISED SAVIOUR: FILL US THY SERVANTS WITH THY GRACE, THAT IN ALL THINGS WE MAY EMBRACE THY HOLY WILL AND WITH HER REJOICE IN THY SALVATION; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. **AMEN.**

MASSES & PSALM RESPONSES

There is a mass daily at St Paul's and all are welcome to attend. Service papers are available outside the Chapel or Chancel.

Date and observance → **Tuesday 5 February – feria**
Colour of vestments → ● **Mass at 18:00; DEL p.80, year 1;**
Response to the psalm → **I will proclaim your name among the people**
Page where the lections are to be found →

LAST WEEK OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Sunday 21 – Advent 4

● Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

Monday 22 – feria

● Mass at noon; DEL p. 60;

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Tuesday 23 – feria

● Mass at noon; DEL p. 61;

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul

Wednesday 24 – Christmas Eve

● Mass of the day at noon; DEL p. 63 ;

Your love, O God, is established for ever

● Midnight Mass at 23:00

Thursday 25 – Christmas Day

● Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

Friday 26 – St Stephen

● Mass at noon; EH p. 444

Let my cry come before you, O Lord.

Saturday 27 – St John the Evangelist

● Mass at noon; EH p. 448

The Lord spoke to him face to face

Almighty God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



We pray daily for:

- Our spiritual readiness for Christmas
- Peace in the Middle East, an easing of tension between warring groups and the eradication of religious fundamentalism.
- The renewal of the Church.
- our Bishop, Richard
- our sister parish, St Paul's K-Street
- those on active service overseas
- the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and for the unity and health of the Anglican Communion
- our sisters and brothers of the Roman Catholic Church and for Pope Francis I, and for the Eastern Orthodox churches and Bartholomew the Ecumenical Patriarch.

Among the sick and those in need:

Maggie Milbourn; Tim Touhey; Catherine Anne Lally; Fr. Richard Martin; Eric Maidment; Rosemary Powell; Ian McDonald; Ian Frazer; Elizabeth Gordon; Fr. Lane Davenport; Carole Taylor; Sara Carroll-Parker; Peter Brook; Michael Cooke; John King; Alexandra Holesh; Penri Morgan; Jean Marc Lehut.

The departed:

Andrew Dreverman; Betty Jackaman; John Cambridge

Those whose Year's Mind is at this time:

James Elstub	20 December
Diana Kemp-Welch	23 December
Patricia Engel	24 December
Joan Easton	25 December
Stanley Llewellyn	26 December
Robert Magee	28 December
Elsbeth Loasby	28 December
James Oliver	29 December
Huw Griffith	30 December

CONTACTS



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THE PARISH CLERGY



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Associate Vicar

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Honorary Assistant Clergy



(l-r) Fr Nick Mercer; Fr Andrew Norwood; Fr Graham Palmer; Bishop Michael Colclough
A priest is available before or after the daily Eucharist for confession and spiritual guidance, and also by appointment. A member of the parish clergy is always available in pastoral emergencies and we will be glad to be contacted at whatever hour, seven days a week; however, as a general rule, Fr Alan is unavailable on Mondays and Fr Andrew Sloane on Fridays.

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Director of Music

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Assistant Director of Music

Jeremy Cole



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Luke Navin

LAY OFFICERS & OTHER STAFF



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vacant

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