

A caring church where all are welcome to know the Peace  
and Love of God

**The Parish of Bardsey with East Keswick**

**The Parish Church of All Hallows, Bardsey, and  
The Church of Saint Mary Magdalene East Keswick**

Order of Service for Holy Communion on the Fourth Sunday of Advent,  
21 December 2025, 9.15am St Mary Magdalene & 10.45am, All  
Hallows. We welcome David Robinson today

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**We sing: Once in Royal David's City (A&M 46 omitting verses 3&6)**

Once in royal David's city, stood a  
lowly cattle shed, where a mother  
laid her baby, in a manger for his  
bed: Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from  
heaven, who is God and Lord of  
all, and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall: with  
the poor and mean, and lowly,  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For he is our childhood's pattern;  
day by day like us he grew; he  
was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles, like us he knew;  
and he feeleth for our sadness,  
and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see  
him, through his own redeeming  
love, for that child so dear and  
gentle, is our Lord in heaven  
above; and he leads his children  
on, to the place where he is gone.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1707-88) CCLI:  
1307134/714723

**The Greeting** (*please remain standing*)

[Four Advent candles are lit]

**All:**        **Lord Jesus, light of the world, blessed is Gabriel, who  
brought good news; blessed is Mary, your mother and  
ours. Bless your Church preparing for Christmas; and  
bless us your children, who long for your coming.  
Amen.**

Minister: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you**

### **Prayer of Preparation**

**All: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Prayer of Penitence**

Minister: Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' Therefore, let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

**All: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Minister: May almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## The Prayer for Today

Minister: 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 her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Bible Readings for Today

*A reading from the book of Isaiah (7:10-16)*

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup> “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”  
<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”  
<sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, <sup>16</sup> for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste

This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

*A reading from Paul’s Letter to the Romans (1:1-7)*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— <sup>2</sup> the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures <sup>3</sup> regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup> and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>5</sup> Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name’s

sake. <sup>6</sup> And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

**We sing: See Amid the Winter's Snow (on screen)**

See amid the winter's snow,  
Born for us on earth below,  
See, the gentle Lamb appears,  
Promised from eternal years.

*Hail that ever blessed morn,  
Hail redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies  
He who built the starry skies;  
He who, thronèd in height  
sublime, sits amid the cherubim.

*Hail that ever blessed morn...*

Say, you holy shepherds, say,  
Tell your joyful news today.  
Why have you now left your  
sheep  
On the lonely mountain steep?

*Hail that ever blessed morn...*

"As we watched at dead of night,  
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
Angels singing 'Peace on earth'  
Told us of the Saviour's birth."

*Hail that ever blessed morn...*

Sacred infant, all divine,  
What a tender love was thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this.

*Hail that ever blessed morn...*

Teach, O teach us, holy child,  
By thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble thee,  
In thy sweet humility.

*Hail that ever blessed morn,  
Hail redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

## **The Gospel reading for today** *(please remain standing)*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (1:18-25)

### **All: Glory to you O Lord**

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about : His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.      **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Address** *(please be seated)*

### **Affirmation of Faith** *(please stand)*

**All:        We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not**

made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Minister: In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us sit or kneel to pray to the Father.

*After:* Lord, in your mercy, *please respond:* **Hear our prayer.**

*After:* Merciful Father, *please respond:* **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **The Peace** (*please stand*)

Minister: Christ is our peace.  
He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.  
We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Minister: Let us offer one another a sign of peace

**We sing: The Holly and the Ivy (on screen)**

The holly and the ivy, when they  
are both full grown, of all the  
trees that are in the wood the  
holly bears the crown.

*O the rising of the sun and the  
running of the deer. The playing  
of the merry organ sweet singing  
of the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom, as  
white as lily flower and Mary bore  
sweet Jesus Christ to be our  
sweet Saviour

*O the rising of the sun...*

The holly bears a prickly, as  
sharp as any thorn; and Mary  
bore sweet Jesus Christ, on  
Christmas Day in the morn.

*O the rising of the sun...*

The holly bears a bark, as bitter  
as any gall; and Mary bore sweet  
Jesus Christ, for to redeem us all.

*O the rising of the sun...*

The holly and the ivy, now both  
are full well grown, of all the trees  
that are in the wood, the holly  
bears the crown.

*O the rising of the sun and the  
running of the deer. The playing  
of the merry organ sweet singing  
of the choir*

**The Eucharistic Prayer** (*please sit or kneel*)

Minister: The Lord be with you

**All: and also with you**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Minister: It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came. In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Minister: Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

Minister: And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate



this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

**Amen**

Minister: As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Minister: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All: Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread. Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

Minister: Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**All: Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean; our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners.**

**So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.**

*You are most welcome to come to the altar rail to take communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, carry this service sheet with you.*

### **The Post-Communion Prayer**

**Minister:** Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
Fill us your servants with your grace, that all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation through Jesus Christ Our Lord. **Amen**

**All:** **Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

### **We sing: O Little Town of Bethlehem (A&M 40)**

O little town of Bethlehem, how  
still we see thee lie! Above thy  
deep and dreamless sleep the  
silent stars go by: Yet in thy dark  
streets shineth the everlasting  
Light; the hopes and fears of all  
the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and,  
gathered all above, while mortals  
sleep, the angels keep their  
watch of wondering love. O  
morning stars together, proclaim  
the holy birth, and praises sing to  
God the King, and peace to men  
on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in: be born to us to-day. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell: O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Phillips Brooks (1835-93) CCLI:1307134/714723

Minister: May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy, and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Minister: And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen**

As we await our coming Saviour  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: In the name of Christ. Amen**

**Please stay for refreshments after the service.**

### **Services in December/January**

(all services could be subject to change check website)

Wed Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	3pm Crib Services, AH & SMM; 11pm Midnight Mass, AH
Thu Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>	No Services
Sun Dec 28 <sup>th</sup>	No Services
Sun Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am Joint Holy Communion, SMM
Wed Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>	11am Holy Communion, SMM
Sun Jan 11 <sup>th</sup>	8am Holy Communion, AH 10.30am Joint Holy Communion, AH

Over the winter months, as we do not have a vicar in residence, there may be a need to cancel services on a Sunday at short notice due to bad weather and the vicar not being able to reach the parish. If you wish to be notified of any service cancellations, could you contact the Parish Office as soon as possible.

The Churches Together Christmas Event is '**A Christmas to Believe In**' on **Monday 22 December at 7.00pm** in East Keswick Village Hall, with **Village Voices** singing from **6.45pm**. There will be carol singing and refreshments. Free entry.

**Please note we are an inclusive Parish** - a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Bardsey with East Keswick  
Registered Charity No 1134014

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