



ADVENT 3 EDITION

# ECHO



9TH DECEMBER 2021

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ECUMENICAL CHURCH OF OCCITANIE  
[www.ourchurch.fr](http://www.ourchurch.fr)

## Congratulations to Rev Dan Langdon-Griffiths

This week saw our former Anglican Chaplain in Midi-Pyrenees and Aude, Reverend Dan Langdon-Griffiths, 'collated' into his new parish in Warrington.

Dan, pictured opposite with Christel, Sam and Luke, was installed by the Archdeacon of St Helens and Warrington, the Venerable Simon Fisher, in the presence of the Bishop of Warrington, the Right Rev Beverley Mason (pictured below)



Sadly, Covid travel restrictions made it impossible for people to travel to Warrington from France to join Dan for this ceremony, but he has assured us that he will pop by to visit old friends when he is travelling through France once the current situation eases. This will hopefully also give us an opportunity to meet his and Christel's new daughter - due to be born next Spring !



"That's two t's in Matthew", said Osric



**'Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call Him Immanuel.' (Isaiah 7:14)**

*Canon Paul Hardingham*

## **NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP AT ECO**

We have set out below our programme of worship for next week. For all details of our latest worship, always go to the Home Page of our website:

**[www.ourchurch.fr](http://www.ourchurch.fr)**

### **Sunday 12th December**

#### **10:30 am - Our Online Worship for Advent 3**

Please join us for our online morning worship for the 3rd Sunday in Advent. The service will, as usual, be followed by our usual Zoom Virtual Coffee Bar.

### **Tuesday December 14th**

#### **19:00 - An Iona Service of Evening Prayer**

This is a short service of prayer and readings from the Bible which is available as a video and also as a Podcast to download and listen to at the close of the day. We also provide the order of service in .PDF for you to download and keep so that you can follow it on your smartphone, tablet or computer if you wish. *Please note that this will be our last Evening Prayer until Tuesday January 4th.*

### **Thursday December 16th**

#### **19:00 - A Service of Prayer for Healing**

We will pray for those in need of God's Healing Touch at this time.

If you would like us to pray by name for anyone in this service, please send their first name to [contact@ourchurch.fr](mailto:contact@ourchurch.fr) by no later than 21:00 on Wednesday 15th December. *Please note that this will be our last Service of Prayer for Healing until Thursday January 6th.*

### **Sunday December 19th - Advance Notice**

Our service on Advent 4 will be a Service of Lessons and Carols. We hope that you will come and join us.

This promise to King Ahaz in 8th century Judah is fulfilled in the coming of Jesus at the first Christmas: 'God with Us' (Matthew 1:23). Ahaz faced the military threat of Syria invading Israel, but Isaiah tells him not to panic. He can trust God, who is in control of the nation.

For us, Coronavirus brings deep uncertainty as we come to another New Year. We live with the threat from the virus, economic uncertainty, separation from family and friends, the loss of loved ones and the anxiety that isolation brings. Yet the message of Immanuel brings hope, as it did for Ahaz! Christmas changes everything forever! God has declared in Christ that He is with us and for us, not absent from or against us. His love is larger than our sin, fears or guilt: 'If God is for us, who can be against us?' (Romans 8:31).

As we prepare for a second unusual Christmas, let's not forget:

God with us means that He is on my side and by my side. In the uncertainties of life I am never alone.

God with us means that everything will work out according to His plan. My life isn't just a series of meaningless occasions or mistakes.

God with us means that even when others show they are not there for me, God is.

God with us means when circumstances change, He will give me the strength I need.

God is with me: He isn't far away, but has made the journey into my world. Here is the hope for the future, once we get past the trees, gifts, turkey stuffing and pudding!



### **Worship for the Young and the Young At Heart**

This weekend, our friend in the Diocese of St Albans, Margaret Pritchard Houston has published a short video about the 3rd Sunday in Advent. You will find a link to this on our web page for this Sunday's Service.