

by

Didymus

There are several thoughts for this weekend. First of all,

**SU and PETER**

**wish you a very HAPPY & PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS  
and a very much HAPPIER NEW YEAR.**



The second thought for the day is that there is serious news for the young generation. It has been established beyond all reasonable doubt that Father Christmas has dispensed with his six reindeer and sledge, which are now for sale. Enquiries should be addressed to the churchwardens.



*(FC was taking part in the vintage tractor run in St. Minver, to raise funds for the Childrens' Hospice SW on December 12<sup>th</sup>.)*

### **Thought for the day – Advent IV**

Readings: Zechariah ch.2, vv10-end

Luke ch.1, vv39-55

Zechariah was one of the minor prophets, active at the end of the Exile and the Restoration. Authorship of his book is less than clear, but there is no mistaking this reading. It states quite bluntly, focussed understandably on Jerusalem and the rebuilding of the Temple, that God will come to live among us.

The reading from Luke returns us to Mary for the present. Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, was related to Mary: that Elizabeth was at the end of her child bearing age and Mary is accepted as being at the beginning of hers suggests an aunt-niece relationship, or at least the two women being a generation apart. The continuation is our beloved Magnificat. There is a strong resemblance to Hannah's song of joy before the birth of Samuel. Whether this is part of Luke's skill in reconstructing events some 80 years in the past or not, there can be no doubt that Mary would have been very familiar with Hannah's song. Luke's account of

those momentous times gives us some of the most beautiful and wonderful images that decorate our worship.

In our prayers we should remember those, who at this time are separated from the children, spouses, partners, families or friends who they love. Especially if that privation is worse due to circumstances. Love doesn't cost anything, but the homeless, the suffering, the imprisoned – even the tramp – they all have feelings that hurt. Now part of our regular prayers are those in the medical professions and the research world, who have given us the vaccine that will hopefully immunise us from the virus and fear.

Amen.

