

## A few Words on the Readings (PW)

**2 Samuel 7.1-11,16.** Nathan, the prophet, is to tell David that his house will last for ever. *Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.* Jesus is of David's line and will reign for ever.

**Romans 16.25-end.** Paul links Jesus to the Prophets. He is the one who was to come.

**Luke 1.26-38.** The story of the Annunciation. Mary is told by the Angel Gabriel that she will bear a son. Mary's accepts her new role:  
*Here I am, the servant of the Lord.*  
Her obedience to God's will is an example to every Christian.

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## Prayers for 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020 from Jan Teale

Already we have come round to the Fourth Sunday of Advent – who could believe time has passed so quickly.

I really love this verse in our Advent hymn as it reminds us so clearly of the great link between Jesus's birth at Christmas and His death at Easter. It was all part of God's plan. It won't seem long either before Easter is with us!

*Mary's gift beyond all telling we recall today:  
Son of God within her dwelling, born to show the way.  
Who could guess the final story? – cross and glory; Easter Day!*

If we look back to last December we were, as always, planning our Christmas and our Christmas services with great excitement. This year is so different and yet we are still planning Christmas services and Christmas Day itself. The joy is there because Christ is born. No lockdown can prevent the fact that Christ is here always. God's own Son, Jesus, was born as a human being and he taught us to care for and to help each other. How on earth would we have got through all of this without Him?

And we pray for the recently departed and for all who are ill or may be sad and lonely, especially those who have lost family and friends recently and for whom life will never be the same again.

We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur this week:

Donald Robinson, Harold Henry Hallbrook, Ruth Amelia Walsh, Leonard Dolphin, Ethel May Dolphin and Barry William Emson. Amen