



St Paul's, Quarndon, Parish Newsletter



DECEMBER 2018/JANUARY 2019

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace". Isaiah 9:6

What's in a name?

Over the years I've had the wonderful privilege of being invited into homes of families who want to talk about having a child christened. Quite often I will ask about the child's name, where did the name come from and how did they choose it? Perhaps you were named after someone in your family, or a well-known celebrity or sports personality. Both of my own children love talking about the story behind their own names and how they nearly became someone else!

So how did our churches acquire their names? Having previously ministered in churches which could trace their origins back 900 years, the longevity of their names amazes me. That through the dark days of the plague, the unsettling days of the dissolution of the monasteries and the vagaries of the Civil War, these places of faith were named and known. We know from the 4th century it became common practice to dedicate a place of worship to one or more patron saints. Here in Derby the names of local saints are represented, for example St Werburgh the Anglo-Saxon princess born at Stone (Staffs) and of course St Alkmund, the son of Alhred of Northumbria who was buried here in the City of Derby.

Churches would be dedicated during the act of consecration usually by the Diocesan Bishop. The most popular names given to churches demonstrate the influence of Rome on the history of English Christianity as well as major biblical characters, the most popular being the Blessed Virgin Mary, John the Baptist, St Peter, St Michael, St Andrew, St Paul and St Nicholas.

There is a reference to 'greet every saint in Christ Jesus', in Philippians 4:21-23 (NRSV) and the word 'saint' comes from a Greek word '*hagios*' which means consecrated to God, holy, sacred. Scripturally speaking the saints are the body of Christ, all Christians are to be considered saints. Another way of putting this is to think of an image of stained glass, 'saints are ordinary people through whom 'the light' shines'.

The church in Allestree was named after St Nicholas of Myra, a Bishop in Turkey during the 4th century. Because of the many miracles attributed to his prayers, he is also known as St Nicholas the Wonderworker. Nicholas was a great spiritual warrior and determined to drive out evil and restore calm to troubled areas. As a servant of God, he was first and foremost a shepherd of the people, caring for their needs. His active pursuit of justice for his people was demonstrated when he secured grain in time of famine, saved the lives of three men wrongly condemned, and secured lower taxes for the city of Myra. He taught the Gospel simply, so ordinary people understood, and he lived out his faith and devotion to God in helping the poor and all in need. He's probably best known for being the patron saint of children and over time has metamorphosed into popular imagination as Santa Claus**. There is a stained glass picture of St Nicholas in All Saints Church in Kedleston Hall (NT) holding a tray with 3 gold coins. This is a reference to the well-known story of Nicholas who heard about a man who could not afford to give his 3 daughters a marriage dowry. Under the cover of night he threw money through a window of a house where it landed in the stockings that were hung up drying.

There has been over the last few years growing interest in restoring a spiritual dimension to this festive time as we have this wonderful example of a faithful Christian, a lover of the poor and patron saint of children. Nicholas put Jesus Christ at the centre of his life, his ministry, his entire existence and we are humbled to follow in his footsteps. Whether we say St Nick or St Nicholas doesn't really matter, as long as we remember the 'Saint' bit, that St Nick's whole life was spent in the service of his Lord and Saviour. We can take heart from his story, as we strive to be people through whom the light shines.

With seasonal blessings, hoping you have a holy and happy Christmas,
Yours in faith, Becky

**<http://www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/origin-of-santa/>

ST PAUL'S CHURCH SERVICES & EVENTS FOR DEC 2018/ JAN 2019

| | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|--|
| DEC | 2 | 10.00 am | Holy Communion |
| | 9 | 10.00 am | All Age Worship |
| | 16 | 10.00 am | Holy Communion (SHINE in lower church hall) |
| | | 4.00 pm | Candlelit Carol Service |
| | 21 | 12.30 pm | Wedding Shaw - Clark |
| | | 2.00 pm | Curzon Carol Service IN SCHOOL |
| | 23 | 10.00 am | Morning Praise |
| | 24 | 4.00 pm | Nativity Service |
| | | 11.15 pm | Midnight Communion |
| | 25 | 10.00 am | Informal worship |
| 30 | 10.00 am | Joint service at St Nick's | |
| JAN | 6 | 10.00 am | Holy Communion |
| | 13 | 10.00 am | All Age Worship |
| | 17 | 7.30 pm | PCC |
| | 20 | 10.00 am | Holy Communion (SHINE in lower church hall) |
| | 27 | 10.00 am | Morning Praise |

Please note there will be NO service at St Paul's on Dec 30th as we join our friends at St Nick's for a joint service.

Something for everyone in our Christmas services:

Sunday 9th Dec

10am All Age Service – informal service with music group and puppets.

Sunday 16th Dec

10am Holy Communion and SHINE for children

4pm Candlelight Carol Service - An atmospheric retelling of the Christmas story with traditional carols – followed by seasonal refreshments.

Sun 23rd Dec

Morning Praise with carols

Mon 24th Dec

4pm The Pop-Up Nativity Service especially for children and families.

Children come dressed as a character from the nativity and help us tell the story!

11.15pm traditional Midnight Communion to welcome in Christmas.

Christmas Day 10am - On this special day come and celebrate Jesus' birth with festive refreshments followed by an informal, family-friendly service. Children may bring a gift to show us.

FAMILY OCCASIONS

In their bereavement our prayers are with the families and friends of Leslie Parkin and Maria Maier.
In Baptism we have welcomed Eliza Reeve.

CHURCH NEWS

Who likes cake? Save the date!

On Tuesday 29th January we invite you to join us for coffee (or tea/squash) and cake in St Paul's church from 2.30 till 4.15pm. Proceeds will go to the Good Samaritan school in Uganda.

Mini Outings: On Tuesday 18th December we meet at Meynell Langley Tea Rooms for a pre-Christmas get-together. Time to splash out on a mince pie or cake with your coffee?

In **January** we shall go to the coffee and cake afternoon in St Paul's church at 2.30pm (see above). All are welcome and lifts can usually be arranged – please contact Mary by the day before the outing for lifts.

SHINE, our Sunday School, is one year old now and is growing fast. We meet on the 3rd Sunday of every month in the church hall. Parents can drop their children off at the back door (in the car park) from 9.45am and the children rejoin them in church towards the end of the service.

PCC - The next meeting will be on Thursday 17th January at 7.30pm in church.

NEW - Quarndon Village Carol Singing



What makes you feel more Christmassy than some local carol singing? St Paul's is planning some carol singing this year around Quarndon village on **Friday 21st December**. Meet at the church at 5.30pm, bring your torches and woolly hats. We shall walk round the central areas of Quarndon singing carols, visiting people and raising money for our new church gutters, which are in desperate need of replacement! At the end of the singing (7pm), we shall be finishing at 29 Woodlands Lane to enjoy mince pies and mulled wine and a Christmas raffle.

Time to get into the Christmas spirit! There hasn't been any carol singing in Quarndon in recent years, so everyone is welcome to join us! Any queries or if you know someone who would appreciate a carol who can't walk with us, please contact Rebecca on 07789 758 749.

Allestree Churches Together Advent Evening of Reflection

A reflective evening of readings, hymns and prayer to prepare for Christmas. On Monday December 3rd at Holy Family Church, Blenheim Drive at 7.30pm. This year led by Rev Becky Matthew. All welcome.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS/NOTICES



Quarndon Pre-school
invite you to their
Table top and Craft Sale
in St Paul's church hall, Quarndon
Dec 1st, 11.30am – 1 pm

Jewellery, Neals Yard cosmetics, fabric gifts, Usbourne books,
Refreshments (hot dogs, tea/coffee)

All welcome.

MONTHLY ORGANISATIONS

Quarndon Friendship Group

Thursday 13th December Collette from Amber Valley CVS will be joining us for her yearly visit. We will have a little in house fund raising before our Christmas party; she will see that we are still a popular, vibrant club.

Monday 17th December at 9.15am we are invited to Curzon School to a dress rehearsal of years 5 and 6 Christmas production.

Thursday 20th December we have our Christmas lunch outing to The Boars Head, Sudbury. The coach will leave the Church Hall at 11.45am to give us time for that all important pre lunch tippie.

Thursday 10th January will be a Social Afternoon for the start of our "Winter Session".

Thursday 24th January we welcome back guest speaker Paul Newsham with a talk on "Superstitions". After this we will be looking over our shoulders, watching out for ladders and certainly not crossing on the stairs!

Women's Institute

Despite the members' best efforts, Quarndon W.I. will be suspended at the end of December after 97 years, due to lack of support from the area.

ST PAUL'S, QUARNDON, DIRECTORY

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|----------------------------------|---|----------------|
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| <i>Parish Safeguarding Link:</i> | Vacancy <i>(please contact the vicar for safeguarding issues)</i> | |

Church website: www.stpaulsquarndon.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaulsquarndon

(Please 'like' our Facebook page!)

The deadline for copy for the newsletter is the 16th of the previous month, so copy for the February/March edition must be with the editor no later than **16th January**, please.



**We wish you all a joyful Christmas
and a peaceful New Year.**