



St Paul's, Quarndon, Parish Newsletter



DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020

“For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

I'm not sure which one of us put 'an election' on our letter to Santa, but it seems that's the one delivery that is guaranteed this year. So as well as listening to the jingles on the Christmas adverts, we'll find ourselves surrounded by political promises, and as well as Christmas cards dropping through the letter box, we'll be picking up communication mail from our local candidates. Some might feel this is a bit of a spoiler on the season; however I think there are good reasons this political stance could provide a more authentic Christmas experience.

Politics shapes the Christmas story as we know it. Luke's gospel tells us Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem precisely because Quirinius, governor of Syria, was commanded by the Roman Emperor Augustus to conduct a census for the purpose of taxes. Before we meet the child Jesus, Matthew's gospel is keen to establish his credentials as a descendant of King David, and to acknowledge the political exile of Jesus' ancestors to Babylon. The wise men cause such a threat to the political order with the news of a newborn king that King Herod plans to kill the child. Mary and Joseph flee and live as refugees in neighbouring Egypt. Meanwhile, fueled by the desire to cling to political power, Herod orders all young children in and around Bethlehem to be slain.

The Christmas story is about God entering our world. Jesus is our 'Emmanuel', literally meaning 'God with us'. The baby Jesus finds his life shaped by the political stage around him from before he leaves the womb. The politics of the world with its competing factions, impact his life from his birth until his final breath on the cross.

Politics too shapes all of our lives. It has profound effects on the lives of those who are very similar to us and those who live in very different circumstances. The bible is clear that our concern should never be just for our own standards of living, but rather for those who are particularly vulnerable or in need. Perhaps we could see our vote as a Christmas present to our neighbour as well as a desire for ourselves. If you want to find out who your neighbour is, take a look at the answer that Jesus gave to someone who also asked this same question, in Luke chapter 10, from verse 29, known to many as the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

So if you want to add that authentic dimension to Christmas this year, make sure you visit your local polling station.

With best wishes for you and your loved ones this Christmas,
Yours in faith,
Becky

FAMILY OCCASIONS

In their bereavement our prayers are with the families and friends of Brian 'John' Poynton and Sylvia Widdows.

In Baptism we have welcomed Kit Forsyth.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH SERVICES & EVENTS FOR DEC 2019 JAN 2020

DEC	1	10.00 am	Holy Communion
	8	10.00 am	All Age Worship-Together @ the Table
	13-15	various	CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
	15	10.00 am	Holy Communion & SHINE
		4.30 pm	Informal Carols round the trees
	20	2.00 pm	Curzon Carol Service in church
	21	9.30am-12.30pm	Christmas Fun Club at St Nick's *
		6.00-7.30pm	Village Carol Singing
	22	4.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight
	24	4.00 pm	Nativity Service – Christmas Story
		11.15 pm	Midnight Communion
	25	10.00 am	Informal worship for Christmas Day
	29	10.00 am	Joint service at St Nick's
JAN	5	10.00 am	Holy Communion
	12	10.00 am	All Age Worship
	16	7.30 pm	PCC
	19	10.00 am	Holy Communion & SHINE
	26	10.00 am	Morning Praise

Please note there will be NO service at St Paul's on Dec 29th as we join our friends at St Nick's for a joint service.

*To book email stnickschildrensworship@gmail.com

Something for everyone in our Christmas services:

Sunday 15th Dec

10am Holy Communion and SHINE for children

4.30pm 'Carols round the trees' – come and enjoy a hot chocolate and join in some informal carol singing to finish our Christmas Tree Festival.

Sun 22nd Dec

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

Tues 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.

CHURCH NEWS

Mini Outings: On **Friday 13th December** we meet in St Paul's Church to visit the Christmas Tree Festival. On **Tuesday 21st January** we shall stay close to home and (weather permitting) visit Croots Farm Shop and Café in Duffield. Both outings are at 2pm. For a list of Mini Outings for the next six months please see the notice board in church. All are welcome and lifts can usually be arranged – please contact Mary Connell by the day before the outing for lifts.

PCC - The next meeting will be on Thursday 16th January at 7.30pm in church.

Allestree Churches Together

Advent Quiet Evening

A time to prepare for Christmas. Monday December 2nd, 7.30pm at Holy Family Church, Blenheim Drive. All welcome.



#Follow the Star Nativity Trail

"It was the star that first caught their attention. It was the star that shone out announcing to the world; Jesus is Here. It was the star that prompted them to make that journey....."

#FollowTheStar encourages everyone to follow in the footsteps of the Wise Men on their journey to meet Jesus.

Collect your free #Followthestar trail leaflet from local churches, Allestree Post Office and the Library. Fill in the spaces on the trail leaflet and you will be led to a final destination on Park Farm where you can hand in your completed trail and earn a prize.

Allestree Churches Together will be at Park Farm shops on Saturday 14th December at 11am to sing carols and entertain those passing by. Wear your Star, tinsel and/or twinkly lights and join in.



St Paul's Christmas Tree Festival Programme



Friday 13th Dec

1.30-6pm

Church open to visitors.

2.00pm

Mini Outing to visit festival

3.30pm

School parents invited to mulled wine and mince pies.

Saturday 14th Dec

10am-6pm

Church open to visitors

2.00pm

St Edmund's Handbell Ringers

7.30-9pm

'Candlelit Christmas Medley'

With David Johnson (organ) and

The St Clement's Singers

Sunday 15th Dec

10am

Informal Holy Communion and SHINE

11am-6.00pm

Church open to visitors

4.30 pm

Carols round the trees – an informal time of carols and readings for everyone.

5.30 pm

Announcement of competition winners.

Refreshments will be served throughout the festival.

Quarndon Village Carol Singing



After the fabulous success of last year's carol singing round the village, we are repeating it this year on **SATURDAY 21st December**. Meet at the church at 6.00pm, bring your torches and woolly hats. At the end of the singing (7.30pm), we shall be finishing at Woodlands Lane to enjoy mince pies and mulled wine and our **GRAND PRIZE DRAW**. (If you haven't bought your tickets yet don't worry – they will be on sale on the night).

HOW (Handful Of Worship) Puppets

Our church puppet team recently attended a training weekend in Rugby (organised by One Way UK) where they entered a song competition with their puppets. They were delighted to be awarded 2nd prize.

You can see the puppets at our All Age services.



COMMUNITY EVENTS/NOTICES

Allestree Local History Talks Winter / Spring 2020

Date	Title and Speaker
8 Jan	"The Sleeping Beauty" – Restoration of the Cromford Canal by Mike Kelley
22 Jan	"Bradshaw's and an Early Railway Tour" by Robert Mee
12 Feb	"The Robins" – History of our Post Office and Postal Service by Bob Massey
26 Feb	Talks by our Members
11 Mar	"Bolsover Castle through the Ages" by Ian Morgan
25 Mar	"1817 – a Recipe for Revolution" – Reflections on the Pentrich Rising of June 1817 by Michael Parkin

Meetings are held in the Choir Vestry of St. Nicholas Church, Allestree Lane on Wednesday evenings starting at 7 pm. Enquiries about the Group to Terry 558256 or Matthew 842114

Enquiries concerning the program to Mike 07985627717 or mikehannah068@gmail.com

Website: allestree-local-study-group.org.uk

Quarndon Friendship Group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 2.30pm in Quarndon church hall.

Thursday 12th December. Unfortunately as the Church Hall is required for voting we have had to cancel our Christmas party but to brighten up the winter we will have a special tea in February.

Thursday 19th December we have our Christmas lunch outing to The Boars Head at Sudbury. The coach will leave the Church Hall at 11.45am.

Thursday 9th January will be a Social Afternoon to welcome everyone back for the start of our Winter Session.

Thursday 23rd January we will have an update on the talk "Tax, Care and Toy Boys" to explain about any changes in law etc.

ST PAUL'S, QUARNDON, DIRECTORY

<i>Priest-in-Charge:</i>	Revd Becky Mathew	550224
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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.