



# St Paul's, Quarndon, Parish Newsletter



DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017

## Coming Home for Christmas?

As you read this at the beginning of December, we are in the season known in the Christian Church as Advent – when we wait expectantly and make preparations for the coming of Jesus.

Within St Paul's church we light the first candle on the Advent Wreath on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Christmas, continuing each Sunday with a further candle, until we reach Christmas Day when we light a 5<sup>th</sup> centre candle to celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world. This year during the lighting of each candle we are using reflective words and prayers to remember people without a safe place to call home at Christmas. We are joining with thousands of others to consider this year's Christian Aid message and appeal. As well as the prayers around the candles there will be opportunities to give to the work of Christian Aid for those that wish to contribute, in response to the following sad truth:

**This Christmas, 65 million people simply can't be at home. Forced out by the darkness of violence and fear, they're searching for safety and refuge.**

The work of Christian Aid is founded on the Christian faith, inspired by hope, and acts to change an unjust world through charity – offering care and aid to people of all faiths and none, and standing alongside all who struggle against poverty. Christian Aid works in many places and includes areas in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and South America. An example of a story of hope is their support for more than 30 years of refugees from Myanmar's civil conflict in camps on the Thailand-Myanmar border. Now, as the political situation shifts and the possibility of returning home is more realistic, Christian Aid is helping refugees to prepare for their return. One teacher in the Nu Po refugee camp says: "The light will come after the dark. I want my people to see the light."

In the same way, since we live in a world with many uncertainties, we as Christians take heart with the message of hope and light this Advent. The Advent candles are signs of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Then as Christmas comes we celebrate the birth of our Saviour as a helpless baby in humble surroundings, with a variety of services as shown overleaf. These range from the All Age on 11<sup>th</sup> December "Getting Ready", with more informal worship, to a traditional Midnight Communion service on Christmas Eve. We have a special traditional Candle Light Community Carol Service on 18<sup>th</sup> December, where the Christmas story is re-told through carols and bible readings, followed by seasonal refreshments. At 4pm on Christmas Eve we offer the Nativity Service, especially for families and children – where if you wish, come dressed as a character from the Christmas story! This year we are also celebrating at 10am on Christmas Day with light refreshments followed by informal carols and readings around the crib.

They say home is where the heart is. For us at St Paul's, Jesus is the heart of Christmas. Come home to Christmas at St Paul's this year, as we celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love in Christ Jesus. We'd love you to join us!

*Jill Reed, Churchwarden*

## ST PAUL'S CHURCH SERVICES FOR DEC 2016 / JAN 2017

**Key: FOG - Focus on God** (an informal service with time for quiet prayer) at St Nick's.

DEC	4	10.00 am	Holy Communion
	11	10.00 am	All Age Worship
	18	10.00 am	Christmas Praise
		4.00 pm	Community Carol Service
		7.00 pm	FOG at St Nick's
24	4.00 pm	Nativity Service	
	11.15 pm	Midnight Communion	
25	10.00 am	Carols round the crib	
JAN	1	10.00 am	Carol Praise
	8	10.00 am	All Age Worship
		7.00 pm	FOG at St Nick's
	15	10.00 am	Holy Communion
	22	10.00 am	Morning Praise
		4-6.00 pm	<b>Messy Church</b> (in church hall)
		7.00 pm	FOG at St Nick's
29	10.00 am	Holy Communion	

### Something for everyone in our Christmas services:

#### Sunday 11th Dec

10am All Age Service 'Getting Ready' – informal service with band and puppets.

#### Sunday 18th Dec

10am Christmas Praise.

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

#### Sat 24th Dec

4pm The Pop-Up Nativity Service especially for children and families. **Come dressed as a character from the nativity and help us tell the story!**

11.15pm traditional Midnight Communion to welcome in Christmas.

**New this year - Christmas Day 10am** - 'Carols round the Crib' On this special day come and celebrate Jesus' birth with cookies and sparkling drinks (non-alcoholic!) followed by carols and readings. A simple, lay-led service of celebration for everyone. Children may bring a gift to show us.

## CHURCH NEWS

### Church Flowers

At the end of the year, I am giving up arranging the flower rota. So I should like to thank all those who have given, arranged or donated towards the cost of flowers for the altars during the past year. It is very much appreciated. Thank you all for your kindness, willingness and support over so many years. Margaret Fearn (556613) has agreed to take over this task and I am sure she would welcome your support. Thank you once again.

*Kathleen Harris*

## Church News continued...

**PCC** - The next meeting will be on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm.

At our Service of Remembrance on 13<sup>th</sup> November Bill Randle read his own poem.

### Remembrance

On this new Autumn morn we strive to pay  
Our homage to the Dead of yester-year.  
Those soldiers of the battles far away,  
In past and present times, but in our memories clear

Recall how priests with pious passion prayed  
Through every land-of every faith and creed,  
To bless their cause with righteous accolade  
For God was on their side their cause to plead.

And so they gave their youth, their morning pride,  
Marching to death and glory in the mud,  
Certain that God and might were on their side,  
To covenant our bright future with their blood.

Who is he there that from unseeing eyes,  
With shattered, broken body, limp and torn,  
Stares hard into the dream of cloudless skies  
And lifeless gives new life to those unborn?

He is the foe-the devil in the dark,  
He is the friend we met abroad last year,  
The boy who walked his dog out in the park,  
The young musician hundreds queued to hear.

The children, innocent, played safely unaware  
While fathers shed their blood in duty bound  
And mothers wept and cried out in despair  
As loved-ones poured their lives on distant ground

Not for inglorious slaughter wreaked in war.  
Not for their deaths we honour them today,  
But for the lives they sacrificed. They are no more  
Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, we pray.

W.F.Randle

### Choir



Geoff Brecknell has been a member of St Paul's choir for about 40 years and its choirmaster for many of those, so it is with regret that we learned recently of his decision to step down from this role. We are very grateful to Geoff and the entire choir for their service to St Paul's.

We also give our thanks to members of the Ladies Guild, who have worked behind the scenes to keep our church looking beautiful over many years, and also to Kathleen Harris for her efficient organization of the flower rota.

We have been blessed with many willing helpers at St Paul's but we could always use more hands! So if you could offer any help please don't be shy – just speak to one of the churchwardens.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS/NOTICES**

Start your Christmas Festivities off at **Quarndon Cricket Club**

On Dec 11th. Santa Claus will be coming to our club for our

### **CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW**

From 5 pm there will be  
Santa making the draw \* Mulled wine \* Mince Pies \* Festive music  
BAR will be open.

Everyone will be made welcome and we look forward to seeing you.



## MONTHLY ORGANISATIONS

### Quarndon Friendship Group

Thursday 8th December at 2.30pm we have our annual in-house fund raising event, tombola, produce stall, Christmas hamper raffle and much more. When all is done and all your money spent it will be time for our Christmas tea party.

Thursday 15th December we have our Christmas Lunch outing to The Boars Head at Sudbury. The coach will leave the Church Hall at 11.45am giving us time for a pre-lunch drink.

Thursday 12th January at 2.30pm the first meeting of the Winter Session will be a Social Afternoon.

Thursday 26th January at 2.30pm our guest speaker will give a talk on behalf of Collective Legal Solutions. The talk headed "Tax, Care and Toy Boys" isn't quite as it sounds but gives advice for reducing inheritance tax, care home provision and how a re-marriage can change the line of inheritance.

### Women's Institute

We meet on the first Thursday of most months. On the 2nd February our speaker will be Alan Hopkin whose topic will be "the History of Pop Music". For further information, please contact Mrs Ann Horton on 01332 550478

### Church Hall bookings.

The church hall is available for private or group hire and this can now be done through our church website. Just visit [www.stpaulsquarndon.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsquarndon.org.uk) and click on 'Hall Hire' to complete an online booking form. Alternatively you can telephone or email Pat Glover (see below).

### ST PAUL'S, QUARNDON, DIRECTORY

<i>Priest-in-Charge:</i>	Vacancy	
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**Church website: [www.stpaulsquarndon.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsquarndon.org.uk)**

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stpaulsquarndon](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulsquarndon)

For enquiries during the vacancy please contact the church office. There is an answerphone which will be checked every day.

The deadline for copy for the newsletter is the 16<sup>th</sup> of the previous month, so copy for the Feb/March edition must be with the editor no later than **16<sup>th</sup> Jan**, please.



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