



The United Benefice

of Chichester St Paul and Westhampnett St Peter

ST PAUL'S PARISH CHURCH

Churchside, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 6FT ☎ 533403



Week of 13th December 2009 – Third Sunday of Advent

8.00 am Holy Eucharist

9.00 am Morning Prayer

10.00 am PARISH EUCHARIST – all together

Fr Richard presides and

Fr Paul Collins assists and preaches.

5.30 pm Evening Prayer



EVERY DAY *in St Paul's* – **9.00 am Morning Prayer – 5.30 pm Evening Prayer**

Mon 14th 10.00 am CHERUBS in the Parish Centre. Play and activities for pre-school children with parents/carers.

7.30 pm Advent Course at 37 Somerstown

Tues 15th 8.00 am Holy Eucharist

5.30 pm Junior Confirmation Preparation in the Parish Centre

Wed 16th 11.45 am Holy Eucharist

12.30 pm Meet'n'Eat Christmas Luncheon

Thu 17th 10.00 am Holy Eucharist with Mothers' Union followed by coffee, mince pies, raffle and quiz

11.15 am Advent Course *in church*

Fri 18th 10.00 am Fordwater School Carol Service

11.30 am Funeral of Bishop Eric Kemp *at the Cathedral*

NEXT SUNDAY 20th December – 4th Sunday of Advent

8.00 am Holy Eucharist 9.00 am Morning Prayer

10.00 am PARISH EUCHARIST

Readings: Micah 5.2-5a; Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45 [46-55]

5.30 pm Evening Prayer

6.30 pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Have you ordered your Christmas Tree?

If not, the beautiful artificial one at present in the Parish Centre, around 6 ft tall and needing a new base, is **for sale at the bargain price of £25** in aid of the Building on Success fund. Contact the Parish Office (☎ 533403).

Holy Communion at home: your clergy are delighted to bring the Sacrament to anyone who is unable to get to church for Communion at any time, and especially at Christmas: please ask them now!

TODAY – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
10.00 am PARISH EUCHARIST – ALL TOGETHER

The words for today's music will be projected, and are available in large print

Collect of the Day

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading Zephaniah 3.14-20; 7;

This prophet of the 7th century BC is mostly a voice of doom, but this passage ends his work on a note of hope. God will always preserve a remnant of the faithful through the worst of times, and come in his own person as king and saviour.

Second Reading Philippians 4.4-

"The Lord is near", wrote Paul. He means that the coming in glory of the resurrected Jesus will happen soon. During the time of waiting, be joyful, be peaceable, be prayerful, be thankful.

Gospel Reading Luke 3.7-18

As we heard last Sunday, Christians understand John the Baptist as the one to whom ancient Scripture had pointed as God's messenger preparing the way for Jesus. John's teaching provoked controversy, but his proclamation of repentance and baptism gained him many disciples.

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Immediately after the service, refreshments in the Parish Centre, and the Ministry of Healing (prayer, laying on of hands, anointing) in the Lady Chapel.

100+ Draw. Better odds than the lottery – win £50 every month. The first draw will be after the 10.00 am Parish Eucharist **TODAY**. Not joined yet? See Michael Brittain for a form and your chance to win £50.

The **Bible Reading Fellowship Notes** for January to April 2010 are available from Barbara Scott (☎ 780105) **today** and on Sunday 20th.

St Paul's Flute Group are busking in North Street **10.30 am to 12.30 pm on Saturday 19th December**, to raise money for BoS. Please come and support.

The current issue of **Perspectives** (the Benefice Magazine) is freely available at the back of the church.

Christmas Greetings The usual board for congregational Christmas cards is now at the back of the Church (NW corner) and you are welcome to pin up your greetings to the congregation there.

Christmas Cards of St Paul's and Notelets are on sale in the Parish Centre. Large cards are 50p each (5 for £2.00). Notelets 30p each (5 for £1.25).

Advent Course 2009

'Watching and Waiting'

is this year's **Advent course**. The last sessions this year are tomorrow **Monday, 14th December** at 7.30pm at 37 Somerstown, and on **Thursday morning, 17th December** at 11.15am at St Paul's. If you cannot make either meeting, you can find a copy of the course notes on the church website www.stpaulschichester.org, or from Jon Robinson or Peter Kane.

Sunday, 20th December at 6.30 pm

Festival of

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Thursday 24th December

4.00pm Christmas CRIB SERVICE

11.30 pm MIDNIGHT MASS

Christmas Dinner at home

Please tell one of the clergy (in confidence)

- 1) If you, or someone you know, would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day, but would like be with others
- 2) If you would enjoy having an extra guest or two at your own Christmas dinner table.

If there are offers (and requests) we will put you in touch in confidence.

If you have offered to help in **Sunday School**, there are vacancies in the next rota for the Explorers' Group (7 – 10 year olds). Please see Jon or sign up on the rota in the office.

St Paul's Choir is planning to visit Berlin in February: if you, or someone you know, would like to sponsor their visit, please contact Chris Larley with offers or ideas.

Church buildings – if you discover a building defect, fittings or fabric, please report it by leaving a note on Persephone's desk (or phoning the Office), so that we can deal with it quickly. (We are very grateful to Mike Lawson and Garry Long for their attempts to resolve the vestry flood!)

BUILDING ON SUCCESS

An auction of promises will be held in 2010. If you have links with any companies which might sponsor the event, or donate items/ experiences, please contact Alison Firth, Jo Hunt or Rebecca Crawshaw as soon as possible (See insert for further information).

"History of St Paul's" - Alan Green is writing a new history of the church to sell in aid of BoS in 2010. If you could lend photographs and archive material, in particular of the interior with chairs, and post 1982 showing the pews, contact Alan ☎ 784915 or agreenzone@aol.com.

Your PCC took the important decision to endorse the Eco-Group's proposals to move on with our consultants with plans to use **renewable energy sources** for the church and centre (solar PV cells on the south church roof and wood pellet burning boiler, which is carbon neutral). This will involve further consultation with our architect, applications for grants for the capital outlay (we hope that this will be completely covered), and then planning applications.

Parish Freecycle

On offer

Marketeer Shopping Trolley contact Shirley Bliss ☎ 785946 – who suggests a donation (eg £20) for Building on Success

Wanted Ladies' bicycle

Jo Hunt ☎ 531624

If you are going by car to Crawley and back this month, and could pick up a parcel for St Paul's, please tell Fr Richard. Thanks to those who have already offered: we are collecting possible names to be able to move fast if necessary!

New at St Paul's? Please introduce yourself, collect a Welcome Leaflet (details of regular groups and meetings). If you wish, fill in a yellow card with your details.

Admission of baptized children to Holy Communion before Confirmation

- Your PCC recently decided, after much thought and discussion, to request the Bishop to allow baptized children from about the age of 7 in the parish to receive Holy Communion before they are confirmed.
- Such admission will always be at the considered request of both parents and children, and after a proper preparation course for children and parents. The PCC will formulate an explicit procedure.
- On **Sunday, 17th January** there will be an **open meeting at 11.30 am** after the Parish Eucharist for all, and especially families with children under 15, to clarify the meaning, reasons and implications of the policy.
- The book "Let the children come to Communion" by Canon Stephen Lake is in the "Pastoral" section of St Paul's Parish Library, and available for loan.
- The next Perspectives will contain an article about the process.
- If you have questions, you are welcome to talk with clergy and PCC members.

Homeless at Christmas? Stonepillow is giving Christmas dinner at the Glassworks to homeless people. If you know someone who would be alone and would be glad to be there for Christmas, or would like to help cook and serve it, contact ☎ 537934 soon.

The regular services at St Peter's, Westhampnett are 8.00 am Holy Eucharist 1st & 3rd Sundays; **9.45 am Parish Eucharist** each Sunday *either all together or with Junior Church*; **Morning Prayer Wednesdays 9 am.**

Lennard (Lenny) Leske (aged 15), from the Paul Gerhardt Church in Alt Schöneberg, our Berlin link, is looking for a Chichester family to stay with, between 7 and 26 June 2010. His school has a Challenge Programme by which students are expected to "do something daring": having enjoyed his visit to the city last year he would like to come again. He would pay his way, and is willing to help with chores in and around the house and to babysit during his stay. Contact him directly on lennyundjoker@yahoo.de if you might help.

Table Tennis – All are welcome to play at **St Michael's Hall** every Friday. Juniors aged 13 and below, £1, 6.00pm to 7.00pm. Seniors, £2, 7.00pm to 8.30pm. All are welcome – just turn up or phone Phil Baker (☎ 533784) or Keith Pattison (☎ 771057).

Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice **Christmas Tree Festival** at St John's Chapel, St John's Street, opening by the Mayor at **4pm on Wednesday 16th December.** All welcome.

The funeral of Bishop Eric Kemp is at 11.30 am this Friday, December 18th in Chichester Cathedral.

CONTACTS at St PAUL'S

The Reverend Richard Hunt	☎ 531624	richard@stpaulschichester.org
The Reverend Ann Waizeneker	☎ 536280	ann@stpaulschichester.org
The Reverend Peter Kane	☎ 537121	peter@stpaulschichester.org
Youth Worker Jon Robinson	☎ 839037	jon@stpaulschichester.org
Director of Music Chris Larley	☎ 528318	chris@stpaulschichester.org
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