

ST PAUL'S BECKENHAM



E-Notice Sheet

Christmas 2024




Sun 22nd December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) With Rev'd Rachel Winn
	10.30am	Dress-Up Nativity With Alison Charlesworth and Rev'd Rachel Winn
	6.00pm	Community Carols - Around the outdoor Christmas tree, with the Crystal Palace Progress Band. Followed by mince pies and mulled wine
	7.15pm	Carol Service With Rev'd Rachel Winn and David Charlesworth
Tues 24th December <i>Christmas Eve</i> 	5.00pm	Christingle Service With Rev'd Rachel Winn
	11.30pm	Midnight Holy Communion With Rev'd Rachel Winn and Sarah Butler Readings: Micah 5: 2-5a read by Anne Howick, and Luke 2: 1-14 read by David Storey Prayers: Led by Elaine Storey
Wed 25th December <i>Christmas Day</i>	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) – With Rev'd Rachel Winn
	10.30am	Christmas Day Celebration With Keith Howick and Rev'd Rachel Winn Readings: Isaiah 9: 2-7 read by Ishmael Gowero, and John 1: 1-14 read by Ian Rodgers 
Sun 29th December <i>1st Sunday of Christmas</i>	10.30am	Morning Worship With Rev'd Rachel Winn and Keith Howick Readings: Colossians 3: 12-17 read by Thomas Adu and Luke 2: 41-52 read by Brian Woolmer Prayers: Led by Sarah Butler
<p><i>The 10.30am services and the 7.15pm Carol Service will be live-streamed and available on the St Paul's YouTube channel</i></p>		

Collects / Special Prayers

The 4th Sunday of Advent (22nd December) - Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christmas Eve - Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christmas Day - Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen

The 1st Sunday of Christmas (29th December) - God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. 

St Paul's Notices



Choir Rehearsal for Carol Service – Friday 20th December, 7.30pm, in the hall.

Christmas Connect Café – Saturday 21st December, 9.30am – 11.30am. Join us for this Christmas edition of our popular monthly Community Café in the Church Hall! As well as the customary good coffee, good company, bacon butties, toast and marmalade, we will be serving pigs in blankets and mince pies. No charge, but donations are welcome.


Help in the Church - This coming Sunday, 22nd December, after the 10.30am service we shall be taking down the gazebos used for 'Experience Christmas'. If you are able to help with this, it would be very much appreciated.

Bags for Christingle – On Monday 23rd December, at 10am in the church hall, we shall be putting together bags for the Christingle service. We would welcome as much help as possible!

Church Office – During the next two weeks, the office will be open on Monday 23rd December, Monday 30th December and Thursday 2nd January.

Church Closed – The church will be closed from 12.30pm on Christmas Day, all day on Thursday 26th December and Wednesday 1st January. It will be open on the other days over the Christmas period, as usual.


Morning Prayer – There will be no 9am Morning Prayer services over the next couple of weeks. The services will be resuming on Wednesday 8th January.

Friendship Group – The next meeting will be on Thursday 2nd January, at 2.30pm, in the church hall, for tea and chat. All welcome. 

Gardening Team – Saturday 4th January, 10am. You would be very welcome to come and join the team in the church garden. Tea, coffee and cake are provided!

Babies & Toddler Group – We will be meeting up again on Thursday 9th January.

Thursday Zoom Prayer – We will not be meeting on Thursday 26th December; the next prayer time will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 2nd January, when we will be praying for our church and Parish at the start of the New Year, as well as the needs of a suffering world.

Food Vouchers - Many thanks to all who supported the much-needed project and contributed towards the 50 x £50 food vouchers, which have been distributed to Worsley Bridge School and St Paul's Pre-School. 

Welcare Christmas Appeal – There is a decorated shoebox at the back of church for donations for the annual 'Families in Crisis' Welcare Christmas appeal. Supermarket gift cards are welcomed. Please contact Alison Dockray on aliray1@hotmail.com with any queries.

Very many thanks to all those who supported the mince pie tasting coffee morning and a huge thank you to those from the church family who helped make it a success. You know who you are! The winning mince pies came from M&S, and Sainsbury's were last again. The total raised was £270 for Welcare, our charity of the month.

Help with serving Tea/Coffee - Would someone like to help the Harris group with serving coffee after church every six weeks? Please contact Mandy Harris or Anne Harkness.

Bible-Reading Notes – If you have ordered Bible-reading notes for 2025, please collect your January notes from the back of church.

Tea and Coffee - Many thanks to the Birkett Homegroup for serving tea and coffee on Sunday 22nd December. On 29th December, the Wells Homegroup will be on duty, and on 5th January, Liv/Jash's Homegroup will be on duty. 



Christmas Tree Tags – In support of Hope into Action

The Christmas tree tags are an alternative to sending cards to our church friends, and the money we might spend is instead donated to a charity. This year the charity is Hope into Action, which provides temporary supported living to homeless people and is a stepping stone to permanent accommodation. Hope into Action is unashamedly Christian to the core; each tenant is prayerfully and practically supported, and offered friendship and fellowship to help them sustain living independently and engage with their community. The Christmas tree is at the back of church with tags to sign and a QR code to give a donation to Hope into Action.



Resolve Course

We are running the Resolve Course again in January, on Monday evenings (6th, 13th, 20th and 27th January), from 7.30pm – 9pm. Resolve is a four-week course designed to reflect on how we make and keep our New Year resolutions, and to enable conversations! All welcome. Free of charge, light refreshments provided.

The sessions will involve group discussion, a guidebook that includes topics to explore, and four 20-minute videos that consult a doctor, a psychologist, a psychiatrist, an anthropologist, a faith leader and a comedian about what it means to make positive changes in our lives. Any questions, or to sign up, contact Keith Howick on 07747 033473.



Community Notices

Christmas Tree Festival – 14th – 21st December, at St Francis of Assisi Church, West Wickham, BR4 0PW. Come along to view the trees, listen to festive music, and enjoy refreshments. Free entry; donations in aid of Welcare in Bromley. Remaining opening times: Fri 20th December 10am - 1pm; Sat 21st December (with children's activities) 10am - 1pm.

Thank You from Living Well – 'Amazing! We have had 150 Christmas food parcels donated and are making up another 150 from the money you kindly donated. Thank you everyone!'

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/970637525113866>

Foodbanks - Many thanks to all who have donated to the foodbanks over the last year; these are very much appreciated by CAP (Penge) and Living Well. We shall continue to collect for both organisations and please put your donations in the tubs in the church porch, preferably in strong carrier bags. Please check that nothing contains alcohol.



Welcare - Mission of the Month (November & December)

Welcare is a local charity that works with families with children up to 13 years of age. It follows Christian values, and strives to empower families, offering practical and emotional support to overcome challenges.



Welcare's experienced social workers run a 'Caring Dads' group for fathers who wish to improve their relationship with their children, and the Welcare 'My Space' group works with children and parents who have suffered domestic abuse. They also run groups for local schools who want support for pupils with low self-esteem. Visit www.welcare.org.uk for more information, and see the display at the back of church.

Please pray...



- for the Connect Café on Saturday 21st December.
- for all who come to our services over Christmas.
- for all of us to know God's hope, peace, joy and love in our hearts this Christmas.
- for children, young people and families during the Christmas holiday.
- for families who are unable to be together at this time, and for people who will be alone over the Christmas period.
- for those mourning the loss of a loved one, especially if this is the first Christmas without them.
- for those in homes or places of work where there are stressful or abusive relationships.
- for the charities and agencies that offer advice and support to children and young people and their families, especially for Welcare in Bromley.
- for Living Well and CAP, and for all those who have need of their services.
- for those in prison and their families.
- for people to keep warm, especially thinking of those who have no home.
- for countries and areas where there is war and conflict.
- for the children, families and older people receiving 'Link to Hope' shoeboxes.
- for those in debt or who are looking for work.
- for those in pain and struggling with health issues or increasing frailty.
- for all in hospital, undergoing treatment or awaiting appointments.

On our Electoral Roll we pray for Adelaide Adade, Maria and Thomas Adu, Mary Afolabi, and for our parishioners in Bridgelands Close.



Get in touch...

Administrator - Stephanie Fox: 020 8650 0501, admin@stpaulsbeckenham.org.uk

Vicar - Rev'd Rachel Winn: 07566 274388, vicar@stpaulsbeckenham.org.uk

Churchwardens - Anne Harkness: 07768 992559; Anthea Prendergast: 07811 530230

Parish Safeguarding Officer - Sandra Horner: 07701 069638; sandrahorner53@gmail.com.

Communion at Home – If you are unable to come to a Communion service but would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please get in touch with Rev'd Rachel or Anne Howick (020 8658 0808).

St Paul's Verse for the Year

'Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.' 1 Peter 5: 6-7



***A very happy Christmas and New Year
from everyone at St Paul's!***

