
Sunday 20th December 2020
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

At this time of great difficulty we hold you all in our prayers and ask God to be with each one of us and all those who are unwell, worried or lonely.

Collect for the Week

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.

10.00 am Service of the Word

Minister & Preacher : Tim Cripps
Please see separate booklet

10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre

Lead: The Vicar, Link: Jenny Cooper

Hymns:

Lo! he comes with clouds descending
Lord of all hopefulness
Bind us together Lord
Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

Reading:

Luke 1.26-38

6.30 pm

Nine Lessons and Carols – on YouTube



THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY 21st December *St Thomas the Apostle*

TUESDAY 22nd

Parish Office closed

WEDNESDAY 23rd

10.00 – 12 noon Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer

THURSDAY 24th Christmas Eve

10.00 – 12 noon Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer

FRIDAY 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 am Joint Christmas Service at the Parish Church
Followed by Holy Communion

SATURDAY 26th Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

NEXT SUNDAY 27th December

First Sunday After Christmas

JOHN THE APOSTLE

10.00 am Short Said Holy Communion

President & Preacher: The Vicar, Minister: Tim Cripps

(this service will be live streamed and posted on YouTube later)

10.00 am Family Carol Service at the Church Centre

From the Vicarage

Season's greetings to you all. Although we are constantly faced with challenges as Christians, we always have something to celebrate and for which to be thankful. At this particular time of the year we are all encouraged to be thankful to almighty God for taking such a uniquely amazing step to bridge and reconcile difference that takes various forms, and give all of us the opportunity to be called "children of God". I/you may not be the most handsome or cleverest, but we are still God's children. What a refreshing thought. As we celebrate Christmas this year, I pray that we will all acknowledge Jesus to be our brother, and in so doing recognise one another as brothers and sisters.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Ronnie

Special Service

We do hope you can join us this evening (virtually) at 6.30 pm when our pre-recorded Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be posted on our You Tube channel. A huge thank you to Fiona, Nic and all who have worked so hard to put this together.

Christmas Day

We will be having a 10 am Joint Service at the Parish Church this year followed by Holy Communion. Please could you add your name to the sign-up sheet if you will be attending, there is one in both churches. If you are not able to sign up but would like to come on Christmas Day, please call the office. Thank you.

Family Service Children's Group

Our children's group will break for Christmas after today's service and will be back in the New Year on Sunday January 9th (guidelines willing). Thank you so much for all your help and support and we wish you all a lovely and safe Christmas and good health for 2021.
Mary & Julia

Christmas Nativity Trail

There will be a Family Nativity Trail organised by Judi Hammill, Curate at St James', a wonderful event held on behalf of Churches for Tunbridge Wells. It will take place on Thursday 24th December from 1-4 pm at the Grovesnor and Hilbert Recreation Ground, beginning at the HUB (just behind the cafe). Everyone is welcome to join in.

However, the following help is needed on the day:

- People to help set out the trail (between 12-12.30 pm) 6-8 people
- People to take down the trail (between 4-4.30 pm) 6-8 people
- People to be on the welcome table outside the hub giving out maps etc (1-4 pm) 12-14 people working 30 minute shifts.

If you can offer to help for a 30-45 minute shift - please contact Judi directly by emailing her at curatestjames@gmail.com

Huge thanks to Judi for this undertaking.

Happy Christmas!

Community Larder

Rusthall village has come together to start a Community Larder in the New Year. Beginning on Friday 8th January, we will be based at the Church Centre. Volunteers will be required, the more the merrier. Set up will begin at 11.15 am, if you would like to be involved please let me know, or go to the RVA website. My email is p.cripps@talk21.com and telephone number is 543355 - Pat Cripps

Christmas Charity Appeal 2020

It has been decided, whilst we still suffer under the Pandemic, that there will be no door to door deliveries of appeal letters this year. However, the PCC felt it would be good to help a couple of local charities and the ones that have been chosen are Tunbridge Wells Nourish Community Foodbank and Tunbridge Wells Citizen Advice Bureau, both of whom are very important in the present circumstances.

The Just Giving page is now open. Log on to the Just Giving site, select 'Search for a charity' and type in 'St Paul's Church, **Rustall**' scroll down to find us and select donate when the page appears.

Now you may have noticed the 'h' is missing in Rusthall, (the compiler's error - Pat - mea culpa - very very embarrassed!). I hope this type of fund raising will be successful for our two charities.

Or if you wish to contribute to the appeal, then place your donation in an envelope with cash or a cheque payable to 'St Pauls Church Rusthall' and posted to Parish Office, Church Centre, Rusthall, TN4 8RE (not cash please) or posted through the Church Centre post box. Please clearly mark the envelope with 'Christmas Appeal'. Unless otherwise stated the donations will be divided equally between the two charities mentioned above.

Our annual appeal has always been very successful in raising money for local charities and it would be good if this year we can continue the good work.

Christmas Greetings

Tim is in regular touch with our former Archdeacon, Clive Mansell (they are joint Executors for two Estates). Clive remembers the friendliness of the congregation at St. Paul's Church and has asked to pass on warm Christmas Greetings and a wish for a Happy and Healthy New Year to all at St. Paul's who remember him. He has fond memories of a midnight service during the interregnum when the organ failed and a piano was produced quickly and without any fuss.

CONTACTS

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