

Christmas Services at St Thomas a'Becket

Sunday 11 December: 5pm Christingle
Saturday 17 December: 7:30pm Chichester Voices Choir Concert
Tuesday 20 December: 7:30pm Carols at The Bear Inn
Friday 23 December: 6pm Carols around Rose Green Christmas Tree
Saturday 24 December (Christmas Eve): 5.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Sunday 25 December (Christmas Day): 8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am Family Eucharist
Sunday 1 January: 5.00pm Christmas Carols

Weekly services at St Thomas a'Becket

Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
9.45 am Parish Eucharist and Children's Groups
5.00 pm Evening Worship
Monday 9.20 am Morning Prayer
Tuesday 7.00 pm Eucharist in Church
9.20 am Morning Prayer
Each Second Tuesday Healing Service in Church during the Eucharist
Wednesday 9.20 am Morning Prayer
10.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Thursday 9.20 am Morning Prayer
Friday 8.30 am Morning Prayer
Saturday 9.20 am Morning Prayer

We remember those who have died: Keith Bennett.

James Knights was baptised.

Harriet Crow, Grace Eminson, James Knights, Caitlin Lothian and Sam Tyler received their first holy communion.

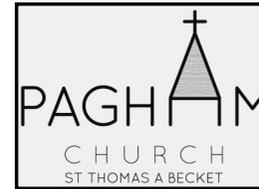
The Life Centre: A confidential space for survivors and their supporters to offload. If you are a survivor or wanting help in supporting a survivor you can use our help-lines to talk through any aspect of what you have gone through and how it is affecting you. *text helpline: 07717 989 022*
for adults tel: 0844 847 7879 for under 18s tel: 0808 802 0808

The Vicar, Mark Eminson can be contacted at the Vicarage on 262713

or email eminson.mark@gmail.com

Church Website: www.paghamchurch.org

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Good News December 2016

NOWELL, NOWELL!

An evening of carols old and new,
including audience participation



*St Thomas à Becket's Church
Church Lane, Pagham, PO21 4NU*

By kind permission of the Vicar and the Church Wardens

7.30pm on Saturday 17th December 2016

IN AID OF ROTARY CHARITIES



Accompanied by Richard Allum
Directed by Andrew Naylor



*Tickets £12 with £10 concessions
(children & OAP)*

Available from www.chichestervoices.org.uk or 07900 098197
and www.bognorrotaryclub.org.uk or 01243 268288

To include interval refreshments

Reg Charity No 261998

Letter from The Vicar

There has been some method, as regular readers might detect: having offered afresh weddings and funerals in the last two months we end up with baptisms to fit in with the Babe of Bethlehem. Yes, dear brothers and sisters, your parish church is very much available for the baptism or christening of your children!

That's an important place to start actually. These two words of baptism and christening are one and the same thing or, as a new Church of England website phrases it, "at a christening your child will be baptized" (the website is churchofenglandchristenings.org).

I am delighted that we get quite a nice number of christenings through the year, but there is room for more and perhaps it is something others of you might want to consider?

In a similar way to weddings and funerals you really don't have to be a frequent worshipper, although you are very welcome to be. We can arrange christenings on Sundays either during our main 9.45am service or at 12noon as a stand-alone baptism (sometimes with another family, which can make it more of a celebration and remind us that the Church is a social institution). Godparents are very special people, but they do need to have been christened themselves. If they haven't been, they may want to consider exploring that step of faith with their local church.

That reminds us that if you were not

baptized as a baby or young child you can still be as an 18- or 80-year-old. For, in essence, being christened is God calling you by name as one of His beloved children and inviting you into a growing relationship with Him, with His Church and indeed with yourself, knowing more of the mystery, depths and possibilities of your own being.

This free amazing gift of God's sets us off on such a journey, which none of us can ever really know fully. I am reminded that I was baptized in March 1980 with loving parents and godparents, but then a childhood without much more knowledge of God, Jesus, the Church. I eventually wanted to explore further and ended up being confirmed in 2003 and ordained in 2008: fruits which mysteriously came from that event in 1980 (and no doubt from people's prayers). It is never too early or too late to respond to God's love for us in Jesus Christ.

Once again, this Christmas, we see that love made visible in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem: God becoming like us that we might become more like Him. Each human being's life is infinitely precious as all new parents know, so we want to thank God for this gift of a child with which He has blessed us. Christening or baptism can be that natural response of ours and so begins a new human being's journey into the life of God: a great adventure and sign of hope to a family, a community and the world.

Mark Eminson - Vicar

Christmas Stay & Play

Wednesday 21st December

10-12.30pm

£2 per family

To help entertain your children in the long run up to Christmas, we are holding an activity morning at our Church Centre.

There will be a range of craft and other Christmas related activities for you and your children to get involved in, as well as drinks and refreshments.

Please come along and join in with all the fun.

Pagham Church Centre, Nyetimber Lane

All are welcome to our

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

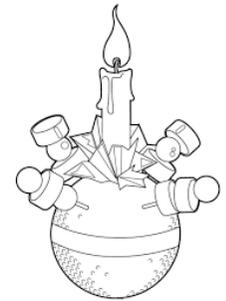
at St Thomas a Becket's Church

on Sunday 11th December at 5pm

where you can receive a Christingle orange

and join us in supporting the work

of The Children's Society



Pagham Harbour WI meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at

Pagham Village Small Hall 2-4pm.

New members are most welcome, please phone 01243 262434 for details.

December 13th — Speaker: A Victorian Christmas (Timespan)

**This edition of Good News is sponsored by Ann Ashley
in memory of her husband Peter John Stapleton Ashley
who died on 10th November 2015**

You may like to sponsor an edition of Good News for a significant celebration or in memory of someone who has died. It costs about £50 to produce an issue.

Cheques can be made payable to Pagham PCC and sent c/o The Vicarage, 38 Kings Drive, PO21 4PZ. Many thanks.

Wednesday Tots is a friendly welcoming place to bring your babies and toddlers to make friends and have a play. We have lots of great toys to play with and we like to spend time creating or exploring too. If you are looking for something to do with your small people come along and try us out.

Wednesday Afternoons 1.30- 2.45pm

The Church Centre, opposite Pagham Football Club.