

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

Tuesday 7.00 pm Eucharist in Church

Each Second Tuesday Healing Service in Church during the Eucharist

Wednesday 10.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Morning Prayer is 9.00am Monday to Thursday, 8.30am Friday, 9.30am Saturday.

Evening Prayer is 5.00pm Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

We remember those who have died: David Thurgood, Frank Lawton, Kathleen Allen, Roy Burse.

Amelie Turner, Arthur Bircham, Ella Hatch, Cadence Schneider were baptised.

Alexandru Antoniu-Martin, Olivia Cogger, Martha Eminson, Ella Hatch, Harry Kemp, Freya Morrison, Flynn Oakford, Grace Salter, Cadence Schneider, Poppy Thomas and Sophie Williams received their first holy communion.

St. Thomas à Becket - Pastoral Care Team

You are welcome to contact us if you would like a visit. You – or someone you know might be bereaved, lonely, unwell, housebound or simply welcome a friendly chat.

Contact Trudi Kearsley on 263597 or email pastoralcare@paghamchurch.org

and a visit will be arranged.

Pagham Harbour WI meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Pagham Village Small Hall 2-4pm. Please phone 01243 262434 for information.

December 11 – Christmas Meeting

Speaker: Tony Wheatley (Comedian)

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.

The Life Centre: A confidential space for survivors of abuse 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 2018

Prayer for December

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
(Collect for The First Sunday of Advent)



YEAR OF PRAYER 2018

The streets we will pray for this month are: Viscount Drive, Warwick Close, Webb Close, Well Road, West Drive, West Front Road, Windmill Close, Willow Way, Wolsey Close, Wythering Close.

"Let the choir ring out their joy!"

An evening of festive music with audience participation

including the WORLD PREMIERE of 'Laetabundus'

composed by Michael Walsh

CHICHESTER VOICES

Directed by Andrew Naylor

Accompanied by Richard Allum

The Parish Church of St Thomas à Becket

By kind permission of the Vicar and Churchwardens

7.30pm, Thursday 20th December 2018

In aid of Rotary Charities

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

Available from Rotary on 01243 268288 or Chichester Voices on 07900 098197 and at www.chichestervoices.org.uk and on the door.



Letter from the Vicar

At the time of writing, brothers and sisters, I am still wearing my poppy, which may sound incongruous as you read this in early Advent expecting to hear again the Christmas message! Well, in 1914, they expected the War to be over by Christmas, so there's a link of sorts! Perhaps it is also that remembering continues. I was so pleased by the attendance and atmosphere at our Armistice Centenary commemorations that in the days following it seemed too sudden to remove the poppy for another year; having said "we will remember them", it would be as if we had forgotten them.

I then also got thinking about a parallel with Advent and Christmas. We seem as a culture to have drifted into Christmas coming rather early. Clearly the shops claim much responsibility for this and, of course, it is sensible to be prepared. Yet it is not uncommon for decorations and trees to be up at the very start of Advent and even well before, which then often means they all come down on Boxing Day. Similarly, poppies are everywhere in the weeks building up to 11 November and then potentially nowhere on the 12th. The psychology of this interests me. Are we better at anticipating the great event and less good at inhabiting the joy (or solemnity and sorrow for Remembrance)? This could be simply inevitable this side of heaven. We are fleeting, frail creatures, at the mercy of

passing time, beset by all kinds of duties and distractions. Yet, to help us in this, the different seasons of the Church Year are there, to break down the various parts of our faith into more manageable and comprehensible sizes. If we enter deeply into the preparation and expectation of Advent, the theory goes, we can then enter equally deeply into the joy of Christmas, right up until Epiphany on 6 January.

It may be, as well, that this year, having reflected deeply on the dark years of 1914-18, Advent is a timely link. The traditional themes of Advent are serious: death, judgement, heaven and hell. These Four Last Things were all too real for that generation, but they apply equally to us all, whenever our earthly life should end. They also allow us to acknowledge the darkness, while yearning for the light. Advent is, after all, about Christ's Second Coming in glory with the holy angels to renew all things. What an amazing vision and hope for the dead of the Great War and for our restless and troubled age. That same vision heralded Christ's First Coming when the angels sang "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men." Human beings haven't always lived out that call to peace, but the angels still sing, urging us on. May we hear their song and enjoy a peaceful and joyful Christmas, this Year of our Lord, 2018.

Mark Eminson

This edition of Good News is sponsored by Alison Blenkinsop, thanking God for her home in Swandene, her neighbours and Church family.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES at St Thomas a'Becket

Tuesday 18 December — 7.30pm Carols at The Bear

Thursday 20 December — Chichester Voices Christmas Concert

Christmas Eve — 5.00pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day — 8.00am Holy Communion

9.45am Family Eucharist

Sunday 30 December — 5.00pm Christmas Carols (sing your favourites)



CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

At St Thomas a'Becket on Sunday 9 December 5.00pm
As this year is the 50th birthday celebration of Christingle,
the service will be followed by cakes.

Pagham Community Choir invite you to their **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

on Sunday 17 December at 3 p.m. in Pagham Village Hall.

Refreshments (including Mulled Wine); Raffle; Music; Poems.

Entry by Donation. Profits to Save Pagham Beach and Village campaign
(P.F.D.T.). Do join us for our Celebration of Christmas!

LIFTS TO CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

If anyone would like to come to a service at Christmas, but needs a lift, please
get in touch with Trudi Kearsley on 263597 or pastoralcare@paghamchurch.org

CHRISTMAS TREE SPECTACULAR in Aid of Disabled Sailors Charity

Everyone is welcome to see Peter and Carol-Anne's Christmas Tree Lights
at 11 Church Lane, Pagham. All the Trees are in the back garden,
so please drop in from 12th December onwards between 6pm-9pm.

You can call us on 262061 to make sure we are in.

Pagham Players Christmas production

A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS by John and Yvonne Eddleston

*A story that will make you feel happy and want to sing. If you don't
believe in Father Christmas when you arrive, you will when you leave.*

Friday Dec 7th at 7.00: with Mince Pies Sausage Rolls and Mulled Wine (Tea or
Coffee if preferred). **Sat 8th Dec 7.00:** followed by Dancing at The Christmas Party

(bring your own nibbles and drinks)

Pagham Village Hall

Tickets £8.00 from Judy 264622