

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
4.00 pm Evening Worship
- Tuesday 7.00 pm Eucharist in Church
- Wednesday 10.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

The church is open every day for visitors and private prayer, all welcome!

We remember those who have died: Margaret Shearing; Eugene West; Kathleen Marsh; Derek Pugh, Colin Webb, Brian Lewis, Joan Hardie, Fred Nolson and Anne Warren.

Jaycie Hauxwell and Larson Torbjorn Ison Cotterill were baptised.

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 10th - *Speaker:* Ann Gristwood

Subject: Christmas Songs—Choir

Competition: A Homemade cracker

Monthly Teapot Café at St Ninian's Church Hall, Pagham Road.

This new enterprise, set up by Pagham United Reformed Church, runs on the first Tuesday of the month, between 10 am and 12 noon. We welcome carers, those they care for, and anyone needing company, in a dementia friendly atmosphere.

Tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits are provided free.

The church has a large car park and disabled access.

My Sister's House (MSH for short)

My Sister's House CIC is the only Women's Centre in West Sussex. We provide support, information, advice and more for women of any age, with any issue. Our accessible women-only drop in is a safe, confidential space.

To find out more, visit our website or get in touch.

108c London Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 1BD www.mysistershouse.info

Phone: 01243 697800 **Email: office@mysistershouse.info**

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

Church Website: www.paghamchurch.org

Churchwardens: churchwarden@paghamchurch.org

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Good News December 2019

Year of Vocation Prayer Intention:

All who work as volunteers.

Prayer for December

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so may we with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Christmas Eve

© Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England

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 and Wythering Close.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

At St Thomas à Becket Church on Sunday 8th December at 4.00pm

Followed by refreshments.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT St Thomas à Becket

Tuesday 17th December - 7.30pm Carols at The Bear

Thursday 19th December - Chichester Voices Christmas Concert

Christmas Eve - 4.00pm - Crib Service

11.30pm - Midnight Eucharist

Christmas Day - 8.00am Holy Communion

9.45am Family Eucharist

Sunday 29th December - 4.00pm Christmas Carols (sing your favourites)



Letter to the Parish

As I write to you this month, the last of the leaves gradually descend past my window and assemble on the grass and pavement beneath, to await the crystalline dew of the first December frosts. Nature is entering its seasonal time of rest. Autumn is past; Winter is here.

Of course, the arrival of winter signals the festivities of Christmas. Though, the excitement I recall of my childhood has been somewhat muted by the ever-growing anticipation of this festival in society: I spotted the first Christmas cards and Christmas decorations in shops in August this year! It has become an event marked and marketed by shopping, food, presents, parties, and much more; but Christmas ought not to be another product of popular culture: it should and does remain a seminal celebration in the Christian calendar. Christmas remembers the birth of Jesus Christ. It truly was and remains to this day good news; news that was once carried with delight upon the lips of angels to the shepherds, by a star to the wise men, and promised by prophets of old to humanity and the rest of creation: God is with us.

In anticipation of such a celebration, we enter the season of Advent. Advent means 'arrival' or 'to come', meaningfully beginning the new Church year with a time of anticipation and reflection, awaiting the coming of our Saviour in the person of Jesus, but perhaps more significantly, to also await Christ's second coming, in which our

Lord will come in majesty and glory, as Judge and King of all. So, as we wait eagerly to celebrate the birth of Christ, we - as the Church, the community in which Christ dwells in the power of the Holy Spirit - also renew our hope in the second coming of Christ.

Advent historically has - and in some parts of the Church, still does - a far more sombre tone, with fasting and sorrow for wrongdoing as part of the waiting and preparation. Arguably, this year's Advent feels as if it already has a bit of a sombre tone for different reasons - politically, socially, religiously - both in this country and abroad; however, just as the nativity brought light and hope into a time of darkness, poverty, conflict and oppression two thousand years' ago, so again the remembrance of such an act of God's love in history and the hope of God's promises to overturn the powers of evil at the end of time ought to fill our hearts with joy. So, let us this Advent reflect on the love of God that is in Christ Jesus, a love that embraced humanity and brought comfort and hope into the world, that we may rejoice and share the good news: "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:78-79, NRSV Bible Translation)

With best wishes for a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

Gemma Green

Gemma is currently training for the priesthood at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, West Yorkshire.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY

Peter and Carol-Anne welcome visitors to their "Nutcracker and the Four Realms" themed Christmas Spectacular. Just pop round when the Open sign is on or call 07778300824 to make sure we will be in to greet you. All in the aid of our sailing charity. At 11 Church Lane, Pagham. From 9th December until 31st December. Dusk till 9pm.

PAGHAM NEW YEAR 2020

Pagham Village Hall Trust welcome in 2020 at their New Year's Eve Disco Party with *Atlantic Sounds* on Tuesday 31st December at the Pagham Village Hall, Pagham Road, Pagham PO21 4NJ from 8.00 pm until 12.30 am. Tickets in advance £14-00 - please ring Judy on 01243 264622 Bring your own food and drink Wheelchair access Proceeds to the Village Hall

Pagham & District Residents' Association

CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY

Sunday 15th December 3pm - 5pm

Pagham Village Hall £5 per person

Join us for an afternoon of carols and seasonal songs, with light-hearted entertainment and a festive tea

Admission by ticket only - in advance

Telephone Rita on 262814

It's almost Panto time! Oh no it isn't! Oh yes it is!

Pagham Players present

ALADDIN

at the Pagham Village Hall

Fri 6th December at 7.30pm with mulled wine and nibbles

Sat 7th December at 7.00pm Followed by A Christmas Party

Tickets: £10, Children £5 Contact Judy on 264622

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 should be sent to

Mr Mike Wake, 2 Barton Close, Bognor Regis. PO21 4NH.

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.

