



WELCOME to ST. PETER'S CHURCH WESTHAMPNETT
Stane Street PO18 0NT (towards A285 for Petworth)

NEWSLETTER
for
DECEMBER 2015

Rector of the Benefice: St.Paul's Chichester with St Peter's
Reverend Canon Simon Holland

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For more information about St Peter's please go to
stpeterswesthampnett.org

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2015

Sunday 6th December	8.00am	Holy Communion.
<i>2nd Sunday in Advent</i>	9.45am	Family Service
Sunday 13th December	9.45am	Parish Eucharist

<i>3rd Sunday in Advent</i>		Sunday School in the Vestry
Friday 18th December	7.00pm	Carol Service
Sunday 20th December	8.00am	Holy Communion
<i>4th Sunday in Advent</i>	9.45am	Parish Eucharist
		There is NO Sunday Club
	4.00pm	Crib Service
Thursday 24th December	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
<i>Christmas Eve</i>		
Friday 25th December	9.45am	Parish Eucharist
<i>Christmas Day</i>		
Sunday 27th December	9.45am	Parish Eucharist
<i>Sunday after Christmas</i>		

Morning Prayer takes place every Wednesday from 9 - 9.30 am. All very welcome.

Pastoral Care : If you would like to speak to a priest, for any reason, please contact the Rev'd Canon Simon Holland or the Rev'd Karen Young whose details are on the front of this Newsletter.

Sunday School and Children's Church: Please note that Sunday School will be held in the Church Vestry for the next few months – listen or look out for updates but in the meantime we look forward to seeing you **in church**. For more information please contact Kate Peregrin: kateperegrin@gmail.com

Carol Service: Friday 18th December at 7pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. There will be a raffle of a Christmas Hamper, for which tickets will be available on the night. The draw will be at the end of the service.

Mothers and Others : Monday 21st December at 7.30pm. Christmas get-together to share mulled wine, mince pies, carols round the piano and winter words spoken by a special guest. sandrafowlerbennett@yahoo.co.uk

Produce stall: Our next stall will be in **January**. Thank you for your support throughout the year. The proceeds go to the church, helping to keep it the warm, welcoming and well cared-for place that it is. Lesley Davis and Carolyn Farquhar :lesley@davisaylingmedia.co.uk

Foodbank : next collection is on 13th December : Toiletries and nappies are always needed and at this season of Christmas, 'fancy' biscuits and small packets of sweets would be welcome. Thank you for your support. Tracey Flitcroft. traceyflitcroft@sky.com

From the Rev. Karen Young

It has to be said I do not have green fingers. I can just about manage a few pots on the patio, but mowing the lawn is more a case of keeping the dandelions trimmed. And the flowers and shrubs in my small garden certainly have a 'natural' look. Now that the mild November has taken its toll, there is just a wild mess to view from my study window and I gaze at it despondently and promise that I will do better in the spring. Ironically I am descended from a long line of market gardeners – my paternal forebears had a large stall at Covent Garden – but those genes did not come my way I'm afraid.

The season of Advent begins on 29th November this year and it marks the start of the church's New Year. Advent is the time when we can look to the events which

brought about the birth of Christ and forward to our yearly celebration of Christmas and still further forward to his coming again. And in so doing we each need to consider how we are shaped by our heritage and how our lives are prepared for Christ's return.

Advent requires us to take action. Not action which involves rushing round the shops; not a long list of good works; not a burst of cleaning the house (or garden!). Advent action means being alert to what God might be saying to us. In the light of our individual history and in the hope for our future, advent is a time of praying, watching, thinking and discerning where God is calling us.

We are all of us shaped by our pasts – our ancestors and families and those who have influenced us as well as our own (mis)deeds. Looking back can be a helpful exercise to understand how we have arrived at this moment and how we can go forward. But being alert to God in the here and now gives us encouragement and above all hope.

I also number among my ancestors Gary Cooper and an Archdeacon – so gardening apart, there is hope for me yet! Karen

Thank you to the ladies and gentleman and who organised, mixed and dispensed the Christmas puddings on Stir-up Sunday. I'm sure that they are all now cooked and ready for us to enjoy at Christmas.

At St. Pauls....

Saturday 5th December at 7pm. The Chichester Singers are holding a Christmas Concert in St Paul's Church, Churchside. Tickets from 01243 572195 or at the door.

In the Cathedral...

Tuesday 22nd December at 3pm. Carol Service. No tickets required. Further details from www.chichestercathedral.org.uk



God's Christmas gift



From Nativity to His last hour
 Kings and Jewish priests hated Him
 For wisdom challenging their power
 Thus marking Him as a victim
 With countercultural advice,
 Contrary to the status quo,
 On life ways to gain Paradise:
 So to keep it Christ had to go
 And most folk 'just went with the flow'.

Yet some sinners loved Jesus,
 Joseph and Mary's Christmas child,
 And did not understand the fuss
 Against miracles He compiled
 Raised by rulers at the time
 That bade most cheer for death by cross
 In a cruel Calvary's pantomime
 That became Christian's gain not loss;
 Yet to some this truth is still dross!

Ronald Rodger Caseby, Chichester.
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We wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas

