

Sunday 22nd December 2024
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Paul's
Church
Rusthall

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.



8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

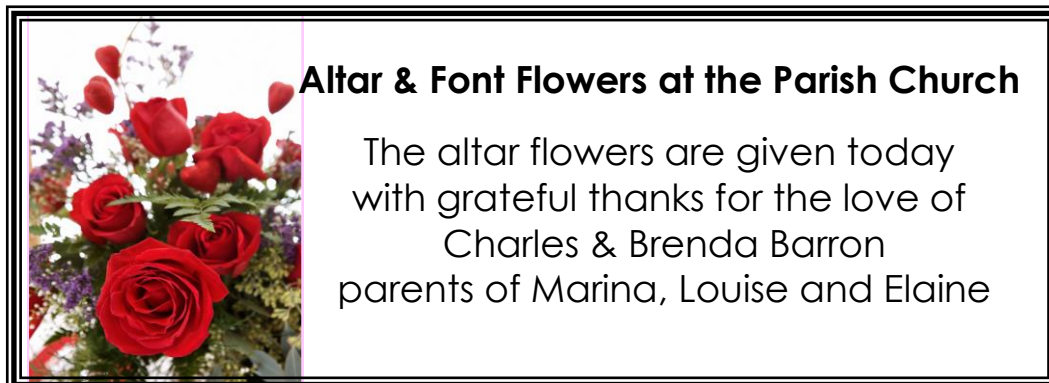
President & Preacher: The Vicar

**10.00 am Joint Crib Service at the Parish Church
(followed by said Holy Communion)**

President: The Vicar

6.30 pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight

Minister: The Vicar



Altar & Font Flowers at the Parish Church

The altar flowers are given today
with grateful thanks for the love of
Charles & Brenda Barron
parents of Marina, Louise and Elaine

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY 23rd December

- 10.00 am Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer
- 10.30 am The Choir sing carols at Munro House
- 3.00 pm Choir ice skating
- 5.00 pm Choir trip to the pantomime

TUESDAY 24th Christmas Eve

Parish Office closed

11.30 pm Midnight Mass for Christmas



WEDNESDAY 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

Parish Office closed

- 8.00 am Holy Communion – The Vicar**
- 10.00 am Family Carol Service followed by Shortened Holy Communion**

THURSDAY 26th Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

Boxing Day

Parish Office closed

FRIDAY 27th John, Apostle and Evangelist

Parish Office closed

SATURDAY 28th The Holy Innocents

NEXT SUNDAY 29th December

First Sunday of Christmas

- 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP)**
President and Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW)**
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Family Service Carols at the Church Centre + Zoom**
Lead: Jean Kerr, Link: Karen Miller

NB: no evening service

NEWS AND NOTES

From The Vicarage

Greetings to you all and a very warm welcome to our services today, the fourth Sunday of Advent. Special welcome to our joint 10:00 am Crib Service and our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6:30 pm. As we worship together today, may our hope in God's faithful and providential guidance be renewed and our love for all be strengthened that we may readily serve God by effectively serving one another.

Ronnie

2025 175th Anniversary of the Consecration of St Paul's Church.

We are planning to make a large banner to display on the outside of the Church Centre. This will incorporate elements from the 175 logo, (above) but with a floral theme. To do this several hundred knitted/crocheted flowers will be required so we need help from as many people as possible to make flowers for the display. The flowers can be any colour and thickness of yarn but must not exceed 10 cm (4") wide. If anyone needs a pattern or some yarn to get started, please get in touch with me on email jeak4000@gmail.com.

There will be collecting boxes in both Churches. We aim to put the display up after Easter. It would be great if lots of people join in with the project.

Thank you – Jean.

Date for your Diay

On Saturday the 4th January we are having a quiz and supper evening at the Church Centre to launch our anniversary year. The cost is £10 per head, tables of 6 so £60 a table. Limited to 10 tables. The evening will begin at 6.30 pm. Please see Chris Dobson for information and tickets.

St Paul's Anniversary Calendar for 2025

The calendar is now ready and available as part of our celebrations for next year. It is on sale in both Churches or you can contact Ginette. It is great value at £6 (or £20 for 4) and will make super Christmas presents.

Dates

Please note that the office will be closed from Tuesday 24th December until Thursday 2nd January. The Vicar will be away from Wednesday 1st January until Saturday 25th January.

Removal of Pews

As you are probably aware we have removed pews from the front of the Parish Church to facilitate wheelchair/buggy spaces. This trial will end on the 9th March. We will produce a survey in the New Year to gauge the views of the congregations. The PCC would like to apply to the Diocese to make this a permanent arrangement.

Playtime at St Paul's Wednesday 9 am to 11 am

Our Christmas party on Wednesday was great fun and very well attended. We wish you a wonderful Christmas and New Year and look forward to welcoming children and carers back on the 8th January as we celebrate our 1st Anniversary. A huge thank you to the PT team who have made our group such a success. If you are interested in volunteering please get in touch.

Children's Group at Family Service

Our last children's group before we break up for Christmas is today (15th December). We will resume on 5th January but of course all children are very welcome to come to any services at the Parish Church and Church Centre whilst we aren't running. Contact Mary Holmes for more information mary@mandmcreative.co.uk - 07881371684.

Email Scam

A member of our congregation has fallen victim to an email scam. They were asked to buy gift cards as surprise presents on behalf of the Church. Fortunately the bank blocked the payment. Please be alert to the risk of scams, they are often very clever and seem credible, using names known to the person targeted.

The Molyneux Almshouses in Rusthall

We are charitable trust providing housing accommodation for "men and women of limited financial means". There is a small one-bedroom bungalow vacant. If you are (or you know anyone who might be) interested in living at the Almshouses, please contact the Administrator Leila, on 07504 839 548, for more information. Applicants must be current or past long-term residents of Tunbridge Wells. The Trustees are hoping to fill the vacancy by as soon as possible.

Lighting the Paths for Midnight Mass

If you are able to help put the flares in, light them and/or remove them the following day please speak to Ronnie.

CONTACTS

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