

# Sunday 14th December 2025

## The Third Sunday of Advent

St. Paul's  
Church  
*Rusthall*

### Collect for the Week

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.



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#### 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

President and Preacher: The Vicar

#### 10.00 am Parish Eucharist with Baptisms

President and Preacher: The Vicar

#### 10.00 am Family Service Carols and Readings at the Church Centre with + zoom

Lead: Jean Kerr Link: Karen Miller

Music by the Family Service Music Group

#### 6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)

Minister and Preacher: The Vicar

Hymn: NEH 6 Hark the glad sound, the Saviour comes

Psalm: 74 vs 1 – 10

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 5. 8 - end (NRSV page 661) Brad Collins

Magnificat: C

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Acts 13. 13 – 41 (NRSV page 141) Cherry Mead

Nunc Dimittis: C

Anthem: This is the record of John - Gibbons

Hymn: NEH 16 Wake, O Wake! With tidings thrilling

Amen: 8



#### The Altar Flowers

today were donated by Deborah Bruce.

In loving memory of her parents,  
Jo and Peter Gibby and her husband's  
parents, Hazel and Steve Bruce.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> December

- 9.00 am** Morning prayer at the Parish Church – The Vicar  
**10.00 am** Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer

### TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> Parish Office closed

### WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup>

- 9.00 am** Morning prayer at the Church Centre – The Vicar  
**9.00 am** Playtime at St Paul's  
**10.00 am** Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer

### THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup>

- 10.00 am** Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer  
**11.00 am** Communion at Mount Ephraim House  
**11.30 am** Holy Communion at the Church Centre – The Vicar  
**12.30 pm** Lunch Club at the Church Centre  
**7.30 pm** Living Hope, Tim Harrold

### FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup>

- 10.00 am** Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer  
**12.30 pm** Community Larder at the Church Centre

### SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup>

- 10.00 am** Church Choir Carol Singing outside the Church Centre & village  
**10.00 am - 4 pm** Choristers Café in the Lodge

### NEXT SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> December

#### The fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8.00 am** Holy Communion (BCP)  
President and Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am** United Crib Service followed by shortened Holy Communion (CW)  
Ministers: The Vicar, Mary Holmes; President: The Vicar
- 6.30 pm** Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols  
Minister: The Vicar
- 10.00 am – 4 pm** Choristers Café at the Lodge

# NEWS AND NOTES

## **From the Vicarage**

Greetings and a very warm welcome to our services today, the Third Sunday of Advent. Special welcome to Willow and Ronnie who are being baptised at the Parish Church and to their parents and godparents, and to all those attending the service of Carols and Readings at the Church Centre. As we continue our journey through Advent, I pray that we will do so patiently and expectantly.

I am saddened to inform you all of the death of Shirley Barter. Shirley was a staunch member of St Paul's and a faithful disciple of Christ. Many of us have been blessed by her ministry among us, including her prayers of intercession. May she hear the Lord's acclaim of 'well done, good and faithful servant'. May Shirley's soul rest in peace and, through the mercy of God, rise in glory. Let us continue to hold Bill and the entire family in our thoughts and prayers.

The funeral will take place at the Parish Church on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 2.00 pm.

## **Choir Carol Singing 20<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

All are very welcome to come along to the Church Centre to enjoy the Choir's wonderful Carol Singing from 10 am.

## **Family Crib Service, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 10 am Parish Church**

We would love as many children as possible to be part of this warm friendly service! All ages are welcome to join our cast of children with either a speaking or non-speaking role. Costumes & Christmas Treats provided. For further details please contact: Mary Holmes 07881 371684 [mary@mandmcreative.co.uk](mailto:mary@mandmcreative.co.uk)

## **The St Paul's Church and Rusthall Village Cookbook**

The St Paul's Church and Rusthall Village Cookbook, celebrating our 175th anniversary make a great stocking filler! It's a celebratory collection of recipes by village residents and businesses who not only share some fabulous dishes but also their connection to the village.

Copies cost £7 and are available at both the Parish Church and the Church Centre and from the Parish Office. All profit goes to our church.

## **Church Youth Council**

If you enjoy fun and games, then please join the CYC on New Year's Day from 2 pm – 6 pm for more festive jovialities. The CYC have extended an open invitation to anyone who would like to attend their meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

In February 2026 the CYC will be exploring the topic 'Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink!' Sandy Elsworth will be speaking on this crucial topic. If anyone would like to join please contact Angela Culley email [culley.angela@yahoo.com](mailto:culley.angela@yahoo.com) or Jean Kerr email [jeankerr@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](mailto:jeankerr@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk)

## Christmas Services 2025 Parish Church



**21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 Sunday at 10.00 am**

United Crib Service at the Parish Church, followed with shortened Communion

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 at 6.30 pm**

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

**Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Midnight Mass 11.30 pm

**Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Family Service

### Church Centre

**14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 Sunday 10.00 am**

Carols and readings

#### CONTACTS

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