

# Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025

## 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 and Preacher: The Vicar

### 10.00 am United Crib Service followed by shortened Communion

Ministers: The Vicar; Mary Holmes

### 6.30 pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight

Minister: The Vicar

Refreshments will be served after the Service



### The Altar Flowers at the Parish Church

The Altar flowers today are donated by Jean and John Kerr. In loving memory of George Maxwell Arthur and Evelyn Smith, Jean's parents and John's father, Derrick William Kerr.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### MONDAY 22<sup>nd</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  
10.30 am Carol singing at Chamberlain Court  
2.30 pm Carol singing at Rusthall Lodge

### TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> Parish Office closed

- 10.30 am Carol singing at Brains Matter  
3.00 pm Choir ice skating  
5.00 pm Choir trip to the Tunbridge Wells Panto

### WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup>

#### **Christmas Eve**

- 9.00 am Morning prayer at the Church Centre – The Vicar  
10.00 am Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer  
11.30 pm **Midnight Mass for Christmas**  
President: The Vicar Preacher: Tim Harrold

### THURSDAY 25<sup>th</sup>

#### **Christmas Day** Parish Office Closed

- 8.00 am **Holy Communion – The Vicar**  
10.00 am **Family Carol Service followed by shortened Holy Communion**  
President and Preacher: The Vicar

### FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup>

#### **Boxing Day** *Stephen, Deacon, first martyr* Parish Office Closed

### SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> *John, Apostle and Evangelist*

- 10.00 am – 4 pm Choristers Café at the Lodge – The Choir

### NEXT SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> December

#### **First Sunday of Christmas**

- 8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)**  
10.00 am **Parish Eucharist (CW)**  
President and Preachers: The Vicar  
10.00 am **Family Service**  
Lead: Rev. Nicholas Burton Link: Vivien Littlechild  
10.00 am – 4 pm Choristers Café at the Lodge – Team Rameau



#### **Font Flowers at the Parish Church**

The font flowers are given  
in joyful memory of Marina Alvena Cross with  
everlasting love from all her family.

## 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 10:00 am united Crib service and our service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6:30 pm at the Parish church. A very special welcome to the Mayor and Mayoress of Tunbridge Wells who are with us for the Service of Nine Lessons and carols.

We are very grateful to the Marthas and the Flower Team for cleaning and decorating the Parish church so beautifully. It helped to put us in the festive mood.

We are saddened, though by the recent gun attack at Bondi beach in Australia, where 15 people lost their lives. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and members of the Jewish communities across the world. I pray that we may all experience the peace and goodwill that was proclaimed by the angel at the birth of the Christ child. I wish you all a merry Christmas.

### Shirley Barter

Shirley's Funeral will take place on Monday 29th December at 2.00 pm at St. Paul's Parish Church, Langton Road, Tunbridge Wells. TN4 8XD and afterwards at The Spa Hotel, Mount Ephraim, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8XJ. Family flowers only please. Donations to charity via

[www.shirleybarter.muchloved.com](http://www.shirleybarter.muchloved.com)

RSVP for catering and dietary requirements to [david.barter@rocketmail.com](mailto:david.barter@rocketmail.com) 07764 226344. She left instructions "Please don't wear black – unless it is what you usually wear!"

### Shirley Barter Charitable Donations

Bill and the family have very generously proposed that donations made in memory of Shirley can go towards the parish General Fund. Donations can be made via Give a Little or A Church Near You or via a QR code that can be found on posters in the Church, Church Centre and in the Lodge. We are very grateful to Bill and the family and all donors for their generosity. The PCC will work with Bill and the family to agree a suitable way in which all moneys raised in memory of Shirley can be used.

### Family Service

Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the carols and readings service last Sunday. If I have added correctly, there were 16 readers, 5 band members and Chris on PC who all did a fantastic job. It would not have been the same without you all.

### Notice

There will be no BCP Holy Communion Service or 9 am Morning Prayer at the Church during January 2026. However, the 9 am Morning Prayer at the Church Centre will continue every Wednesday. Also, there will be no Thursday Communion Service at the Church Centre until February.

## **The Flower Team**

Sponsorship December 28<sup>th</sup> from The Flower Team wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and peaceful 2026.

## **Flower Sponsor List**

The 2026 Flower Sponsorship form is now up in the library and ready to receive new sponsors for the New Year.

## **Living Hope**

The Advent Course has now completed for 2025. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.30 pm in the Sanctuary.

## **Taizé Service at Church Centre**

The next Taizé Service will be held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 4 pm.

## **Church Youth Council**

A reminder that the CYC have invited everyone to an afternoon of festive fun & games on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 from 2 pm at The Lodge.

The first meeting of the CYC is on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026. The CYC will be exploring the topic 'MEET YOUR ANCESTORS! The Earth Story, Human Story told through fossils and skulls! Sandy Elsworth will be speaking on this crucial topic. 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) for further details

## **Parish Office Christmas and New Year Opening Times**

The Parish Office will be closed from 24<sup>th</sup> December 2025 until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026. Closed New Year's Day 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

## **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 BCP Holy Communion

10:00 am Family Service

## **CONTACTS**

The Vicar: The Revd. Ronnie Williams 01892 521357, mobile 07796 655225

Parish Office: Mrs Helen Reynolds 01892 521447

Email: [office@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](mailto:office@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk)

Website: [www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk)

*Registered Charity in England & Wales, Number 1132681*