

ST PAUL'S BECKENHAM





E-Notice Sheet

Christmas 2025 and 

New Year 2026



Sun 21st Dec <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) - With Rev'd Rachel Winn
	10.30am	Holy Communion Theme: Celebration With Sarah Butler, Rev'd Rachel Winn and Rev'd Clive Grinham Readings: Psalm 100 read by Marian Sewell Luke 15: 8-10 read by Marion McNally Prayers: Led by Wesley Guy
	6.00pm	Community Carols Around the outdoor Christmas tree, with the Crystal Palace Progress Band. Followed by mince pies and mulled wine
	7.15pm	Carol Service With Keith Howick and Rev'd Rachel Winn
Wed 24th Dec <i>Christmas Eve</i> 	4.00pm	Christingle Service With Alison Charlesworth and Rev'd Rachel Winn
	11.30pm	Midnight Holy Communion With Rev'd Rachel Winn and Sarah Butler Readings: Isaiah 9: 6-7 read by Elaine Storey Luke 2: 1-14 read by Anne Howick Prayers: Led by Penny Power
Thurs 25th Dec <i>Christmas Day</i>	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) – With Rev'd Neil Fairlamb
	10.30am	Christmas Day Celebration With David Charlesworth and Rev'd Rachel Winn Reading: John 1: 1-14 read by Zach Winn Prayers: Led by Keith Howick 
Sun 28th Dec <i>1st Sunday of Christmas</i>	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) – With Rev'd Rachel Winn
	10.30am	Morning Worship With Rev'd Rachel Winn and Keith Howick Readings: Isaiah 63: 7-9 read by Youla Yates Hebrews 2: 10-19 read by Anthea Prendergast Prayers: Led by Sarah Butler
Sun 4th Jan <i>Epiphany</i>	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) – With Rev'd Nigel Poole
	10.30am	Morning Worship With David Charlesworth and Rev'd Clive Grinham Readings: Isaiah 60: 1-6 read by Ishmael Gowero Matthew 2: 1-12 read by Liz Dore

The 10.30am services and the 7.15pm Carol Service will be live-streamed and available on the [St Paul's YouTube channel](#)

St Paul's Notices



Choir Rehearsal for Carol Service – Friday 19th December, 7.30pm, in the hall.

Christmas Connect Café – Saturday 20th December, 9.30am – 11.30am. Join us for this Christmas edition of our popular monthly Community Café in the Church Hall! As well as the customary good coffee, good company, bacon butties, toast and marmalade, we will be serving pigs in blankets and mince pies. No charge, but donations are welcome.

Bags for Christingle – On Wednesday 24th December, at 10am in the church hall, we will be putting together the bags for Christingle. It would be really special if people could help with this important work, so that we have enough bags ready for the service at 4pm that afternoon. Please speak to Anne Howick if you are able to help at this time.

Church Office – During Christmas week, the church office will be open on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December, but closed between Christmas and New Year. It will re-open on Monday 5th January.

Morning Prayer – There will be no 9am Morning Prayer services over the next couple of weeks. The services will be resuming on Wednesday 7th January.

Friendship Group – The next meeting will be on Thursday 8th January, at 2.30pm, in the church hall and will be planned and led by the Harris students. All are welcome.



Gardening Team – Saturday 3rd January, 10am. You would be very welcome to come and join the team in the church garden. Tea, coffee and cake are provided!

Babies & Toddler Group – We will be meeting up again on Thursday 8th January.

Thursday Zoom Prayer – We will not be meeting over the Christmas and New Year period.

Sunday Squad – will resume on Sunday 11th January, after the Christmas break.

Food Vouchers - Many thanks to all who supported the much-needed project and contributed towards the 50 x £50 food vouchers, which have been distributed to Worsley Bridge School and St Paul's Pre-School.



Bible-Reading Notes – If you have ordered Bible-reading notes for 2025, please collect your January notes from the back pew shelf on the right hand side of church.

Postage Stamps - Please remember to save your stamps from any Christmas cards received and put them in the box for used stamps under the notice boards at the back of church. These can be used by ICS to raise funds. Don't throw them away - bring them here!

Epiphany Sunday – Please note that our 10.30am service on 4th January will be a Morning Worship service, not Holy Communion. There will be an 8am BCP Holy Communion service, as usual.

Youth Alpha – On Wednesday evenings from 14th January. We are planning on running Youth Alpha for anyone aged 11 – 18. The evenings will start at 7pm with food, followed by a video and discussion about the Christian faith. If you are interested, please speak to Rev'd Rachel.

Date for the Diary – Sunday 25th January 2026 is St Paul's Day and we will be having a fellowship lunch together after the 10.30am service.

Tea and Coffee - Many thanks to the Wells Homegroup for serving tea and coffee on Sunday 21st December. On 28th December, the Birkett Homegroup will be on duty, and on 4th January, the Blakely Homegroup will be on duty.



Your PCC Matters: A Digest of December's PCC Meeting

The formal minutes will be made available on the PCC noticeboard at the back of church once they have been agreed.

The PCC met on 4th December with a long agenda, including the following items:

- Six heaters are being used while our heating system is out of action. They are being hired on a monthly rolling contract. A senior engineer from the company that services the church heating system came on 10th December and identified a more serious problem (a cracked diffuser plate). Given that parts are unavailable, repair is uncertain; we await news. For the longer term, work is in hand to find an alternative heating system. An energy audit has been carried out and a working group has been set up to study the report. The Net Zero Advisers from Rochester Diocese are willing to help us in finding a way forward, and a meeting is now set with them on 8th January.
- The PCC agreed that a non-alcoholic alternative to wine would be offered at Holy Communion from the table near the pulpit.
- A draft advertisement and person specification for an Assistant Church Administrator to take some of the heavy workload off Stephanie Fox was discussed. With a few amendments, this will be advertised.



Christmas Tree Tags – In support of Open Doors

The Christmas tree tags are an alternative to sending cards to our church friends, and the money we might spend is instead donated to a charity. This year the charity is Open Doors, which supports persecuted Christians worldwide. The little Christmas tree is at the back of church with tags to sign and put on the tree.



Resolve Course

We are running the Resolve Course again in January, on Monday evenings (5th, 12th, 19th and 26th January), from 7.30pm – 9pm. Resolve is a four-week course designed to reflect on how we make and keep our New Year resolutions, and to enable conversations! All welcome. Free of charge, light refreshments provided.

The sessions will involve group discussion, a guidebook that includes topics to explore, and four 20-minute videos that consult a doctor, a psychologist, a psychiatrist, an anthropologist, a faith leader and a comedian about what it means to make positive changes in our lives. Any questions, or to sign up, contact Keith Howick on 07747 033473.



Community Notices

Welcare Fundraiser: Bob Ogley is giving a talk on the 1987 Great Storm. Saturday 7th February, 3pm at St Peter & St Paul Church hall, Bromley (behind Primark). Tickets £10 on the door. Please put this in your diaries.

Foodbanks - Many thanks to all who have donated to the foodbanks over the last year; these are very much appreciated by CAP (Penge) and Living Well. We shall continue to collect for Living Well over Christmas, and please put your donations in the tubs in the church porch, preferably in strong carrier bags. Please check that nothing contains alcohol.





Welcare - Mission of the Month (Nov & Dec)



Welcare works across several South London boroughs, offering support and advice for families with children aged up to the age of 13. It seeks to mitigate the impacts of social isolation, domestic abuse, financial hardship or disadvantage through small but significant interventions which can transform the lives of vulnerable children and their families. Please see Welcare's website <https://welcare.org> and the display at the back of church.

Wycliffe Bible Translators – Mission of the Month (Jan & Feb)

Mission of the Month for January and February is the work Julian does with Wycliffe Bible Translators for translation into the Yakar language in the Caucasuses in Southern Russia. He and the family had to return to live in Bournemouth when their visa was not renewed, but Julian continues to work online with the Yakar team who live in Yakarland.

Twice this year he has been able to meet up with the team to “conference” with them for a few days, the last being in Tblisi in Georgia. How would they translate “scroll” in Zechariah 5.2 where the prophet sees a flying scroll when there is no word for “scroll” in Yakar? Please pray about the tricky questions which arise.

Collects / Special Prayers

The 4th Sunday of Advent (21st December) - 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. Amen.

Christmas Eve - Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christmas Day - Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen

The 1st Sunday of Christmas (28th December) - God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



Epiphany - Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A Prayer

*Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.
Amen.*

Please pray...



- for the Connect Café on Saturday 20th December.
- for all who come to services at St Paul's over Christmas and for everyone who comes into the church or grounds.
- for children, young people and families during the Christmas holiday.
- for families who are unable to be together at this time, and for people who will be alone over the Christmas period.
- for safety as people travel to see loved ones over Christmas.
- for those in homes or places of work where there are stressful or abusive relationships.
- for the charities and agencies that offer advice and support to children and young people and their families, especially for Welcare in Bromley.
- for Living Well and CAP, and for all those who have need of their services.
- for those in prison and their families.
- for people to keep warm, especially thinking of those who have no home.
- for countries and areas where there is war and conflict.
- for the children, families and older people receiving 'Link to Hope' shoeboxes.
- for those in pain and struggling with health issues or increasing frailty.
- for all in hospital, undergoing treatment or awaiting appointments.
- for those mourning the loss of a loved one, especially if this is the first Christmas without them.

On our Electoral Roll we pray for Suzanne and Wesley Guy, Anne Harkness, Sheila Harman, Tim and Clari Harrington, and for our parishioners in Brindlewick Gardens.



Get in touch...

Administrator - Stephanie Fox: 020 8650 0501, admin@stpaulsbeckenham.org.uk

Vicar - Rev'd Rachel Winn: 07566 274388, vicar@stpaulsbeckenham.org.uk

Churchwardens - Anne Harkness: 07768 992559; Anthea Prendergast: 07811 530230

Parish Safeguarding Officer - Sandra Horner: 07701 069638; safeguarding@stpaulsbeckenham.org.uk

Communion at Home – If you are unable to come to a Communion service but would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please get in touch with Rev'd Rachel or Anne Howick (020 8658 0808)

Verse for the Year 2025

'Christ makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.'

Ephesians 4: 16 (New Living Translation)

***A very happy Christmas and New Year
from everyone at St Paul's!***

