

# THE PARISH OF SAINT PAUL DEPTFORD



The Diocese of Southwark

'anglo-catholic, inclusive, committed to prayer & justice.'

<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/deptford-st-paul>

The Rector & Parish Priest: Fr Paul Butler

tel: 0208 6927449 email: [stpaulsdeptford@btinternet.com](mailto:stpaulsdeptford@btinternet.com)

**Welcome to S. Paul's today in church or on Zoom.**  
Please follow the directions of the Churchwardens & Welcomers.



**Please turn off mobile phones.**

**No form of visual or sound recording, or any form of photography** is permitted during or after the services, without express permission. Thank you for your co-operation.



**WCs (& baby changing facilities) downstairs in the crypt.**  
**Do not attend** if you have Covid, symptoms, or a cold.  
'Love one another as I have loved you', says the Lord.



**Churchwardens: Ms Lavern Ford & Mr Andrew Taylor**

**Musicians: Mr William Parkinson**, Director of Music of S. Paul's,  
with **S. Paul's Singers**. **Organist: Alex Trigg**,  
former Organ Scholar of St John's College Cambridge

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of ADVENT**  
**21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2025**



**A SERVICE  
OF  
LESSONS & CAROLS  
FOR  
CHRISTMASS  
6.00pm**

**Officiant: The Rector**

*This Service is modelled on the Service of Nine Lessons with Carols, first drawn up by Bishop Edward Benson, (1829-96), when he was the first Bishop of Truro (1877-83), for use in his cathedral. He was subsequently Archbishop of Canterbury (1883-96) and had been Chancellor of Lincoln Cathedral (1872-77), where he set up Lincoln Theological College (1874), the Seminary attended by our Rector. Benson's carol service was simplified and adapted for use in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge in 1918 by the Dean, Eric Milner-White, subsequently Dean of York Minster (1941-63).*

**Please join in with the Bold Type**

**Carols in New English Hymnal**

(small green book)

## ¶ WELCOME & NOTICES

**The candles are lighted.**

**Congregational Carol**

**34: Once in royal David's city**

*1<sup>st</sup> verse solo, 2<sup>nd</sup> verse choir, then full*

## ¶ THE BIDDING PRAYER

**¶ In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore, let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and solidarity within the Church he came to build, and especially in this city of London and this parish of Deptford and diocese of Southwark.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

**Our Father**

**who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.**

May the almighty God bless us with his grace:  
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life:  
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above  
may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

## ¶ INVITATORY CAROL

S. Paul's Singers

**Christopher Robinson - Hereford Carol**

Author of Text: Anonymous - traditional

## ¶ THE LESSONS & CAROLS

### Before each lesson the reader says:

A reading from the *Book / Gospel of N,*  
Chapter *N*, beginning at the *N*, verse.

### After each lesson the reader says:

Here ends the first (or second etc) lesson.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

### THE FIRST LESSON:

#### The Fall

*Genesis 3: 8-19*

<sup>8</sup>The man and the woman heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup>He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup>He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup>Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” <sup>14</sup>The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.” <sup>16</sup>To the woman he said, “I will make your pangs in childbirth exceedingly great; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” <sup>17</sup>And to the man he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

S. Paul's Singers:

**Vaughan Williams - The Truth sent from above.**

**Arr. Robinson**

Author of Text: Anonymous - traditional

### THE SECOND LESSON:

#### The promise to Abraham

*Genesis 22: 15-19*

<sup>15</sup>The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup>and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, <sup>18</sup>and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.” <sup>19</sup>So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba, and Abraham lived at Beersheba.

S. Paul's Singers:

**Edgar Bainton - A Babe is Born, I Wys**

Author of Text: Anonymous, 15<sup>th</sup> century

**John Gardner - Tomorrow shall be my dancing day**

Author of Text: Anonymous - traditional, 16<sup>th</sup> century?

### THE THIRD LESSON:

#### The prophecy of the Messiah's birth

*Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7*

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Great will be his authority and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

S. Paul's Singers:

**Robert Lucas Pearsall - In dulci jubilo**

Author of Text: Anonymous - traditional

### Congregational Carol

**25: God rest you merry, gentlemen**

### THE FOURTH LESSON:

#### The prophecy of the Messiah's kingdom of peace

*Isaiah 11: 1-9*

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

S. Paul's Singers:

**Herbert Howells - A spotless rose**

Author of Text: Anonymous 14<sup>th</sup> century - traditional

### THE FIFTH LESSON: The Annunciation to Mary

**Gospel of S. Luke 1: 26-38**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.” <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.<sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>The

angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.<sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.<sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

*S. Paul's Singers:*

**Philip Moore - Lo! that is a marvellous change**

Author of Text: Exeter book 1072, trans. C. Kennedy

**THE SIXTH LESSON:**

**The birth of Jesus.**

**Gospel of S. Luke 2: 1-7**

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the inn.

*S. Paul's Singers:*

**Vaughan Williams - The blessed Son of God**

Author of Text: Translation by Miles Coverdale (c. 1488-1569)  
of a hymn by Martin Luther (1483-1546)

**Congregational Carol**  
**32: O little town of Bethlehem**

**THE SEVENTH LESSON:**  
**The shepherds go to the manger**

**Gospel of S. Luke 2: 8-16**

<sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, goodwill among people!" <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

*S. Paul's Singers:*

**John Rutter - Nativity carol**

Author of Text: John Rutter (b. 1945) 1963

**Peter Warlock - Benedicamus domino**

Author of Text: Anonymous - traditional

**THE EIGHTH LESSON:**  
**The magi are led by the star to Jesus**

**Gospel of S. Matthew 2: 1-12**

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup> When

King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him,<sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*S. Paul's Singers:*

**David Bednall - Noe Noe**

Author of Text: Anonymous - traditional, 15<sup>th</sup> century

**THE NINTH LESSON:**

**The Incarnation of the Word of God.**

**Gospel of S. John 1: 1-14**

*Sung by the Rector*

The Lord be with.  
**And also with you.**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of a man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Congregational Carol**  
**30: O Come, all ye faithful** (Adeste, fideles)  
verses 1-6 only

**¶ THE COLLECT**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

O God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,  
so we may with sure confidence behold him  
when he shall come to be our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**A prayer by the Most Revd Hosam Naoum,  
Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem**

O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you  
in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear  
which prevails in the Holy Land.  
Be with those who need you in these days of suffering;  
we pray for people of all faiths:  
Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land.  
While we pray to you, O Lord,  
for an end to violence and the establishment of peace,  
we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples.  
Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated  
with dignity and honour as your children,  
for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father.  
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**¶ THE BLESSING**

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the magi,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ-child  
be yours this Christmas;  
And may the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Congregational Carol  
26: Hark! the herald angels sing**

**¶ Organ Voluntary**

'Toccata' by Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)  
from his Symphony No. 5 in F minor, Op. 42, No. 1



∞ PLEASE MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE CRYPT FOR  
REFRESHMENTS & TAKE THIS SHEET AWAY WITH YOU. ∞

**RETIRING COLLECTION**



We are taking a retiring collection for the  
**DEC: MIDDLE EAST  
HUMANITARIAN APPEAL**

Your donations are supporting people in Gaza, Lebanon,  
the West Bank and Syria.

Winter is approaching in Gaza. Recent flooding inundated people's tents and destroyed their precious belongings. Children are sleeping without warm shelter, clothes or blankets. The humanitarian needs remain huge.

Since the ceasefire agreement in October 2025, DEC charities and their local partners have scaled up their work providing desperately needed, food, water, cash, medicine and essential supplies.

In Lebanon, the ceasefire agreement at the end of last year meant some of the families displaced by conflict could return to their communities and start to rebuild their lives. More than a year on, many still have no home to return to and are cut off from basic services.

DEC charities and their local partners have been working tirelessly throughout the conflict in unimaginably difficult conditions. Each day has brought new and unexpected challenges, but they have constantly adapted their work to deliver whatever aid they can.

The DEC brings together 15 leading UK aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently at times of humanitarian crisis overseas. DEC charities and their local partners have been working in Gaza throughout the crisis, scaling up their response whenever the situation allows to help provide lifesaving aid to Palestinians. They have decades of expertise in working in the region to help meet people's needs, despite all the challenges.

Following the ceasefire announcement in October 2025, DEC charities and their local partners have been scaling up their aid response. Donate now to the DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal to support this lifesaving work.

You can help people affected by the crisis in the Middle East by making a donation and helping to raise money for the DEC appeal. This will allow DEC charities and their local partners to scale up their response and reach more people.

£30 could provide blankets for six people

£50 could provide emergency food, for five families for one week

£100 could provide emergency shelter for five families

Donate today to help people in Gaza, Lebanon, the West Bank and Syria.

<https://donation.dec.org.uk/middle-east-appeal>

**THE KALENDAR**

**22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

**4<sup>th</sup> WEEK OF ADVENT**

**MASS & Other Service Times in church**

**MON, 22<sup>nd</sup>, O Rex gentium,**

**No Public Liturgies**

**TUES, 23<sup>rd</sup>, O Sapientia,**

**Mass at 6.00pm**

**CHRISTMASS @ S. PAUL'S 2025**

**WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

**CHRISTMASS EVE**

**(‘Midnight Mass’, a little earlier)**

**MASS during the NIGHT**

**at 9.00pm**

**THURSDAY 25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

**CHRISTMASS DAY**

**PARISH MASS**

**at 10.30am**

**FRI, 26<sup>th</sup>, S. Stephen, Protomartyr,**

**Mass 10am, EP 6pm**

**SAT, 27<sup>th</sup>, S. John the Evangelist,**

**Mass 10am, EP 6pm**

**28<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY of CHRISTMASS**

**MORNING PRAYER at 9am**

**PARISH MASS SUNG at 10.30am**

**Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector**

**EVENING PRAYER at 5pm**

**\* FURTHER INFORMATION & UPDATES \***

- Parish Website,**
- Church Noticeboard (churchyard forecourt),**
- Subscribe to the Rector's Weekly Email**

directly from the link on the website or by sending an email to:  
[stpaulsdeptford@btinternet.com](mailto:stpaulsdeptford@btinternet.com)  
sent every Friday via MailChimp (GDPR compliant)

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