



St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton

This week's music and notices

Sunday 21st December 2025 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

11.15am Choral Eucharist in the Nave
6.30pm Nine Lesson and Carols
in the Nave

The week ahead

Church will close after Eucharist on Christmas morning and will reopen on Monday 5th January 2026 (there will however be a Sung Eucharist on Sunday 28th December).

Tuesday 23rd December

10.00am No Pebbles this week

A free group for pre-school children and their parents/carers

Wednesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

4.00pm Christingle in the Nave
11.30pm Midnight Mass in the Nave

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day

11.15am Choral Eucharist in the Nave

Sunday 28th December - First Sunday of Christmas

11.15am Sung Eucharist in the Nave

Sunday 21st December 2025 - 11.15am

Choral Eucharist

Musical Setting

Missa brevis - Palestrina

Introit Hymn

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel,
That into exile drear is gone
Far from the face of God's dear Son.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

3. O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,
Gavest thy folk the ancient law.
Rejoice! Rejoice!...

5. O come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.
Rejoice! Rejoice!...

7. O come, Desire of nations!
Show thy kingly reign on earth below;
Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,
Restore the ruin of our fall.
Rejoice! Rejoice!...

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high!
Who madest all in earth and sky,
Creating man from dust and clay:
To us reveal salvation's way.
Rejoice! Rejoice!...

4. O come, thou Root of Jesse!
Draw the quarry from the lion's claw,
From those dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.
Rejoice! Rejoice!...

6. O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.
Rejoice! Rejoice!...

Tune: *Veni Emmanuel* (NEH 11)

Words: *Cologne 1710*, based on the Ancient Advent Antiphons
Tr. T. A. Lacey (1853-1931) and Editors

Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Romans 1. 1 - 7

Gradual Hymn

1. Hail, holy Joseph, hail!

Husband of Mary, hail!

Chaste as the lily flower

In Eden's peaceful vale.

3. Hail, holy Joseph, hail!

Prince of the house of God,

May his blest graces be

By thy sweet hands bestowed.

5. Hail, holy Joseph, hail!

God's choice wert thou alone;

To thee the Word made flesh

Was subject as a son.

2. Hail, holy Joseph, hail!

Father of Christ esteemed,

Father be thou to those

Thy foster Son redeemed.

4. Hail, holy Joseph, hail!

Comrade of angels, hail!

Cheer thou the hearts that faint,

And guide the steps that fail.

6. Mother of Jesu, bless,

And bless, ye saints on high,

All meek and simple souls,

That to Saint Joseph cry.

Tune: St Cecilia (NEH 499)

Word: Frederick W. Faber (1814-63)

Gospel

Matthew 1. 18 - end

Offertory Hymn

1. O food of men wayfaring,

The Bread of Angels sharing,

O Manna from on high!

We hunger; Lord, supply us,

Nor thy delights deny us,

Whose hearts to thee draw nigh.

3. O Jesu, by thee bidden,

We here adore thee, hidden

'Neath forms of bread and wine.

Grant when the veil is riven,

We may behold, in heaven,

Thy countenance divine.

2. O stream of love past telling,

O purest Fountain, welling

From out the Saviour's side!

We faint with thirst; revive us,

Of thine abundance give us,

And all we need provide.

Tune: In Allen Meinen Thaten (NEH 300)

Words: Latin 17th Century

Tr. Athelstan Riley (1858-1945)

Post Communion Motet

Alma redemptoris mater - Palestrina

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Final Hymn

1. Lo! he comes with clouds descending, Once for favoured sinners slain; Thousand thousand saints attending Swell the triumph of his train: Alleluya! God appears, on earth to reign.	2. Every eye shall now behold him Robed in dreadful majesty; Those who set at nought and sold him, Pierced and nailed him to the tree, Deeply wailing Shall the true Messiah see.
3. Those dear tokens of his passion Still his dazzling body bears, Cause of endless exultation To his ransomed worshippers: With what rapture Gaze we on those glorious scars!	4. Yea, Amen! let all adore thee, High on thine eternal throne; Saviour, take the power and glory: Claim the kingdom for thine own: O come quickly! Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

Tune: Helmsley (NEH 9)

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Organ Voluntary

Nine Lessons and Carols - 6.30pm

Please see separate service sheet

Wednesday 24th December 2025 Christingle - 4.00pm

Please see separate service sheet

Wednesday 24th December 2025 Midnight Mass - 11.30pm

Please see separate service sheet

Wednesday 25th December 2025

Choral Eucharist - 11.15am

Musical Setting

Festive Mass - Rawsthorne

Introit Hymn

1. O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the
Lord!

3. See how the Shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with
lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us, etc.

5. Child, for us sinners
Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and
love;
Who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?
O come, let us, etc.

7. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us, etc.

2. God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's
womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:
O come, let us, etc.

4. Lo! star-led chieftans,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child
Bring our heart's oblations:
O come, let us, etc.

6. Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven
above;
'Glory to God
in the Highest:'
O come, let us, etc.

Tune: *Adeste fideles* (NEH 30)
Words: Latin 18th century
Tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others

Collect

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Titus 2. 11 - 14

Gradual Hymn

**1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.**

**3. To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:**

**5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:**

**2. 'Fear not', said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.**

**4. The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.'**

**6. 'All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'**

Tune: Winchester Old (NEH 42)
Words: Nahum Tate(1652-1715)

Gospel

Luke 2. 1- 14

Offertory Hymn

**1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.**

**2. O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.**

**3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his Heaven,
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him,
Still the dear Christ enters in.**

**4. O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.**

Tune: Forest Green (NEH 32)

Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks

Post Communion Motet Still, still, still - Wilberg

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Final Hymn

**1. Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King,
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem:
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new born King.**

**2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:
Hark...**

**3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth:
Hark...**

Tune: Mendelssohn (NEH 26)
Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others

Organ Voluntary

Sunday 28th December 2025

Sung Eucharist - 11.15am

Musical Setting

Mass of St Thomas - Thorne

Introit Hymn

1. Unto us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
Came he to a world forlorn,
The Lord of every nation.

3. Herod then with fear was filled:
'A prince', he said, 'in Jewry!'
And all the little boys he killed
At Bethlem in his fury.

5. Omega and Alpha he!
Let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
Doth rend the air asunder.

2. Cradled in a stall was he
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That he all men surpasses.

4. Now may Mary's son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us.

Tune: *Puer Nobis* (NEH 39)

Words: Latin, 15th Century

Tr. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

Collect

Heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong: by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

1 Corinthians 1. 26 - 29

Gradual Hymn

1. Lovely flowers of martyrs, hail!
Smitten by the tyrant foe,
On life's threshold,—as the gale
Strews the roses ere they blow.

2. First to die for Christ—sweet lambs,
At the very altar ye,
With your fatal crowns and palms,
Sport in your simplicity.

**3. Yet is Herod's wrath in vain,
Though a thousand babes he slay;
Christ, amid a thousand slain,
Is in safety borne away.**

**4. Honour, virtue, glory, merit,
Be to thee, O Virgin's Son,
With the Father and the Spirit,
While eternal ages run.**

Tune: *Aus Der Tiefe* (NEH 67)

Words: Edward Caswall (1814-78)

Gospel

Matthew 2. 13 - 18

Offertory Hymn

**1. A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure!
The Virgin bears the Infant
With virgin-honour pure.
Repeat the hymn again!
**'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men!'****

**2. The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high!
And Cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky.
*Repeat the hymn again!...***

**3. While thus they sing your
Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
Ye oceans clap your hands.
*Repeat the hymn again!...***

**4. Since all he comes to ransom,
By all be he adored,
The Infant born in Bethl'em,
The Saviour and the Lord.
*Repeat the hymn again!...***

**5. And idol forms shall perish,
And error shall decay,
And Christ shall wield his sceptre,
Our Lord and God for ay.
*Repeat the hymn again!...***

Tune: *Es Ist Ein' Ros' Entsprungen* (NEH 21)
Words: Greek, St Germanus (634-734)
Tr. J. M. Neale (1818-66)

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, in your humility you have stooped to share our human life with the most defenceless of your children: may we who have received these gifts of your passion rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents to the purity of your sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; for you are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Final Hymn

**1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort
and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!**

**3. And when they came to Bethlehem
Where our dear Saviour lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling down,
Unto the Lord did pray:
O tidings...**

**2. From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:
O tidings...**

**4. Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth efface:
O tidings...**

Tune: God Rest You Merry (NEH 25)
Words: Traditional

Notices

Bible Readings for all services

References for the readings for all our services can be found in this booklet. If you wish to follow the readings, they are available online at bible.oremus.org (we use NRSV version), or perhaps consider bringing your own Bible. If you are reading this booklet online you are now able to click on the reading heading and this will take you directly to the Bible reading.

Visiting Priests at St Peter's

Our Presidents and Preachers for the next few Sundays will be:

21st December	Choral Eucharist	Rev Preb. Dr Sarah Schofield
	Nine Lesson and Carols	Rev Paul Farthing
24th December	Midnight Mass	Right Rev Dr Tim Wambunya, Bishop of Wolverhampton and Rev Preb. Dr Sarah Schofield
25th December	Choral Eucharist	Rev Paul Farthing
28th December	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Adrian Dorber

South Door Access - Now open

We are pleased to say that the damaged pinnacles have now been removed and the church can be accessed by the south door and disabled ramp.

Christmas Opening Hours

Church will be closed following Choral Eucharist on Christmas morning and will reopen for Sung Eucharist on Sunday 28th. Following this service church will be closed until Monday 5th January.

(Eucharist services will be offered on Sunday 4th January at St Chad & St Marks as well All Saints for anyone wishing to attend.)

St Peter's Car Park

The council have given agreement for members of the congregation to park for free if attending Christingle, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Eucharist.

The barrier giving access to the car park should be up to allow parking for St Peter's congregation on Sunday mornings and evenings. A new key pad has been installed to allow entry and exit if the barrier is down. The code is 2642. (this is strictly for use on Sundays only). **Please remember to display your yellow notice to signify that you are attending St Peter's.**

Christmas Card Box

The Christmas Card box is now at the back of church for you to exchange Christmas Greetings with other members of the congregation. With the price of postage a lot of people have given up sending cards but this is a way of doing so without the expense. Please do not leave cards for people who are not likely to attend church during the festive season. They will not be delivered unless by a friend who has checked for them. So please look through all the slots to see if you could deliver to someone you know is not going to be able to collect. The box will be in situ until the New Year but after that any cards left will be recycled.

Do you think you'd enjoy Flower Arranging ?

St Peter's have a few volunteers who create and /or maintain floral displays on a weekly basis. We are looking for people to join us.

We work as a team but often there are not enough of us to attend each week.

No experience is necessary and we welcome enthusiasm and new ideas. Please call into Church or phone the church office on 01902 422642.

Junior Church

Junior Church will take place on the following dates.

4th January and 18th January

Lunchtime Live!

These free Friday lunchtime recitals take place at 1.15pm on the following dates;
16th January Sebastien Sqouraditis Voice

Church Website

Our church website is now back up and running. Details can be found at www.ourladyoftheopenhand.org.

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Peter-Wolverhampton>

Pastoral support at St Peter's

There is a small team of volunteers to offer support to members of our church community in time of need. The volunteers are:

Kath Harrow
Akosua Ankrah

Di Polowyj

Michael Oginni

Photography/Filming

Could we please ask that no photography or filming takes place during our services for safeguarding reasons.

Good Shepherd Food Donations

There is a box at the back of church for donations to the Good Shepherd Ministry. If you have any tins or dried goods please consider donating them. Men's toiletries are also on their shopping list, copies of which are available next to the box.

Friends of the Music

If you would like to help us continue our work in producing the choral musicians of the future, please consider either giving us a one-off donation or becoming a Friend. One-off donations can be made directly to our account via the details below, and if you wish to become a member of the Friends of the Music, please complete the form in the leaflets at the back of church and return it to the Parish Office.

Account Name: Friends of St Peter's Church Music

Sort Code: 30-99-83 Account Number: 02010234

Giving

General & Gift Aid Donations

Those who are UK taxpayers and who wish to make a donation are asked to use one of the small white envelopes which can be found by the doors and in the pews.

Please ensure that you fill in your details in ink on the front. This will enable HMRC to add 25% to your gift. If you would like to commit yourself to regular giving through our envelope scheme, please ask one of the stewards or churchwardens

Contactless Payments

A contactless machine for donations is at the back of church. It is possible to gift aid your donation by following the onscreen instructions (you only need do this once).

St Peter's welcomes donations via our 'Give a Little' page, by using the following link

St Peter's - Give a Little or by scanning the QR code



Standing Orders

Perhaps the simplest way to give regularly is by Standing Order.

Please tell us so that we can do what's necessary to claim Gift Aid.

Please email us for our bank details.

Giving by Post

You are most welcome to send regular and one-off donations by posting a cheque (please see address below) but please do not send cash.

Contact Us

Parish Office, St Peter's House, 4 Exchange Street, WV1 1TS

email: wolvescentralparish@hotmail.co.uk

Phone: 01902 422642

University Chaplain	Rev Preb. Dr Sarah Schofield	322904
Churchwardens	Deborah Castle	341660
	Alan Bickley	741617
Deputy Churchwarden	Di Polowyj	764513 / 07904605529
Chief Steward	Sue Butler	07899 723050
Director of Music	Louis Stockton	422642
Head of Pastoral Care	Di Polowyj	764513 / 07904605529
Safeguarding & Child Protection	Di Polowyj	422642 / 07904605529
Assistant Safeguarding Officer	Ellie Frith	07905 769030
Bell Ringers	Richard Robson	790853
St Peter's House	Coffee Shop	546866
Gift Shop	Tony Perry	343109