

# The Parish Church of Aldwick St Richard



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*Registered Charity Number 1206799*

## **SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

### **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>08:00 Holy Communion</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>10:30 Coffee in the Mosse Hall</b>
	<b>11:15 Parish Family Eucharist</b>
	<b>12:45 Festive Lunch on Sunday with Regis Rhythms (Hall)</b>
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>09:15 Morning Prayer (Pagham)</b>
Conception of BVM	<b>19:30 The Bear Necessities (Bear Inn, Pagham)</b>
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>17:30 Evening Prayer on Zoom</b>
	<b>19:00 Tuesday@7 (Pagham)</b>
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>09:30 Morning Prayer (St. Richard's)</b>
	<b>17:30 Evening Prayer on Zoom</b>
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>09:15 Morning Prayer (Pagham)</b>
	<b>10:00 Holy Communion (Pagham)</b>
	<b>19:30 Pints of View (The Inglenook, Pagham)</b>
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No public worship today</b>
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No public worship today</b>
Saint Lucy	<b>10:00 – 16:00 Christmas Tree Festival</b>
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>08:00 Holy Communion</b>
<b>Advent 3</b>	<b>10:30 Coffee in the Mosse Hall</b>
	<b>11:15 Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>14:00 – 16:00 Come &amp; Sing Carols (Mosse Hall)</b>
	<b>14:00 – 16:00 Christmas Tree Festival and Carol singalong</b>

The Church is open for private prayer Monday – Saturday 10.00-4.00 and until 4.00 on Sunday  
*The Collection plate - If you would like to make an offering, please use the contactless Payaz machine or the collection plate, both of which can be found by the door. Thank you for your generosity.*

### **Hymns**

**Introit: 12 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry**

**Lighting of Advent Candles: (Sheet) Christ be our light**

**Gradual: 15 The Lord will come and not be slow**

**Offertory: 294 Just as I am, without one plea**

**Final: 10 Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew**

**Prayer when the Advent candle is lit:** Lord Jesus, light of the world, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people in trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmas and show all the world God's love. **Amen**

### **The Collect (Opening Prayer) for the Second Sunday of Advent**

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Old Testament reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10**

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 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. 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; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek 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. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. 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. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

### **Psalms 72: 1-7. 18-19**

Give the king your judgements, O God, and your righteousness to the son of a king. Then shall he judge your people righteously and your poor with justice. May the mountains bring forth peace, and the little hills righteousness for the people. May he defend the poor among the people, deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor. May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, like the showers that water the earth. In his time shall righteousness flourish, and abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wonderful things. And blessed be his glorious name for ever. May all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

### **New Testament Reading: The Letter of Paul to the Romans 15: 4-13**

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As

it is written, Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name; and again he says, Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people; and again, Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him; and again Isaiah says, The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 3: 1-12**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Now John wore clothing of camels hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our ancestor; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

***The sick and those who care for them:*** Janet Lock, Peter Dickinson, Sue and family, Edna Nolson, Don Durrant, Betty Kernan, Angela Wallis, Molly Hendry, Bob Coyne.

#### ***Recently departed:***

***Anniversary of death:*** David Robinson (9<sup>th</sup>), Peter Ashley (10<sup>th</sup>), Vera Nash, in whose memory the Book of Remembrance was donated (13<sup>th</sup>).

***We pray*** for and with the people of Ukraine; for the people of Israel, Gaza and the West Bank; for peace of the Holy Land; and for those who will weep, and fear, and die this day.

***We pray*** for our vacancies – Parish Safeguarding Officer and PCC Secretary.

### **Post Communion Prayer:**

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Next week's readings (Advent 3)**

**Isaiah 35: 1-10; Canticle: Magnificat; James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11: 2-11**

Please contact [trudikearsley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:trudikearsley@hotmail.co.uk) for the link if you wish to join the Zoom services.

**PCC vacancies.** We are looking to fill the posts of Parish Safeguarding Officer and PCC Secretary. If you may be interested, please contact Revd Julian or a churchwarden. Training will be offered.

**Leading intercessions.** Would you like to get more involved in our services? Could you do this by joining a rota to lead the intercessions? If this is something you might be interested in doing, please speak to Rev'd Julian to find out more.

**Advent Candles:** Over the Christmas period our church will be decorated with candles. If you would like to sponsor an advent candle in memory of a loved one, please sign-up on the sheet in church and pop your donation (minimum £4) in the plate marked 'Advent candles'.

**Christmas charities:** It has become our tradition to donate the offerings from Christmas services to charities. This year the PCC has chosen 2 local charities - Stonepillow and My Sisters' House. We are also collecting items for Christmas boxes for rough sleepers who use Glenlogie (Stonepillow) – socks, gloves, hand warmers, scarves and chocolates and socks. There will be a collection box in church.

## Community Groups and Events

**Lunch on Sunday is today at 12.45pm.** There may be spaces, for this festive lunch with live music provided by Regis Rhythms, even if you haven't signed up. Please ask. If you would be willing to organise a future lunch, with friends, please contact Angela Purser or email the Parish mailbox.

**The Bear Necessities - a discussion group for women,** meets on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm**, at The Bear Inn, Pagham. This will be more of a social type Christmas meeting to enjoy each other's company and maybe share 'happy news' if we feel like it.

**Pints of view – a conversation for men:** meet with The Rev'd Clive Ashley on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm** in The Inglenook, Pagham. Buy yourself a pint and come have a chat on current affairs – no hidden agenda, a meeting of men of all ages.

**The Christmas Tree Festival** is on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> (10am-4pm) and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> (2-4pm) December**, concluding with prize giving and Carol Sing Along. Please spread the word to friends and family about this sparkling event. Entry is £3 including a hot drink and a mince pie. Under 12's free. If you can help with welcoming visitors or serving refreshments, please contact Carole Matthews.

**Come & Sing Carols** in the Mosse Hall, **2-4pm on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December.** This is an opportunity for anyone who likes singing Christmas carols to join forces with other enthusiasts to have fun in a very informal and relaxed atmosphere. Everyone welcome. You can extend your stay, by joining the finale of the Christmas Tree Festival in church at 4pm The cost is £10 (including mulled wine and mince pies) and proceeds will go to church funds. Further details from Arthur Robson.

The **Service of Nine Lessons and Carols** is on **21<sup>st</sup> December at 6pm** This will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies with the drawing of prizes for the Christmas Raffle in the Mosse hall.

**Carols at The Bear, Pagham: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 7pm.** We provide the music and carol sheets, The Bear provide mince pies and you have a good sing of favourite carols.

**Sounds Familiar**, our local community choir, is presenting its Christmas Concert at St Richard's Church on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, at 7pm.** Admission is £5, and free for under 16s. Seasonable refreshments will be available at the end of the concert.

**Black Friday and Christmas shopping:** When you are doing your online shopping, remember to use **easyfundraising** in support of St Richard's to help us raise additional funds, at no cost to you. If you're not sure how, please talk to David or Angela.

**Hygiene Poverty:** A Hygiene Bank, co-ordinated by Sheila Farmer, is to be set up within the Church. The Hygiene Bank will collect **new, unused, in-date personal care and household cleaning essentials.** For health and safety reasons, opened, half-used or products past their best-before date cannot be accepted. Leaflets about the scheme are available at the back of the church and further details are at <https://thehygienebank.com/give-products/what-products-do-we-collect/>

**SUPPORT FOR THE FOODBANK IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER.**



**Urgently needed this week:** Tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, pasta sauces, cereals. **We have plenty of:** pulses.