

# Pews News

**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE REVEREND JULIAN MCALLEN (REST DAY - FRIDAY)**

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  @StThomasPagham

## Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>09:30</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b> with Sunday School
<b>Monday</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>19:00</b>	<b>Carols at The Bear</b> <b>No public worship today</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>		<b>No public worship today</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b> Christmas Eve	<b>16:00</b> <b>21:00</b>	<b>Crib Service</b> <b>Bethlehem Midnight Eucharist</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b> Christmas Day	<b>09:30</b>	<b>Christmas Day Family Eucharist</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b> Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr		<b>No public worship today</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b> John, Apostle and Evangelist		<b>No public worship today</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b> The Holy Innocents	<b>09:30</b>	<b>Service of the Word</b>

### Hymns

480 O come, O come, Emmanuel

634 The angel Gabriel from heaven came

486 Of the Father's love begotten Omit verses 5 & 6

741 When we walk with the Lord

**Prayer for the Lighting of the Advent Candle  
Advent 4 – The Blessed Virgin Mary (purple)**

**Lord Jesus, light of the world, blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news; blessed is Mary, your mother and ours. Bless your Church preparing for Christmas; and bless us your children, who long for your coming. Amen.**

**The Collect (Opening Prayer): 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: 1Chronicles 17 1 – 12** Now when David settled in his house, David said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the Lord is under a tent.” Nathan said to David, “Do all that you have in mind, for God is with you.” But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying: “Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: You shall not build me a house to live in. For I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up Israel to this day, but I have gone from tent to tent and from dwelling to dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a name like the name of the great ones of the earth. I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall waste them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will subdue all your enemies. Moreover I declare to you that the Lord will build you a house. When your days are fulfilled to go to your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom.”

**Psalm 80. 1-8**

**Second Reading: Romans 1.1-7** Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 1.18-25** Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he

did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**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.***



### **Prayers of Intercession**

**The sick and those who care for them:** Karen Cox, Sheila King, Dawn Spurway Pearson, Lucia, Pam Browning, Ian Turner, Michael King, Emily Maylon, Jim, Richard, Jenny, Roger Lewis, Colin May, Revd. Keith Smith, Revd. Colin Wood, Tony May, Susie Usher, Marlene and Eileen Tooley.

**Recently departed:** Shelagh.

**Anniversary of death:** 21<sup>st</sup> - Cecil Smith, Sylvia Harvey, 22<sup>nd</sup> - Mary Cornell, Philip Ray, 23<sup>rd</sup> - Christine Taylor, 25<sup>th</sup> - Audrey Hunt, Daphne Wells, 26<sup>th</sup> - Montague Austin, Margot Fisher, Edna Stevens

**We pray** We pray for peace in all areas of conflict around the World, and we pray for peace in the Holy Land. For all those seeking safety and refuge in our Country.

**For urgent prayer**, contact Sue Davis (01243 262915) to start the Prayer Chain.

**A Christmas message from Reverend Julian and family** 'Merry' once meant 'great' or 'mighty' not merely cheerful. Shakespeare used it of brave men and strong winds. Thus, 'Merry Christmas' is not just a festive greeting but a reminder of God's mighty act of becoming lowly to bring salvation through the greatest gift of all - Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world. May I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

**Thank you** to all those who helped make our Christmessy event a success. And to those who came and joined us for a very fun morning. We look forward to running this again next year.



**Decorating the Church for Christmas:** We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Tuesday 22nd December from 09.30. We would be very grateful to receive donations of greenery to help us to create the Christmas Floral Arrangements. If you could deliver to church on Sunday or Monday that would be really helpful. If anyone would like help with this please contact Trudi 077035973.



**Christmas Tree and stars-** Our Christmas Tree will be in the Church from Sunday 14th December. You will find, next to the tree, stars for you to write on, to remember loved ones, those on your heart or mind and those you won't see over the Christmas period.



**Christmas Collections** It has long been our practice to donate the collections taken at our Christmas services to charity. This year the PCC have chose to support Stonepillow and Christian Aid. Thank you for your generous donations.



**Christmas Eve Crib Service** You are warmly invited to our Crib Service on the 24<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm. We'd love to see you come dressed as your favourite nativity character. All are welcome.

Please join us for the **Bethlehem Midnight Mass**, on the 24<sup>th</sup> December at 9 pm.

**Christmas Quiz** The Annual Christmas Quiz, raising funds for the Friends of Pagham Church, is available for £1.50 in church or from Mo Hatzfeld - 268576. The prize is a celebration hamper. Closing date is Sunday 4th January, with the winner being declared on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

Join us for **Nine Lessons and Carols** with the joint choirs of Pagham and Aldwick at St Richard's Church, Gossamer Lane, Aldwick on Sunday 21st December 6.00pm

**Carols at The Bear** is back on Monday 22nd December 7.00pm. Please join us for lots of carols and merrymaking at The Bear Inn, Nyetimber.

**Burns Night** You are invited for our annual Burns Night celebration on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 at the Parish Centre. Two volunteers are needed. One for the toast for the Lasses and one for the response for the Lasses. Please contact Stephen for more information: [stephen.coxrusbridge@btinternet.com](mailto:stephen.coxrusbridge@btinternet.com) and mobile no 07974177905.

**Thank you** to the knit and natter group who have donated blankets for use in Church on a Sunday, please feel free to use if you are chilly, and return after the service

**Don't forget, the Church is open every day, usually between 10am & 3pm. It is a beautiful place for quiet prayer and reflection.**

**Please note the dates when our community groups will next meet:**

**The Bear Necessities:** on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 7.30 pm at The Bear Inn, Pagham

**The Book Group:** 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2pm, in St Andrew's Chapel

**Pints of View:** on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30 pm at The Inglenook Pub, Pagham

**Breakfast Club:** on 7<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30 am at Manor Nursery.

**Bell ringing:** on Mondays at 7.30 pm at St Thomas a Becket

**Next week's readings:**

Isaiah 63.7-9, Psalm 148\*, Hebrews 2.10-18, Matthew 2.13-23

*For any queries regarding our Pew Sheet, please contact Emily-  
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