

## Services, Events, News, Information

### Christmas Eve – Wednesday 24th December

4.30 pm - Crib Service, Nativity and Decoration of the Christmas Tree

11 pm - Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day – Thursday 25th December

8 am - Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.30 am - Family Communion for Christmas

### Sunday 28th December – 1st Sunday of Christmas

8 am - Holy Communion – *Book of Common Prayer, said service*

10 am – Sung Communion *led by Fr Richard*

### Thursday 1st January

*No service of Holy Communion at 9.30am today*

### Sunday 4th January – 2nd Sunday of Christmas

8 am - Holy Communion – *Book of Common Prayer, said service*

10 am – Morning Worship *led by St. Peter's Team Ministry*

*Don't forget, from Sunday 11th January,  
our Sung Communion services will be starting at 9.30am*

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#### ■ Thanks

The Events Committee would like to thank everyone for their support at the Raffle and Mini Christmas Fayre on Sunday. It was very successful! Thanks also goes to everyone who donated cakes for the cake stall and all those who gave their time to run a stall and sold raffle tickets.

#### ■ More Thanks!

Many thanks to all who have supported the Braintree Singing Club throughout 2025, both those from the church and the many regulars from our community that also attend. We have raised a sum of **£1,209** for church funds during the year. It was very gratifying that two carols topped our recent Christmas Countdown - Silent Night (No.2) and In the bleak mid-winter (No. 1), beating off stiff competition from the likes of Slade, Wizard and Wham!! Our next session is on Monday 26th January, in the church hall at 1.30pm. Why not give it a try if you haven't been already! *David Wood*

#### ■ Children's Society

I am doing another box opening for those who were unable to give me their box to open earlier on this year. I can take your box from now until January next year. Many thanks.

Diane Beck (Children's Society Parish Co-ordinator)

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Items for next week's **Parish News** should be with the editor, David Wood,  
by 9.00 pm on **Tuesday** please.

Contact: 01376 327606, [davidwoodsings@gmail.com](mailto:davidwoodsings@gmail.com)

 ***A happy and blessed Christmas to all!*** 

## St. Peter's Parish Church Bocking

**[www.stpeters-bocking.net](http://www.stpeters-bocking.net)**

Vicar: The Revd. Richard Chand. Phone: 01376 322279

e-mail: [fr.richard@stpeters-bocking.net](mailto:fr.richard@stpeters-bocking.net)

## **Parish News**

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

#### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**8 am Holy Communion** *Said service led by Fr Richard*

**10 am Sung Communion** *led by Revd. Rob Cadman*

**6 pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight**

*followed by mulled wine and hot mince pies*

*Welcome to our new look St. Peter's parish newsletter! In it you will find details of our upcoming services, events and things that are happening within our church community.*

**10 am Sung Communion** *(Fr Richard is at our partner church, St. Paul's for their morning service)*

*Please follow the service in the yellow Service Books. The hymns are in the blue book. LARGE PRINT copies of the Service Book and the hymns are available. When the organ music stops at 10am, we observe a few moments' silence at the beginning of our service, as we prepare ourselves for worship. The bell is then rung, and the service begins.*

**Opening Hymn: 522** O come, O come, Emmanuel

**The Collect:** *See overleaf*

**First Bible Reading:** Isaiah 7.10-16 *See overleaf*

**Second Bible Reading:** Romans 1.1-7 *See overleaf*

**Hymn before the Gospel: 711** The race that long in darkness pined

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 1.18-25 *See overleaf*

**Offertory Hymn: 684** Tell out my soul

**Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer:** *See overleaf*

**Choir Anthem** (during Communion): The angel Gabriel (arr. Edgar Pettman)

**Post Communion Prayer:** *See overleaf*

**Closing Hymn: 479** Make way, make way, for Christ the King

#### ■ **Church Morning Service Times are Changing** ■

To enable Fr Richard to be at both St. Paul's and St. Peter's Morning Services every Sunday, our PCC's have agreed that from the **11th January 2026**, St. Peter's Morning Service will start at 9.30am, while the St. Paul's Morning Service will commence at 11am. The time of the 8am Service at St. Peter's will remain unchanged. St. Paul's will also be changing the time for their refreshments, which will be served before the new service time, from 10.30am, rather than after the service.

### The 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**

### A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

### A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

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 Christ 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 to Jesus Christ, to all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

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.

### Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came. In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our

hearts filled with wonder and praise. And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord**

### 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**

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**We are very grateful to all who support St. Peter's financially**

**as we continue to serve our community – THANKYOU!**



If you would like to make an online donation you can do so by using the adjacent **QR code** or the following link -

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/336ef168-8791-4572-8244-59305959e3dc>

**Alternatively**, you can make a one off payment or set up a standing order by using these account details:

**Sort Code: 30-91-14**

**A/C No. 00991224**

**A/C Name: St Peter's Church Bocking**

**Or**, you can donate in the traditional way by putting cash into our collection plate at the back of the church. If you put your donation into a yellow donation envelope, tax payers will be able to Gift Aid their donation.

**\*NEW\***: we are now using our card reader at the 10am service, so if you want to make a donation to the church by credit/debit card, you are now able to do so.

**Whichever way you choose, your gift is very much appreciated**

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### **PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH AT ST PETER'S – SAFEGUARDING IN YOUR PARISH**

Your Parish Safeguarding Representative: Mrs Anne Tee, 01376 341076

IF YOU HAVE A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN RELATING TO THE CHURCH PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH SAFEGUARDING REP. at [psr@stpeters-bocking.net](mailto:psr@stpeters-bocking.net) The Diocesan Safeguarding Team can also be contacted, and their email/phone contact details are:

[safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org) 01245 29 44 44.



### **ST PETER'S CHURCH PHOTOGRAPHY / FILMING / LIVE STREAMING POLICY:**

Only designated persons authorised by the PCC are allowed to take photographs or film/ stream on behalf of the parish during our services and events. Rebecca Chand, Rachel Hope and Paula Stone are the designated photographers for the parish. Photographs/footage containing children will only be taken with written permission from parents/legal guardians (see Appendix 1 Consent Form with our full Electronic /Media /Photography and Safer Working policies on our website at <https://stpeters-bocking.net/html/wordpress/> on our Safeguarding tab ). Other photographs taken of adults in services and events will have an expressed announcement that will be taken only with their permission by the Parish authorised person/s. The full PCC approved policies are on our Church website and on the noticeboards in the church and the church hall.