



WHAT'S ON?

In the Parish of Upper Deal & Great Mongeham

3rd Sunday of Advent– 14th December 2025

For all the news, join our weekly email update, please contact
stleonardsoffice@btinternet.com

<u>St Leonard's</u> 8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Service with Holy Communion	<u>St Martin's</u> 11.00am Family Service with Holy Communion	<u>St Nicholas'</u> 9.30am Family Service without Holy Communion	<u>St Richard's</u> 10.00am Next service 21st December , 'Little Lights' breakfast Christingle service
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WEEKLY PARISH COMMUNION Tuesdays, 12 noon, in the Lady Chapel at St Leonard's after the Coffee Morning. (*heating is now on in church)



This week's music...

<u>St Leonard's</u> 24 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding 244 Hark, my soul, it is the Lord 28 Lo, He comes with clouds descending 23 Creator of the starry height 470 Hills of the North, rejoice!	<u>St Nicholas'</u> 457 Make way, make way 525 O thou who camest from above 249 How lovely on the mountains (4 vs) 424 Lo, He comes with clouds descending
<u>St Martin's</u> 140 Come, thou long expected Jesus 246 God is working His purpose out 700 The Angel Gabriel from heaven came 766 Thou didst leave the thy throne	This week's music...

The Collect

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRINCIPAL READINGS First reading: Isaiah 35. 1-10

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendour of our God. ³ Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; ⁴ say to those with fearful hearts,

“Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.”

⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. ⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. ⁷ The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. ⁸ And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not

journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. ⁹ No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there,¹⁰ and those the LORD has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Psalm 146. 5-10

⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God.

⁶ He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them— he remains faithful forever.

⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets prisoners free,⁸ the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

¹⁰ The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD.

Second reading: James 5. 7-10

⁷ Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 11. 2-11

² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"⁴ Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."⁷ As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. ⁹ Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." ¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your

Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen**

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED ESPECIALLY FOR: David Flewker, Mavis Harris, Michael Chambers, Michael Finney, Baby Lola, Baby Esmae, Tanneke Berwick, Margaret Thurgood, Andrew Russell, Heather Brennon, Barbara Sharman, Jean Gear, Dave James, Joan Finney, Ian Instone & his family. Adrian Morley, Wendy Turner, Elizabeth McConnell, Caroline Richards, Steve Milne, Jacob Alger. Also, Father George & all those in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

(Please let Wendy in the office know when names may be removed.)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED including Mrs Maisie Chambers. Lord, hold them in your arms, bless and care for them. We ask that you also give peace and comfort to their families and friends and keep them in your loving strength as they come to terms with their loss.

SAVE THE DATE!

CAROLS AT ST NICHOLAS' SHOLDEN Friday 12th Dec. 7pm. Come and sing along with the Herne Bay Concert Band. Thanks to Mark Spratt & the band.

UDGM PARISH PRAYERS Sat 13th Dec, 10am, in your own homes or wherever you are. Prayer points in weekly email.

CAVELL'S REMEMBRANCE SERVICE is being hosted at St Leonard's church, 5pm on Saturday 13th December. All welcome.

TUESDAY COFFEE MORNINGS in the Social Centre will close for the year on 16th Dec when the 150th anniversary of the Social Centre will be celebrated. Coffee mornings will return on 6th Jan 2026. A big thank you to Sue, Bernie & the team for their efforts in 2025.

ADVENT COURSE concludes with a meeting on 17th Dec, 'Reflections on Incarnation' – where God is in the world. Led by Rev John Wakeman. St Richard's, 7-8.45pm. See flyer. (Thanks to Lydia for refreshments & Rev John for leading.)

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH is running on Thursday 1st January at St Richard's, 12 noon. See Lydia for details.

Next Sunday's Services – 21st December 2025

<u>St Leonard's</u>	<u>St Martin's</u>	<u>St Nicholas'</u>	<u>St Richard's</u>
8.00am Holy Communion	11.00am Family Service	9.30am Family Service	10.00am 'Little Lights'
10.00am Family Service without holy Communion	without holy Communion	Service with Holy Communion	Christingle service with breakfast , carols, drama, prayers, craft & fun!
6.00pm A service of Nine Lessons & Carols followed by wine & mince pies.			

MORNING PRAYER WEEKLY 9.30-9.55am

St Richard's Mon, St Leonard's Tues, St Martin's Weds, St Nicholas' Thurs

NOTICES

SAFEGUARDING Please raise safeguarding concerns immediately with our Safeguarding Officer, Mandy Forrest 01304 372521 or 07999 910197

A big **THANK YOU** to the **THE CHRISTMAS FAIR COMMITTEE** for their hard work in getting such a brilliant Christmas Fair off the ground. Thanks to everyone who came and supported the event. A fantastic sum of **£1316.44** (so far) was raised. Rev Monica and the PCC are so grateful for these much needed funds.

JAMAICA FUND Bishop Rose has asked us to pray and give what we can for Jamaica. If you would like to contribute to a Parish collection please give cash donations in marked envelopes or bank transfer donations with a clear reference to that effect. We have collected £15 so far. Thank you.

DEAL WARM SPACE Monday mornings at St Richard's continues over the festive period & into the New Year – thanks to Lydia & her team for their hard work this year.

NATIVITY COSTUMES/FABRIC needed for a Parish stock of costumes for our Christingles & other services. Please let Families Team know if you are able to help.

WINTER PLAN FOR COLD WEATHER ST LEONARD'S CHURCH IS IN EFFECT

The heating is on in St Leonard's. We would be very grateful for donations towards the cost of keeping the heating on to get it warm enough. The PCC is very grateful for the generous donations so far. Thank you.

PARISH TREASURER The Parish is without a treasurer. **Please pray about this.**

All ideas for a way forward, please speak to Rev Monica.

WHATSAPP GROUP Please use the link to join the new parish **WhatsApp** group.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/IYnoITbxt0eB0mzylEbmRE?mode=ac t> This group is for informing the Parish of prayer needs and events. Specific prayer needs to Rev Monica or Church Wardens for sharing.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING Please continue to pray for Rev John Wakeman, Rev Nick Tomaszewski, Stephen Manion & Julie Murrow. Congratulations to Chris Taylor on the completion of her Lay Worship Leader course.

CHURCH BANK DETAILS

Paying tithes and pledges electronically is easy. The details you need to know are below. We would also be delighted if you would complete the Gift Aid form if you pay tax, so that your monetary gifts would benefit from tax relief. The QR code below is a quick and safe way to donate to parish funds too. Thank you.



Account Name: Upper Deal and Gt. Mongeham PCC

Sort Code: 40-19-10 **Account No:** 31141228

Parish Giving Scheme URL:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/upper-deal-w-great-mongeham-deal/>

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS udgmtreasurer@gmail.com

God of Mission,

Who alone brings growth to your Church. Send your Holy Spirit to give,
Vision for our planning, Wisdom to our actions, Joy to our worship and power to our witness.

Help our church to grow in numbers, In spiritual commitment to you
And in service to our local community, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



