

## Services, Events, News, Information

### Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December

1.30-3.30 pm – ‘Christmas Countdown’ *in the church*

Come along and sing the Top Twenty Christmas Carols and Songs as voted for by members of the Braintree and Dunmow Singing Clubs. *What will be No. 1?* All welcome.

£5, including refreshments, no need to book. Proceeds for church funds. *See David Wood*

### Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

5-7 pm - Having a Blue Christmas?

Church open for personal prayer and reflection

*Prayers will be said from 6.45 pm. All welcome*

### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December

*No service of Holy Communion at 9.30am today*

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

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

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*

### Christmas Eve – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December

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

11 pm - Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December

8 am - Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.30 am - Family Communion for Christmas

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

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

10 am – Sung Communion *led by Fr Richard*

### Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January

*No service of Holy Communion at 9.30am today*

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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.

#### ■ 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)

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

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

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025

#### Third Sunday of Advent

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

10 am Sung Communion *led by Fr Richard*

6 pm Prayer and Praise at St. Paul's, our partner church

*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

*Please follow the service in the yellow Service Books. The hymns are in the green 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:** 55 Hail to the Lord's anointed

**The Collect:** *See overleaf*

**First Bible Reading:** Isaiah 35.1-10 *See overleaf*

**Second Bible Reading:** James 5.7-10 *See overleaf*

**Hymn before the Gospel:** 11 Long ago, prophets knew

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 11.2-11 *See overleaf*

**Offertory Hymn:** 277 Bread of the world in mercy broken

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

**Choir Anthem** (during Communion): Hark, the glad sound (David Thorne)

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

**Closing Hymn:** 9 Lo he comes with clouds descending

#### ■ 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

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## A Reading from the Book of The Prophet Isaiah

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## A Reading from the Letter of James

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those

born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## 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. For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation. Confident that your promise will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory. And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and singing.....

## 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**

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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.