

# Pews News

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

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  @StThomasPagham

## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup>	09:30	Parish Eucharist with provision for children
Monday	15 <sup>th</sup>	09:15	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	17:30	Evening Prayer on Zoom
		19:00	Tuesday @7
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	17:30	Evening Prayer on Zoom
Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup>	09:15	Morning Prayer
		10:00	Holy Communion
Friday	19 <sup>th</sup>		No public worship today
Saturday	20 <sup>th</sup>		No public worship today
Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup>	09:30	Parish Eucharist with Sunday School

### Hymns

263. Hark a thrilling voice is calling

264. Hark my soul it is the Lord

282. Hills of the north rejoice

631. Tell out my soul

### Prayer for the Lighting of the Advent Candle Advent 3 – John the Baptist (pink)

Lord Jesus, light of the world, John told the people to prepare, for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day. Help us to be ready to welcome you now. Amen.

**The Collect (Opening Prayer):** *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.*



**First Reading: Isaiah 35.1-10** 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 traveler, 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.

#### **Psalm 146.4-10**

**Second Reading: James 5.7-10** Be patient, therefore, 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.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 11.2-11** When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “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 offense 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."

**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 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, Shelagh, Julie Green, Revd. Colin Wood, Tony May, Susie Usher and Marlene.

**Anniversary of death:** 14<sup>th</sup> - Cecelia Fielder, 16<sup>th</sup> - Edward Ashwood, Alfred Dobson, Henry Alldis, Geoffrey Niblett, Tony Lock, 18<sup>th</sup> - Francis Atkinson, Richard Kimbell, Robert Breakspear

**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.



**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.

**The Christmas Tree Festival** - this popular event will take place in St Richard's church on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December, culminating once again in a Christmas carol sing-a-long open to all. Please do save the date to come along to look at the range of trees and to support the Church and the exhibitors.



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.



**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



**Support for the Food Bank is more important than ever.**

Urgently needed this week: Christmas items, laundry pods, tinned vegetables, loo rolls, washing up liquid.

**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:**

1Chronicles 17.1–12, Psalm 80.1-8,18-20\*

Romans 1.1-7, Matthew 1.18-25

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