

PLEASE BRING THIS WITH YOU ON 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER



**WHAT'S ON? DOUBLE ISSUE**  
In the Parish of Upper Deal & Great Mongeham  
**Sundays, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

For all the news, join our weekly email update, please  
contact [stleonardsoffice@btinternet.com](mailto:stleonardsoffice@btinternet.com)

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

<u><b>St Leonard's</b></u> <b>8.00am</b> Holy Communion <b>10.00am</b> Family Service <b>without</b> Holy Communion <b>6pm</b> <b>Nine Lessons &amp; Carols</b>	<u><b>St Martin's</b></u> <b>11.00am</b> Family Service <b>without</b> Holy Communion	<u><b>St Nicholas'</b></u> <b>10am</b> Family Service <b>with</b> Holy Communion	<u><b>St Richard's</b></u> <b>10am</b> 'Little Lights' <b>Christingle</b> Children's Breakfast Service
---	---	--	--

**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><b>St Leonard's</b></u> 391 Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us 378 Jesus good above all other 484 Long ago, prophets know 422 Tell out my soul	<u><b>St Martin's</b></u> 383 Jesus, good above all other 798 We have a gospel to proclaim 454 Lord for the years 774 Thy kingdom come, O God 638 Rejoice the Lord is king
<u><b>This week's music...</b></u>	<u><b>St Nicholas'</b></u> 391 Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us 378 Jesus good above all other 142 Hail to the Lord's anointed 422 Tell out my soul

**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.**

## **PRINCIPAL READINGS – 21<sup>st</sup> December**

### **First reading: Isaiah 7. 10-16**

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup> “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, <sup>16</sup> for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

### **Psalms 80. 1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.  
You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth <sup>2</sup> before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. Awaken your might; come and save us.  
<sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.  
<sup>4</sup> How long, LORD God Almighty, will your anger smoulder against the prayers of your people?  
<sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.  
<sup>6</sup> You have made us an object of derision to our neighbours, and our enemies mock us.  
<sup>7</sup> Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.  
<sup>8</sup> You transplanted a vine from Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

### **Second reading: Romans 1. 1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— <sup>2</sup> the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures <sup>3</sup> regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup> and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>5</sup> Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. <sup>6</sup> And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.  
<sup>7</sup> To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Gospel: Matthew 1. 18-end**

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was

faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name 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.**

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICES GALORE!** There will be **Christingle** services on Christmas Eve in three of our churches, all at **4pm**; St Leonard's, St Martin's and St Nicholas'. Come and help us raise some funds for the Children's Society.

**NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS** will be at St Leonard's at 6pm on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

**MIDNIGHT MASS** will be held in St Leonard's at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve, the heating is on but wrap up warm.

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES** will be held at St Leonard's 10am, St Martin's 10am and St Nicholas' at 9.30am. (Please note; there will be **no** 8am Holy Communion on Christmas Day.)

**FRIENDSHIP LUNCH** will be available on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January. Please join us to begin the New Year with a festive, friendly meal. With thanks to Lydia and the team of cooks for their work this past year.

**WARM SPACE** will be open as usual on Mondays during the Christmas season.

**FUNERAL** of Mrs Maisie Chambers will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January at St Leonard's Church followed by the committal at Deal Cemetery.

**CANDLEMAS EVENSONG** Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb, led by a local visiting choir at St Martin's at 4.30pm.



## WHAT'S ON? **DOUBLE ISSUE**

### In the Parish of Upper Deal & Great Mongeham

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – Holy Innocents**

<p><u><b>St Leonard's</b></u>  <b>8.00am</b>          Holy Communion  <b>10.00am</b>          No service</p>	<p><u><b>St Martin's</b></u>  <b>11.00am</b>          Whole Parish Family Service <b>with</b> Holy Communion</p>	<p><u><b>St Nicholas'</b></u>  <b>9.30am</b>          No Service</p>	<p><u><b>St Richard's</b></u>  <b>10.00am</b>          No Service</p>
--	--	--	---

**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...**

**St Martin's**

39 Angels from the realms of glory  
 363 It came upon a midnight clear  
 782 Unto us a boy is born  
 267 Good King Wenceslas

**WEEKLY PARISH COMMUNION** Tuesdays, 12 noon, in the Benefice Lounge at St Leonard's Social Centre after the Coffee Morning.



**The Collect**

Heavenly Father, whose children suffered at the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong: by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**PRINCIPAL READINGS – 28th December**

**First reading: Jeremiah 31. 15-27**

<sup>15</sup> This is what the LORD says:

"A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

<sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD says:

"Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears for your work will be rewarded," declares the LORD. "They will return from the land of the enemy.

<sup>17</sup> So there is hope for your descendants," declares the LORD. "Your children will return to their own land.

## Psalm 124

If the LORD had not been on our side— let Israel say—

<sup>2</sup> if the LORD had not been on our side when people attacked us,

<sup>3</sup> they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us;

<sup>4</sup> the flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us,

<sup>5</sup> the raging waters would have swept us away.

<sup>6</sup> Praise be to the LORD, who has not let us be torn by their teeth.

<sup>7</sup> We have escaped like a bird from the fowler's snare, the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.

<sup>8</sup> Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

## Second reading: 1 Corinthians 1. 26-29

<sup>26</sup> Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before him.

## Gospel: Matthew 2. 13-18

<sup>13</sup> When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

<sup>14</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, <sup>15</sup> where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

<sup>16</sup> When Herod realised that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

## Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, in your humility you have stooped to share our human life with the most defenceless of your children: may we who have received these gifts of your passion rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents to the purity of your sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; for you are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED ESPECIALLY FOR:** Karen Fairclough, 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 Mohammed Nikraz & 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.

### Services – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026

<u>St Leonard's</u>	<u>St Martin's</u>	<u>St Nicholas'</u>	<u>St Richard's</u>
<b>8.00am</b> Holy Communion <b>10.00am</b> No service	<b>11.00am</b> No service	<b>9.30am</b> No service	<b>10am</b> <b>'Little Lights'</b> <b>Breakfast Epiphany</b> <b>Service with Whole</b> <b>Parish with Short</b> <b>Communion and Youth</b> <b>Choir</b>

### 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

**COFFEE MORNING** On 16<sup>th</sup> Dec an informal fundraiser was held during a celebration of the Social Centre's 150 years. £262 was raised for Parish Funds – thank to the team and all who supported. Alan Buckman was there & we thank him for his interesting talk about the centre's history.

**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 £17 so far. Thank you.

**WINTER PLAN FOR COLD WEATHER ST LEONARD'S CHURCH** We would be very grateful for donations towards the cost for the times when we will have to heat the church. Thank you.

**YOUTH CHOIR** continues on the first Sunday of the month, 10-11.30am at St Richard's for all children 7yrs & upwards. Snacks will be served.

**PARISH TREASURER** The need for a treasurer for the Parish is past being urgent, now critical. The Parish is without a treasurer. **Please pray about this.** Any 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](https://chat.whatsapp.com/IYnoITbxt0eB0mzylEbmRE?mode=ac_t)

**ST RICHARD'S HIRE** has a new email for bookings [strichardshire@gmail.com](mailto:strichardshire@gmail.com)

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING** Please continue to pray for Rev John Wakeman, Rev Nick Tomaszewski, Stephen Manion & Julie Murrow.

### **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/treasurerudgm@outlook.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.**

### **The Parish Office**

will be open on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 9-12noon. Wendy will be working from home on Mondays 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Please use office email for any enquiries.

Please **do not** leave messages on the office telephone number.

My mobile number may be used and is available in the Compass magazine.

Thanks, Wendy M.

