



**Benefice of Newport Pagnell  
with  
Lathbury and Moulsoe  
Pews News  
3rd Sunday of Advent  
14<sup>th</sup> December 2025**



**Key Contacts**

**Rev'd Nick Evans, Rector**  
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Day off - Friday

**Church Warden**  
**Jennifer Mazzone**  
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**Parish Office**  
01908-611145  
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**Safeguarding Officer: Hazel Reynolds**  
Please contact Hazel if you have any questions about our safeguarding provision or if you have any concerns.  
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**Parish Visiting Co-Ordinator: Beth MacKay**  
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**Benefice Website**  
[www.npparish.org.uk](http://www.npparish.org.uk)

**Parish Contacts**  
The parish has set up various electronic means of contact and information. All details of which can be obtained from the parish office.

**Registered Charity number 1153668**

**Collect for TheThird Sunday of Advent**

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.

**9.30am, Family Communion, St Peter & St Paul**

**Readings:** Isaiah 35.1-10, James 5.7-10

**Gospel:** Matthew 11.2-11

**11am, Family Communion, St Luke's**

**Readings:** Isaiah 35.1-10, James 5.7-10

**Gospel:** Matthew 11.2-11

**Hymns:** All red book, 342, 25, 24, 27, 139.

**6pm, Carol Service, Lathbury**

**Monday 15 December**

10am, Cameo Christmas Party, St Peter & St Paul

**Friday 19 December**

7pm, Carols by Candlelight, St Peter & St Paul

**Saturday 20 December**

10.30-11.45am, Finding the Nativity on the High Street.

**Events and Services coming up:**

**Sunday 21 December**

10.30am, Family Communion, St Peter & St Paul  
5pm, Carol Service, Moulsoe

**Wednesday 24 December**

5pm, Crib Service, St Peter & St Paul  
11.30pm, Midnight Mass, St Peter & St Paul

**Thursday 25 December**

9.30am, Family Communion, St Peter & St Paul  
11am, Family Communion, St Luke's

I'll be doing a bumper edition of Pews News next week to cover Christmas so if you need to include anything before Epiphany please let me know before Thursday 18 December. The address is:

Olwen Smith, Pews News Editor/Compiler  
[ollie.panic@gmail.com](mailto:ollie.panic@gmail.com)

## Weekly ZOOM Prayer meeting on Thursday at 4pm:

The Prayer Meeting is conducted by ZOOM so more people can join in. It will last an hour and start with a short act of worship (a song or reflection on the Bible reading of the day) with time for silence as well as prayer. Everyone is welcome to participate and as you can pray without necessarily having to speak aloud, there is no pressure to say anything.

**Look out for Malcolm's email which contains the link.**



### Did you know that the Parish has a WhatsApp Group?

It is a very useful way to share information quickly and you don't need to be a techno whizz to use it! If you'd like to be added to the Newport Pagnell Parish WhatsApp group just send Moira your mobile telephone number.

**Moira's number is 07968-585364.**



**This Monday, 15 December**

**CAMEO**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**10.30am**

**for babies, toddlers and their**

## SEARCH FOR THE NATIVITY

### ON THE HIGH STREET

**Saturday 20 December, 10.30-11.45am**



There will be a Roman governor outside the rectory, angels in St Peter & St Paul, Wise Men wandering near St Bede's, shepherds, an innkeeper and outside the URC, a short service of prayers and carols round the Christmas crib.



**THIS SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER AT 6pm**  
**THE FIRST OF THE BENEFICE CAROL SERVICES**  
**All Saints, Lathbury**

**FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER AT 7pm**  
**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**  
**St Peter & St Paul, Newport Pagnell**

**SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER AT 5pm**  
**CAROL SERVICE**  
**St Mary's, Moulsoe**







## THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

From Friday 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> St Peter & St Paul was filled with a wonderful display of nearly 70 Christmas trees. Community organisations, local businesses and groups from the church each contributed a decorated tree. Lots of people visited each day and were delighted by the variety and creativity on show. They came to see the trees and ended with drinks and cake so the servery was pretty busy especially on Saturday afternoon!

This immensely successful weekend raised a total of £1,764.07. A huge thank you goes to Julie for co-ordinating the whole event and for being there throughout. And another massive thanks goes to all the stewards, bakers and servers who ably supported her. It was a lovely community event which welcomed so many into their parish church - and we're all looking forward to welcoming them again next year!

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## CHRISTINGLE

At 4pm the weekend celebrations ended with a Christingle led by Nick and Karen - with the help of Chris Tingle (the puppet) and Lynda who between them, explained the symbolism of the service.

As usual the church was full with children and adults. After Karen's presentation the congregation was invited to make their own Christingle - the candles were lit and the lights turned off. After prayers, hymns and a blessing people were invited to make a donation for the Children's Society. £201.68 was raised!



### **First Reading:** Isaiah 35.1-10

**35** 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.

### **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 Reading:** 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.