

The Parish Church of Aldwick St Richard



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Registered Charity Number 1206799

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2025 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Sunday 21st	08:00 Holy Communion
4th Sunday of Advent	10:30 Coffee in the Mosse Hall
	11:15 Parish Eucharist
	18:00 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols followed by the grand prize Christmas raffle draw
Monday 22nd	09:15 Morning Prayer (Pagham)
	19:00 Carols at the Bear Inn, Pagham
	19:00 Sounds Familiar concert at St Richard's
Tuesday 23rd	No public worship today
Wednesday 24th	11:30 Crib Service
Christmas Eve	23:30 Midnight Mass
Thursday 25th	08:00 Holy Communion
Christmas Day	11:15 Christmas Day Eucharist
Friday 26th	No public worship today
St. Stephen, martyr	
Saturday 27th	No public worship today
St. John the Evangelist	
Sunday 28th	10:30 Coffee in the Mosse Hall
Christmas 1	11:15 The Service of the Word
The Holy Innocents	

The Church is open for private prayer, Monday – Saturday 10.00-4.00 and until 4.00 on Sunday

The Collection plate - If you would like to make an offering, please use the contactless Payaz machine or the collection plate, both of which can be found by the door. Thank you for your generosity.

Hymns

Introit: 185 Sing we of the blessed Mother

Gradual: 161 For Mary, Mother of the Lord

Offertory: (Sheet) The Angel Gabriel from heaven came

Final: 186 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

Prayer when the Advent candle is lit: Lord Jesus, light of the world, blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news; blessed is Mary, your mother and ours. Bless your Church preparing for Christmas; and bless us your children, who long for your coming. **Amen**

The Collect (Opening Prayer) for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

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.**

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 7: 10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

The Magnificat: Luke 1: 46-55 (sung by the choir)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy, hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham, and his seed for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

New Testament Reading: The Letter of Paul to the Romans 1: 1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1: 18-end

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do 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 as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Prayers of Intercession

The sick and those who care for them: Janet Lock, Peter Dickinson, Sue and family, Edna Nolson, Don Durrant, Betty Kernan, Angela Wallis, Molly Hendry, Bob Coyne.

Recently departed:

Anniversary of death: Eric Frost (21st), Horace Fletcher (23rd), Monty Howell (24th), Robert Poole (25th), Eileen Broad (27th), Irene Hargreaves (27th), Margaret Hemingway (28th), Graham Lacey, priest (31st), Sheila Rickeard (31st), John Cotton (2nd Jan).

We pray for and with the people of Ukraine; for the people of Israel, Gaza and the West Bank; for peace of the Holy Land; and for those who will weep, and fear, and die this day.

We pray for our vacancies – Parish Safeguarding Officer and PCC Secretary.

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**

Next week's readings (Service of the Word)

Isaiah 63: 7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2: 10-end; Matthew 2.13-end

PCC vacancies. We are currently looking to fill the posts of Parish Safeguarding Officer and PCC Secretary. If you may be interested, please contact Revd Julian or one of the churchwardens. Training will be offered.

Leading intercessions. Would you like to get more involved in our services? Could you do this by joining a rota to lead the intercessions? If this is something you might be interested in doing, please speak to Rev'd Julian to find out more.

Christmas charities: It has become our tradition to donate the offerings from Christmas services to charities. This year the PCC has chosen 2 local charities - Stonepillow and My Sisters' House.

Christmas services at St Richard's

This evening at 6.00pm.

The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. This will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies with the drawing of prizes for the Christmas Raffle.

Wednesday 24th December, Christmas Eve

11:30am, Crib Service - Please come dressed as your favourite character from the Nativity Story. We need plenty of Shepherds, Angels, Wise Men, Marys, Josephs and 'Live' stock to fill our crib scene. Suitable for all the family.

11:30pm, Midnight Mass - After the preparations of Advent, we gather to celebrate the Incarnation – Emmanuel - God with us, on this most holy night of the Christian year.

Thursday 25th December, Christmas Day

8am, Holy Communion - Traditional spoken service of Holy Communion.

11:15 am, The Parish Eucharist for Christmas Day - Parish celebration of this most holy day of the Christian year.

Community Groups and Events

Carols at The Bear, Paghams: Monday 22nd December at 7pm. We provide the music and carol sheets, The Bear provide mince pies and you have a good sing of favourite carols.

Sounds Familiar, our local community choir, is presenting its Christmas Concert at St Richard's Church on **Monday 22nd December, at 7pm.** Admission is £5, and free for under 16s. Seasonable refreshments will be available at the end of the concert.

Christmas and New Year shopping: When you are doing your online shopping, remember to use **easyfundraising** in support of St Richard's to help us raise additional funds, at no cost to you. If you're not sure how, please talk to David or Angela. Further details are at:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/strichardsaldwick/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=gs-email1

Hygiene Poverty: A Hygiene Bank, co-ordinated by Sheila Farmer, is to be set up within the Church. The Hygiene Bank will collect **new, unused, in-date personal care and household cleaning essentials.** For health and safety reasons, opened, half-used or products past their best-before date cannot be accepted. Leaflets about the scheme are available at the back of the church and further details are at <https://thehygienebank.com/give-products/what-products-do-we-collect/>

Sponsoring flower arrangements in church: If you would like to sponsor a flower arrangement in church, perhaps in memory of a loved one, or simply because you love to see the beautiful decorations created by our flower group, please do sign up - there is a rota on the noticeboard as you go into church. Please take an envelope, pop in your cash and leave it in the collection plate. Alternatively, if you'd like to donate by BACS transfer, please ask David, our treasurer, for the account details and use the reference: Flowers.

Newspapers for Brent Lodge: Charlotte is maintaining a donation point at Church for newspapers for Brent Lodge. If you have any, please feel free to drop them in the green box in the porch. They will be collected periodically and taken to Brent Lodge to be used as bedding in their animal hospital. Thank you for supporting Charlotte to **support** this charity.

SUPPORT FOR THE FOODBANK IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER.



Urgently needed this week: Large chocolate bars, savoury snacks, tinned vegetables, UHT fruit juice, UHT milk. **We have plenty of:** pulses.