

# NEWS SHEET

## FOR THE PARISH OF

### MURSTON, BAPCHILD & TONGE



<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>Epiphany (Christmas 2)</b>  Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:10-15 Ephesians 3:1-12 <b>Matthew 2:1-12</b>	<b>Collect for Epiphany</b>  <b>Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</b>	<b>10 am St Laurence Bapchild</b> Family Worship with Revd Simon, ALM Jo and the Puppets!
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>Baptism of Christ</b>  Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 <b>Matthew 3:13-end</b>	<b>Collect for the Baptism of Christ (Festival)</b>  <b>Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</b>	<b>10 am St Laurence Bapchild</b> Morning Prayer with Revd Simon
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>Epiphany 2</b>  Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-12 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 <b>John 1:29-42</b>	<b>Collect for 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b>  <b>Eternal Lord, our beginning and end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</b>	<b>10 am St Laurence Bapchild</b> Family Worship with Revd Simon, ALM Jo
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>Epiphany 3 / Conversion of Paul</b>  Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 67 Acts 9:1-22 <b>Matthew 19:27-end</b>	<b>Collect for Conversion of Paul (Festival)</b>  <b>Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns in you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen</b>	<b>10 am St Laurence Bapchild</b> Holy Communion with Revd Simon  <b>3.30 pm All Saints Murston</b> Messy Church w ALM Jo & Revd Simon
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b> <b>Epiphany 4 / Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b>  Malachi 3:1-5 Psalm 24:7-end Hebrews 2:14-end <b>Luke 2:22-40</b>	<b>Collect for the Presentation of Christ</b>  <b>Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God and our Lord. Amen</b>	<b>10 am St Laurence Bapchild</b> Family Worship with Revd Simon & ALM Jo

Service details can also be found on [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

## CONTACT DETAILS

<b>Associate Vicar &amp; Chaplain for Mission:</b>	Reverend Simon Young (429360) ( <i>Day off Friday</i> ) e. <a href="mailto:sryoung101@gmail.com">sryoung101@gmail.com</a>
<b>Assistant Curate</b>	Rev Tracy Williams e. <a href="mailto:revtracywilliams@gmail.com">revtracywilliams@gmail.com</a>
<b>Church Wardens:</b>	Phil & Christine Bromwich (473082) <b>All Saints, Murston</b> Valerie Smith (481258) & Margaret Edwards (473957) <b>St Laurence, Bapchild</b>
<b>Safeguarding Officer:</b>	Corinna Tucker (07306 131065)
<b>Pew Sheet Editor / ALM:</b>	Jo Apps (07881 652828) or e. <a href="mailto:MrsApps@hotmail.co.uk">MrsApps@hotmail.co.uk</a>

## WHAT'S GOING ON?

Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	9.30 am	St Laurence Bapchild
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>Epiphany Family Worship</b>	10 am	St Laurence Bapchild
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Funeral of Revd Peter Jacobs	12.30 pm	Borden Church
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>The Hub – Youth Group</b>	6 pm – 7.30 pm	Bapchild School
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>Bapchild Coffee Morning</b>	10 am – 12 pm	St Laurence Bapchild
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – until Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan		
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	<b>PCC Meeting</b>	7.15 pm	All Saints Murston
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	<b>The Hub – Youth Group</b>	6 pm – 7.30 pm	Bapchild School
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>Messy Church</b>	3.30 – 5.15 pm	All Saints Murston
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	9.30 am	All Saints Murston

## Funeral: Reverend Peter Jacobs

The Reverend Peter Jacobs died on 1st December aged 91. His funeral will take place on **Thursday 8th January 2026 at 12.30pm at St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Borden**.

Peter was a Lay Reader at Bapchild in the 80's, later becoming Rector of the 'old' Benefice of Bapchild & Tonge with Murston, living in Murston Rectory where he served as a Non-Stipendiary Priest. Peter and Pam moved to Canterbury but eventually returned to Sittingbourne and lately, Peter had become a regular member of the congregation at Borden. The family welcome all who knew Peter to attend the service and join them for refreshments afterwards at the Beauty of Bath. They have asked for no flowers and no black. Donations to go to the Donkey Sanctuary.

Please pray for Peter's wife Pam and his family at this difficult time.

## BIBLE STUDY

For information on our next Bible Study or Home Group, please speak to Reverend Simon.

## COFFEE MORNINGS AT ST LAURENCE

**Join us on Sat 17<sup>th</sup> January from 10 am till 12 noon**

Held monthly, on the third Saturday of the month. Come to enjoy a friendly chat, tea/coffee and cake plus browse the bric-a-brac or try your luck at the raffle. If you're a keen baker, why not bring along something for us to sell.



It's a lovely couple of hours, great for all ages. Bring a friend and have a catch up, it's a space where all the community are welcome. An opportunity to quiz the Vicar, Church Wardens or other Lay Ministers or find out more about Baptisms, Weddings, Confirmation, Bible Study or any of our church activities.



**Messy Church** is for everyone, it's aimed primarily at families. We come together to share stories, take part in craft activities, sing songs, share a meal, to pray & worship God. We learn about being part of Gods great big Messy family. This year the theme for each session is based on Christian values.

Children must be accompanied by an adult please. If you would like to find out more or would like to support our Messy Church, please contact ALM Jo Apps.

Messy Church will be held on the following dates at **All Saints Murston** from **3.30 pm until 5.15 pm**:

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**  
**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

Perseverance: following Jesus takes practice  
Love: How does this grow?  
Integrity: Stand up and be counted

Luke 15:1-7  
Luke 15:11-32  
Daniel 3:13-25

## THE HUB

Our Youth Group is held fortnightly at Bapchild School, on a Friday from 6 pm until 7.30 pm. 'The Hub' is aimed at secondary aged children. We take a light approach to sharing the gospel with the young people, finishig with a short time of invitational sharing and prayer. If you know anyone who may be interested, please direct them to Revd Simon or Jo for a chat. **Our next meeting is planned for Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026**



*youth group@b&t*

## CHARITY DONATIONS FROM CHRISTMAS SERVICES



**Annual Crib and Carol Service** held at St Laurence Bapchild on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December (along with other donations), raised **£450** for the **Oliver Fisher Special Care Baby Trust**.



They are aiming to raise £250,000 in their 40<sup>th</sup> year to support the Intensive Care refurbishment. So far, they have raised £18,600 towards their target.



**The Children's Society**

The **Messy Church Christingle Service** held at All Saints Murston on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December, raised **£100** for the **Children's Society**. Money raised goes towards supporting young people to make positive changes in their lives and rediscover hope.

Thank you to everyone who attended these services and/or made donations to these worthy charities.

## Mothers Union (MU)



Entering 2026, (MU) is 150 years old, helping families around the world and remembering families in prayer.

MU is a Christian group, both men and women are welcome. Supporting the local food bank and children's groups. Making knitted items and sending them abroad. (Africa, Europe.)

They meet at Milton Regis Church Hall at 7pm on the first Monday of the month. (Next meeting is on 5/1/26). Come as a visitor leave as a friend.

Contact: Anne Holton: [anneholton@ymail.com](mailto:anneholton@ymail.com)  
More info: [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

Tel: 01795 422916

# NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

## A Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) takes place each year from **18th to 25th January**. This ecumenical celebration provides an opportunity to focus our prayers on Christian unity and to know that we are joining with international siblings in Christ. WPCU is also a great chance to speak about and experience Christian unity personally, in your village, town or county. This year WPCU takes Ephesians 4 v 1-13 as its central text which includes the words "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling." (Ephesians 4:4). For more information visit their website. <https://cte.org.uk/wpcu2026/>



### A Prayer for Leading our Churches into Growth

God of Mission  
Who alone brings growth to your Church,  
Send your Holy Spirit to give  
Vision to 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

Please continue to use this prayer. We were using it in 2025 and have seen growth in our church numbers. Let us continue to grow our church community and discern God's will for us here, in this place.

Do you feel God is saying something to you? Join us for our **Monthly Prayer Meetings** as we intentionally pray for God to make his will known to us.



Leading your Church into Growth

Our next prayer meeting is on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** and then on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February**.

## GIVING TO OUR CHURCHES

*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7

Want to make a one-off donation to our churches or set up a regular donation? These QR codes will take you to the relevant Parish Giving Page.

Here you can set up a regular donation via Direct Debit. This can be increased, decreased or even cancelled by you at any time. The advantage of this scheme is that if you are a tax payer, the Church can claim through Gift Aid an additional 25% of your donation.

Alternatively, contact our Treasurers, Barbara Verga (Bapchild) or Phil Bromwich (Murston).



St Laurence  
Bapchild



All Saints  
Murston

If you have a contribution or a prayer request that you'd like to be included in our Parish Pew Sheet, please pass it on via a Church Warden or direct to Jo Apps.