

**Bible Readings and Weekly Notices for the
Parish of St. Peter's, Great Totham.
The Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday 14th December 2025**



Diary for Week Commencing Monday 15th December 2025

Mon	15	09:30	Private Function in the Church Extension
Mon	15	17:30	'Rainbows' in the Church Ext, CHRISTMAS BREAK
Tue	16	09:30	Private Function in the Church Extension
Wed	17	10:00	Baby Signage Group in the Church Extension
Wed	17	10:30	Bible Studies Group at the Honywood
Wed	17	19:30	Gt. Totham Community Choir in the Church Extension
Thu	18	10:30	Edward Bear Group in the Honywood
Thu	18	12:00	Private Function in the Church Extension
Fri	19	10:00	'Knit and Natter' Group in the Honywood
Fri	19	10:00	Baby Signage Group in the Church Extension
Fri	19	13:45	Mothers Union Meeting at The Honywood
Fri	19	19:45	Great Totham Bell Ringing Practice
Sat	20	09:00	Decorating the church for Christmas
Sun	21	10:00	Family Communion and Sunday Club
Sun	21	18:00	Evensong via 'Zoom' CHRISTMAS BREAK
Sun	21	18:00	Nine Lessons and Carols

Forthcoming events:

Wed	24	Dec	15:00	Christingles
Wed	24	Dec	17:00	Christingles
Wed	24	Dec	22:00	Midnight Mass
Thu	25	Dec	10:00	Christmas Day Service
Sat	24	Jan'26	10:00	Coffee Morning at The Honywood
Tue	24	Feb'26	19:00	Almshouse meeting @ The Honywood

DONATIONS

To donate to St Peter's Church: Scan the QR code; make a BACS payment to St Peter's Church Great Totham (sort code 20-54-30, account number 20882739); send a cheque (payable to 'St Peter's Church, Great Totham') to 25 Eaton Way, CM9 8EE or use the link on our website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6657/



Collect.

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 Return of the Redeemed to Zion

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² 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. ³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ 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.' ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ 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; ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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 traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

*This is the word of the Lord. - **Thanks be to God.***

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)



Second Reading James 5. 7-10

Patience in Suffering

⁷ 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. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*This is the word of the Lord. - **Thanks be to God.***

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

Gospel Matthew 11. 2-11

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N
Messengers from John the Baptist*

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴ Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ 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. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

Jesus Praises John the Baptist

⁷ 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?' ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then 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, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." ¹¹ 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.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord - **Praise to you, O Christ.***

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

We will be decorating the church for Christmas from 9am onwards on Saturday 20th December. All welcome to come along and help with this fun task, you don't need to be an accomplished flower arranger. Any foliage or greenery, particularly holly, would be appreciated. Refreshments will be provided.

Sue Keves

The Prayer for Peace in the World

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed; kindle in the hearts of all people the true love of peace; and guide with your pure and peaceful wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Leading your church into growth - a prayer.

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.

In your prayer's this week please include:

Our 'Friendship Church' - Bragernes Kirke, Drammen, Norway.
John Gladdish, Nina Pearce, Peter Roast.

We're looking for a volunteer to act as our Parish Safeguarding Officer.
If you are interested:

Please contact Karen ☎01621-892122 or Helen ☎01621-891067.

PARISH CONTACTS

Benefice Administrator:	☎07908 776750
Rosie Pollock:	✉office.blackwaterbenefice@gmail.com
Diocesan Safeguarding Team:	☎01245 294444
Parish Safeguarding Representative:	Vacancy
Churchwarden:	Vacancy

Notices: If you wish to include any item on the weekly 'Notices' please contact Chris Munton E-Mail ✉cmmunton@ukmm.com ☎01621 891817 who also maintains the consolidated diary for the Church, Church Extension and The Honywood.

Please inform ALL bookings to avoid the possibility of any conflicts.