

Sunday 17th December 2023
Third Sunday of Advent

St. Paul's
Church
Rusthall

Collect for the Week

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.



8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
President & Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Joint Service of the Word with Crib Service
Minister: The Vicar

Please see separate booklet

Followed **by Shortened Said Holy Communion (CW)**

6.30 pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
Minister: The Vicar

Please see separate booklet



Altar Flowers at the Parish Church

The altar flowers are given today by
Jo Winter in Loving Memory of
Pauline Giles
Mum of Jo and Grandma
to Stella and Marcy

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY 18th December

10.00 am Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer

11.00 am Choir Carol singing at Rusthall Lodge

TUESDAY 19th

Parish Office closed

3.00 pm Choir ice skating

5.00 pm Choir trip to Beauty and the Beast

WEDNESDAY 20th

10.00 am Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer

3.00 pm Choir carol singing at Chamberlain Court

THURSDAY 21st

10.00 am Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer

FRIDAY 22nd

10.00 am Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer

12:30 pm Community Larder at the Church Centre

4.00 pm Choir carol singing at Mount Ephraim House

6.30 pm Junior Choir party

7.30 pm Choir practice

SATURDAY 23rd

NEXT SUNDAY 24th December

CHRISTMAS EVE

8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

President and Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Matins (BCP)

Minister & Preacher: Rev. Nicholas Burton

10.00 am Family Carol Service at the Church Centre + Zoom

Lead: Jean Kerr, Link: Viv Littlechild

11.30 pm Midnight Mass for Christmas

President & Preacher: The Vicar



Monday 25th December

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

President and Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Family Carol Service at the Parish Church

Followed by Shorted Said Holy Communion (CW)

President and Preacher The Vicar

NEWS AND NOTES

From the Vicarage

Greetings to you all and a very warm welcome to our services today, the third Sunday of Advent. Special welcome to those of you joining us for our joint Crib service which is led by the children and young people and the Sunday school leaders. Special welcome to the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells, the Chair of Rusthall Parish Council and other dignitaries joining us this evening for our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight.

I am delighted that we are worshipping together and celebrating not just the joys of the season but also our common humanity - and some of the gifts of people within our community.

I pray that we will all be blessed through our services today and leave this place with increased joy and a renewed hope for a better future for humanity and the entire world.

Ronnie

Nine Lessons and Carols

We warmly invite you to join us this evening at 6.30 pm for our candle lit service of special readings, music and carols. It is always a wonderful and atmospheric start to Christmas week.

Cards for Sale

You will find baskets of greetings cards for sale in both churches. Please take a look when you have a chance. They are a bargain for a donation of 20p.

Parking Today

At the time of printing the entrance to Nevill Park from the Langton Road was closed for roadworks. If this is still the case people can enter Nevill Park from Major York's Road for overflow parking. Please use the correct side as per our signs. Thank you.

Charlies Angel's Kitchens – Surplus with Purpose

Charlie is now in her premises at 86 Camden Road. The official opening is on Friday 5th January at 11 am. We wish the team every success in their permanent home.

December 100 Club Winners

The numbers for this month are: 1st £100 number 76, 2nd £60 number 3, 3rd £40 number 67.

Family Service Children's Group

Our children's group has now finished for Christmas and will recommence on Sunday January 7th. Please email Mary Holmes with any queries - mary@mandmcreative.co.uk

Play Time at St Paul's

From Wednesday 10th January we are delighted that a new children's and parent /carers group will begin. It will run from 9 am to 11 am at the Church Centre every Wednesday, children from birth upwards will be welcome with their adults. Drinks and biscuits will be available to accompany a fun session of play and friendship. Do please spread the word. For details please contact Liz on 07840 837968 or Annie on 07730 771818.

Youth Council

After a very busy November meeting the following has been agreed:
Two social gatherings – Escape Room and burger before Christmas and Ice Skating after Christmas, Carol Singing with the choir at Mt Ephraim House – Friday 22nd December at 4 pm.

Future Meetings

Thursday January 4th New Year Celebrations at Mount Ephraim House.

Thursday February 1st 'Managing your money wisely!'

Thursday March 7th Cooking on a Budget – Fajitas for supper!

All meetings are held in the Lodge between 6 and 7:30 pm.

All years 7 -13 (ages 11 to 18 are very welcome).

I have no doubt there will be many additions to the list – all led by the Council!

CONTACTS

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