

Sunday 7th January 2024
First Sunday of Epiphany
BAPTISM OF CHRIST



Collect for the Week

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 Saviour.

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

10.00 am Eucharist with Baptism (CW)
President & Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom
Lead: Viv Littlechild, Link: Karen Miller

Hymns: We Three Kings
Colours of day
Teach me to dance
Spirit of the Living God
I, the Lord of sea and sky

Readings: Genesis 1.1-5
Mark 1.4-11

6.30 pm Compline with Homily
Minister: The Vicar



Altar Flowers at the Parish Church

The altar flowers are given today by
Kristina Varkevisser
in memory of her father Ilia
"You meant so much to me"

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY 8th January 2024 *Lucian, Priest and Martyr, 290*

10.00 am Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer

TUESDAY 9th

Parish Office closed

WEDNESDAY 10th *William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645*

10.00 am Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer

9.00 am Play Time at the Church Centre

3.00 pm Communion to Chamberlain Court – Lois Woodhouse

8.00 pm Family Service Meeting – Church Centre

THURSDAY 11th *Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915*

10.00 am Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer

10.30 am Communion to Rusthall Lodge – May Graves

10.30 am Flower Team meeting – The Lodge

12.30 pm Lunch club at the Church Centre

FRIDAY 12th *Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167;*

Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689

10.00 am Church at the Church Centre open for private prayer

12.30 pm Community Larder at the Church Centre

6.30 pm Junior Choir practice

7.30 pm Full Choir practice

SATURDAY 13th *Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, teacher of the faith, 357*

Kentigem, (Mungo), missionary bishop of Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603

George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends, 1691

6.30 pm Fellowship Party – Church Centre

7.00 pm Community Coffee – thank you and AGM – Rusthall Club

NEXT SUNDAY 14th January

The Second Sunday of Epiphany

8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

President and Preacher: Rev. Jane Edwards

10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW)

President and Preacher: Rev. Nicholas Burton

10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom

Lead: Daphne Pollard, Link: Chris Bassett

6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)

Minister & Preacher: Rev. Anthony Hammill

NEWS AND NOTES

From the Vicarage

Warm greetings to you all and welcome to our services today, the first Sunday of 2024 when we celebrate the Epiphany and the Baptism of Christ. Special welcome to Genie who is being baptised at the 10:00 am service at the Parish Church and to her family and friends.

As we worship together today, I pray that we would have a renewed sense of gratitude and an increased desire to be supportive of one another.

Ronnie

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.

Family Service Children's Group

Our children's group will recommence today, 7th January. It is lovely to welcome you back.

Play Time at St Paul's Starting Wednesday 10th January

The Elves have been really busy behind the scenes preparing for the exciting opening of our new children's group this week. Please continue to spread the word, everyone will be warmly welcomed from 9 am to 11 am. A hot cuppa will be awaiting you.

For details please contact -

Liz on 07840 837968 or Annie on 07730 771818.

Family Service

We are holding a planning meeting on Wednesday 10th January at 8 pm in the Church Centre. All members of Family Service are very welcome to attend. The meeting will be reviewing past services and planning for the next 4 months, as well as looking at social, fundraising and joint events with the Parish Church. If you are unable to attend but have anything you wish to be discussed, please let Susan Powley know.

Holocaust Memorial Service

Please note that this service scheduled for 27th January 2024 has now been cancelled.

Mount Ephraim House

The team are looking for someone to lead a music/singing activity on a regular basis, if this might something you could do please speak to Angela Culley.

Recycling Christmas Cards

Once again, I will be collecting used Christmas cards. The church of St Thomas Becket in Hamburg makes them into new ones and sells them mostly to the ex-pats in Hamburg, where Christmas Cards are not so often found in shops. They have raised hundreds of euros over the years and they're all beautifully made. Sometimes, you don't notice they have been recycled!

I can collect them from either of our churches up to the end of January. I then hand them over to a contact who has a house in Sussex!

BUT PLEASE, first cut off the front cover of each card - ie you keep the personal part! - and no glitter ! Thank you in advance. Tony Rutherford.

Youth Council

The Youth Council have already held their first meeting of 2024 where the discussion point 'What could, or should, Rusthall offer young people' was the focus. We were delighted to welcome Councillor Jayne Sharratt and Lisa Coughlin (Rusthall Bonfire and Fete Committee) to this meeting.

Future meetings:

Thursday February 1st - 'Managing your money wisely'

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

We also remain focused on the challenge of obtaining a crossing on the A264 and preparing for our Bees!

All meetings are held in The Lodge on the first Thursday of the month between 6 and 7.30 pm. All years 7-13 (ages 11 to 18) are very welcome

Please see Angela Culley or Jean Kerr if you would like any further details

Family Service donations in lieu of Christmas Cards.

Once again Family Service chose not to send each other individual Christmas cards but to put one up on the board and collect the money saved. We have had donations totalling £63 and have decided to send the money to a school in Malawi which we have supported before.

I received the following reply: "I write to express appreciation for the funds raised by the church. Following the engagement of the headmaster, teachers, PTA, and School management committee, it has been resolved that the funds should be used for school uniforms for the neediest pupils who were left out last time. Funds permitting, in future Nampeya school intends to rehabilitate and re-roof the teachers houses whose roofs were blown off during the last cyclone."

Many thanks everyone. Liz Goddard.

CONTACTS

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