

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY, PULBOROUGH



1ST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

**Beginning of Liturgical Year A
The Year of St Matthew**

10.30am THE PARISH EUCHARIST
Sunday 30th November, 2025

We are very grateful that the leaflets today have been
generously sponsored

" In fond memory of a dear sister who left us a year ago"

Dorothy and Don Hubert

WELCOME TO OUR CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST ON THIS FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Paul

Organist Peter Allwood

The Setting: Murray

The First Reading: Christine Lindsay

The Second Reading: Richard Shenton

The Intercessions: Bren Marks

Ministers of Communion: David Hayes and James Raynard

*If you feel able to make a donation during the offertory hymn and you are a UK taxpayer, please use and complete the details on the Gift Aid white envelope you will find in your service leaflet. We also have **contactless facilities** available by the organ at the back of the church. Thank you.*



In the event of a fire or emergency in the Church, the exits available are: the West Door, the North Door, the South Door in the Chancel and the door through the Vestry. Please leave the building by an exit nearest to you.

Do join us for refreshments after the service

*Gathering Music: Prelude on 'Veni Emmanuel'
by Edward Bairstow*

Please stand when the bell rings for the beginning of the service

The Entrance Hymn: NEH 5
Anonymous Latin
Translated Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

- 1 Hark! a herald voice is calling:
 'Christ is nigh!' it seems to say;
 'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
 O ye children of the day!'**
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,
 let the earth-bound soul arise;
 Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
 shines upon the morning skies.**
- 3 Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
 comes with pardon down from heaven;
 let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
 one and all to be forgiven.**
- 4 So when next he comes in glory,
 And earth's final hour draws near,
 may he then, as our defender,
 on the clouds of heaven appear.**
- 5 Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
 to the Father and the Son,
 with the co-eternal Spirit,
 while unending ages run.**

✠ In the name of the Father, and
of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Fr Paul introduces the day's celebration.

The Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Jesus said, " Keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming"

Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The first candle is lit.

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.



All sing (Tune NEH 336)

Advent candles tell their story

As we watch and pray,

Longing for the Day of glory,

'Come Lord, soon,' we say.

Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,

Changed for gladness

On that Day.

Prayers of Penitence

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Lord Jesus you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom:

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

May Almighty God, have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

The Collect for the Day

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious
majesty
to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

The First Reading: Isaiah 2.1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and
Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Choir: O&N 557 vv 1,2 and 5
Eleanor Farjeon 91881 – 1961)*

- 1 *People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.*
- 2 *Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.*

5 *Angels, announce to man and beast
Him who cometh from the east.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

The Second Reading: Romans 13. 11-end

A reading Paul's letter to the Romans

Brothers and sisters, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 24. 36-44

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you O Lord

Jesus spoke to his disciples:

“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour”.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Please sit

The Homily

Please stand

The Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came
down from heaven, was incarnate from
the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of
sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Please kneel or sit

The Intercessions – the prayers for the Church

Watchful at all times,
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence
before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may establish among the nations
his sceptre of righteousness,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures
and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may bind up the brokenhearted,
restore the sick
and raise up all who have fallen,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That the light of God's coming may dawn
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That, with all the saints in light,
we may shine forth as lights for the world,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray
to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

Fr Paul concludes:

Almighty God,
as your blessed Son Jesus Christ
first came to seek and to save the lost;
so may he come again to find in us
the completion of his redeeming work;
for he is now alive
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please stand

The Peace

Fr. Paul introduces the Peace:

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace

**The Offertory Hymn: NEH 9
Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and John Cennick (1718-1755)**

- 1 Lo, he comes! with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train;
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign!**

- 2 **Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
pieced and nailed him to the tree,
 deeply wailing, deeply wailing.....
shall the true Messiah see.**
- 3 **Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears;
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers;
 with what rapture, with what rapture.....
gaze we on those glorious scars!.**
- 4 **Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own;
 O come quickly! O come quickly!.....
Alleluya! Come, Lord come!**

Pray dear brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Gifts

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now united on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom, we ask this through Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give thanks and praise

Fr. Paul continues with the prayer
**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Fr. Paul continues until the following is used:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory**

Fr. Paul continues and leads into the conclusion of the prayer to which all say **Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen**

Please kneel or sit

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

**Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup.
We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The Giving of Communion

Fr Paul issues the invitation to communion in these or very similar words:

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Communion is administered in both kinds. Receiving consecrated wine directly from the chalice is offered for those who feel comfortable to do this. **Please do not dip the consecrated wafer into the chalice.** Please wait to be directed to communion.*

*Communion Motet
Zion hears her watchman's voices
(from Wachet Auf!) by JS Bach*

Communion Hymn: NEH 18 Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

- 1 Ye servants of the Lord,
 Each for your Master wait,
 Observant of his heavenly word,
 And watchful at his gate.
- 2 Let all your lamps be bright,
 And trim the golden flame;
 Gird up your loins, as in his sight,
 For awful is his name.
- 3 Watch: 'tis your Lord's command;
 And while we speak he's near;
 Mark the first signal of his hand,
 And ready all appear.

- 4 **O happy servant he,
In such a posture found!
He shall his Lord with rapture see,
And be with honour crowned.**
- 5 **Christ shall the banquet spread
With his own royal hand,
And raise that favoured servant's head
Amidst the angelic band.**

The Prayer after Communion

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son
Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and
bodies to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen**

Notices are given out

Please stand

The Blessing

**The Lord be with you.
and also with you.**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the
Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

The Recessional Hymn: NEH 3 (2nd Tune) Charles Wesley (1707-1788) based on *Matthew 16 v27*

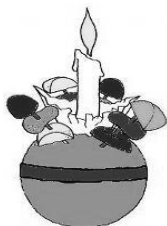
- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
 born to set thy people free;
 from our fears and sins release us,
 let us find our rest in thee.**
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
 Hope of all the earth thou art;
 Dear desire of every nation,
 Joy of every longing heart.**
- 3 Born thy people to deliver,
 Born a child and yet a king,
 Born to reign in us for ever,
 Now thy gracious kingdom bring.**
- 4 By thine own eternal Spirit
 Rule in all our hearts alone;
 By thine all-sufficient merit
 Raise us to thy glorious throne.**

*Concluding Organ music: Two Advent Chorale Preludes
by JS Bach*

*- Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland
- Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes-Sohn*

PRAYER MINISTRY

Today individual prayer ministry is offered in the chapel after the Parish Eucharist. If you would like prayer for yourself or others and or would like to speak privately with someone please use this opportunity



CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Today at 4pm there will be the **Christingle Service supporting the work of the Children's Society**, followed by the switching on of the Pulborough Star on the Church tower. One person from the service will be the lucky one to turn the star on. Do join us for this

popular community event.

For your prayers this coming week

We pray for Pope Leo XIV and his ministry to the world-wide church.

We pray for the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally who is the Archbishop Elect of Canterbury

*In the **Anglican cycle of prayer** this Sunday we pray for:
The Anglican Church of Australia*

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:
for the Bishop's Council setting policy and strategy for the Diocese

*We also pray for the **Venerable Dr. Tom Carpenter**, our new Archdeacon of Chichester*

*We pray in our Deanery for a good and fruitful response to the **Steining Grammar School Mission***

*We pray for the work of **SPLASH** in their work with young people across the Deanery.*

*We pray for **our nation and government**:*

For King Charles and his family. We pray for our Government and all members of Parliament especially Andrew Griffith our own MP

*We continue to pray for all those caught up in the **conflicts in the Middle East, Ukraine and other troubled parts of the world.***

*We pray for all **migrants and refugees** and all who have been driven from their homes. We pray for all world leaders, diplomats and ambassadors and all working for the common good.*

*We pray for the work of **Education West Africa**, the people of Sierra Leone and the work of the Church there remembering especially the Dioceses of Freetown and Bo.*

*We continue to pray for **the work of FSW** across the Diocese.*

*We pray for our **local Care Homes**: Hillside Lodge, The Anchorage, Petworth Cottage Nursing Home, Rotherlea and Barlavington Manor*

Those who are now in need of healing:

Patrick Carr, Fr Barry Smart, Toni Hayes, Sarah and James Ross, Carole Brooke, Richard Cromwell, Tony Hancock, Jim Crowley and Charlie Goldsmith

Those who are in need of on-going prayer:

Peter Johnston, Helen Leeke, Rachel Webbe, Elizabeth Yates, James McDonagh, Victoria and Tim

***Pray to rest in peace:** Colin Wade, Ian Thompsett, Terry Smith*

***Anniversary of death:** Jamie Bartle and Rita Copeman*

Village Prayers: *Together with the other churches in the village we pray for all who live and work in Hill Farm Lane, Coombelands Lane Pythingdean and Pickhurst Lane*

Church and Liturgical diary

1st Monday: *Feria of Advent*

10am – 12noon The Hub’ meet at Pulborough Library

7.00pm St Mary’s Book Group meet

7.30pm Tower Bellringing Practice

2nd Tuesday: *Feria of Advent*

7pm PCC Meeting in church

3rd Wednesday: *Feria of Advent (St Francis Xavier, missionary, 1552)*

9. 45am Morning Prayer

10.15 am The Holy Eucharist

12.30pm Deanery Clergy Chapter meeting

7pm Meeting of ‘Friends’ Committee and Church Building Development Group

4th Thursday: *Feria of Advent (St John of Damascus, Teacher 749)*

9.30am Morning Prayer

5th Friday: *Feria*

12noon The Holy Eucharist

6th Saturday: *Feria of Advent (St. Nicholas, bishop of Myra c 326)*

10am to 12noon Church Working Party

7th THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8am The Holy Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)

Readings: Isaiah 11. 1-10 Romans 15. 4-13 and Matthew 3. 1-12

10. 30am ‘ALL ARE WELCOME’ Celebration

(Toys for FSW)

DECEMBER CHURCH WORKING PARTY

The last working party of this year will be next **Saturday 6th December from 10am to 12noon**. When jobs both inside the church and out in the churchyard are undertaken. Please to come along to the working party, you will be made most welcome and with delicious refreshments served at the end of the morning.

FAMILY SUPPORT WORK – Next Sunday 7th December

Toys for Family Support Work at the 8am and 10.30am Services

Traditionally on near the Feast of St. Nicholas we collect toys for FSW which will be delivered to families in need in time for Christmas. This year the charity will be pleased to receive, board games, science kits, arts and crafts sets, roleplay kits, sensory toys, lego, toy cars, colouring books, gift vouchers, teen clothing with gift receipts.



Rolls of Christmas wrapping paper are also welcome.

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING for older people 60+ Also welcome are carers and anyone interested in older people.

On **Friday 5th December from 10am to 12noon in Pulborough Village Hall**. The speakers will be our **MP Andrew Griffith, Laura Robertson**, Director of Communications and Engagement, NHS Sussex and **Lottie Torp and Carol Boniface**, the Pulborough Community wardens. This event is open to everyone who is 60+ and light refreshments will be provided.

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA – Friday 12th December

Tickets for the event now available from Ann Kaiser or Michael Pioli price £20 each which include a glass of wine and festive nibbles throughout the evening. This year we will be raising funds for Education West Africa and the running of our beautiful church. We have some lovely baskets for the special raffle and **many thanks to all those who have given items for the special raffle so far, it is much appreciated.**

If you have any spare bottles of wine, tins of biscuits or chocolates or anything festive please let **Ann Kaiser on 01798 872819 or email: ann.kaiser@live.co.uk** Thank you for your support

ST MARY'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD 2025

Once again, we are producing a Church Christmas card.

The design this year will be a picture of our new Nativity scene. If you like your name included on the inside of the card please let **Ann Kaiser on 01798 872819 or ann.kaiser@live.co.uk know by Monday 15th December** On the 4th Sunday of Advent 21st December we will put the Christmas Card on show and also have individual ones for people to take home.



The message in the card will be:

With Christmas blessings.

May the love of the Christ child bring you hope, good health and happiness.

Praying that 2026 be a year of peace and reconciliation for our world.

If you would like to give a donation towards the upkeep of the church to support this initiative that would be so helpful.

Please just leave a donation in the glass carboy

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Please take a copy of our latest newsletter which gives details of the church services and events during December. Please also take a copy for a neighbour or friend. The newsletters are in the magazine box at the back of the church. If you can spare 50p a copy it would help us with printing and paper cost. Thank you.

LEAFLET SPONSORING FOR THE NEW CHURCH YEAR.

We will soon be looking at a new Church Year starting on **Advent Sunday**. The dates we have are the **The Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm or Christmas Day at 10am**

If you have a special occasion or date in memory of a loved one do consider sponsoring one of services.

We ask for a £25 donation, gift-aided, if possible, which helps us cover the cost of printing and paper.

Do speak to Ann Kaiser if you can help. Many thanks

Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee
more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly, day by day. Amen

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2025

For your diaries.....

SUNDAY 7th December

Special collection of toys, games etc for Family Support Work at both 8am and 10.30am services

FRIDAY 12th December

7.30pm Special Musical event at Pulborough Village Hall in aid of Education West Africa and St Mary's Parish Church

WEDNESDAY 17th December

7pm Mary How Carol Concert in church

SUNDAY 21st December

8am and 10.30am Services

6pm THE PARISH CAROL SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm Crib Service

11pm MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY

(There is NO 8am service)

10.00am PARISH EUCHARIST

