



St Matthew with St Paul
Pilgrims on a journey

10 December 2017
The second Sunday of Advent

Welcome

A warm welcome to everyone, and especially if you are new or visiting. Do please stay on for drinks and to meet people after the 9.30 and 11.15 services and keep this welcome sheet for your prayers this week.

Prayer

- with the Anglican Communion we pray for the diocese of Western North Carolina; for Archbishop Justin; for Bishops Tim, Jonathan and David
- for the Sisters of St Andrew in Lyon, among them Sister Katie Seal
- our mission giving: £1,500 for USPG (United Society – Partners in the Gospel) for their work with people living in poverty throughout the world
- that world leaders may be aware of and respect the complex history of so many places where there continues to be discord
- Children's Society, caring for vulnerable children; for our Christingle service today
- give thanks for our children's and youth workers Cassandra Brown, Aaron Burrows and Olli Wilson-Smith, praying a blessing on all of them personally and on everything they do in this parish
- Western, our church school, and all the schools with which we each have connections
- this season of Advent, with its rich themes of watching, waiting and preparing
- keeping a sense of the deeper meaning of Christmas amid all the commercialism
- give thanks for Winchester's street pastors, the NHS, and our emergency services
- all who sleep outdoors in this cold weather or worry about fuel bills
- the unwell: Jess, Caroline Behan, Henry Gaster-Evans, Julia Jones, Emma and Mark Miller, Kate Morgan, Sally Owens, Michael Pain, Jean Reeder, Ruth Scott and Alison Stafford. All awaiting appointments or treatments
- those who have died recently, including Frederick Castle, Pat O'Leary and Andy Rann; all who live with the pain of untimely death; God's comfort for their families and friends

Please feel free to put prayer requests on the board at the back of church or e-mail them to admin@stmatthewstpaul.org.
St Paul's Lady Chapel is set up for prayer, either alone or with one of the prayer ministry team, after the 9.30 parish communion service.

Services today, 10 December

8 am [BCP] Holy Communion
St Matthew's
Readings: p. 49



9.30 am Parish Communion with DIY crèche, Scramblers,
St Paul's children's activities, Destination and Transition
Order of service in pale blue booklet

Collect With tender comfort and transforming power
you come into our midst,
O God of mercy and might.
Make ready a way in the wilderness,
clear a straight path in our hearts,
and form us into a repentant people,
that the advent of your Son
may find us watchful and eager for the glory he reveals.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near:
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Readings *Isaiah 40: 1–11 [p. 380]*
Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.
A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Mark 1: 1–8 [p. 382]

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight"',

John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

**Post
Communion**

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

11.15 am [BCP] Mattins
St Matthew's

Readings *Isaiah 40: 1–11; Mark 1: 1–8 [p. 380]*
See above

5 pm Christingle service
St Paul's



Services next Sunday, 17 December

The third Sunday of Advent

8 am [BCP] Holy Communion
St Matthew's *Readings: p. 51*

9.30 am Parish Communion
St Paul's *Readings: Isaiah 61: 1–4, 8–11; John 1: 6–8, 19–28 [p. 384]*

11.15 am [BCP] Mattins
St Matthew's *Readings: Isaiah 61: 1–4, 8–11; John 1: 6–8, 19–28 [p. 384]*

4 pm St Paul's @ 4 family service, 'The Christmas story'
St Paul's

Building for Life

Please pray for

- the Fund-raising Committee under Bill Lucas' leadership, and especially for Nikki Prentice-Jones managing our grant applications process
- that more volunteers may respond to the invitation to draft grant applications, supported and guided by Nikki (thanks to those who have already expressed willingness)

Thank you very much for all the wonderful and generous pledges that we have received. There are two ways you can make your donation to the project:

- ***One-off gifts*** Please either make out your cheque to 'St Matthew's PCC' and leave it in an envelope in the yellow box at the back of church, or make a direct bank transfer into the *Building for Life* bank account (sort code 55-81-26, account number 94359024)
- ***Standing orders*** Standing order forms are available at the back of church: please take one, fill it in, send it to your bank and let Giles Tibbitts or Bill Lucas know that you have done this

If you have any questions or need any help please don't hesitate to contact Giles (Giles.Tibbitts@glory-global.com, 07471 215090) or Bill (buildingforlife@stmatthewstpaul.org).

The week ahead

Mon 11, 8.30 am	<i>Building for Life</i> steering group	Parish rooms
10 am	Westgate Lower School Year 3 visit	St Matthew's
4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	Parish rooms
7.30 pm	Peter Symonds carol service	Cathedral
Tues 12, 2.30 pm	Western School Year 4 Christingle	St Paul's
2.30 pm	Peter Seal speaks at Mothers' Union	St Barnabas'
4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	Parish rooms
7.30 pm	<i>Building for Life</i> fund-raising group	Vestry
7.30 pm	Christian meditation	Parish rooms
Wed 13, 10 am	Advent course	St Matthew's
11 am	[BCP] Holy Communion	St Matthew's
4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	Vestry
6 pm	Western School carol service	St Paul's
8.30 pm	Men's group	Roebuck Inn
Thurs 14, 9.30–11.30 am	Toddler group	Parish rooms
Sat 16, 6.30 pm	Christmas carol service	St Paul's

Diary dates

December

Tues 19, 7.30 pm	Christian meditation	Parish rooms
Wed 20, 10 am	Advent course	St Matthew's
7 pm	Carol singing	Eastacre
Thurs 21	Parish office closed (re-opens 2 Jan)	
9.30 am	Under-fives' Christmas celebration	St Paul's
9.30–11.30 am	Toddler group	Parish rooms
6 pm	Carol singing round the parish	St Paul's
Fri 22, 10 am	Animal nativity (outside)	St Paul's
Sun 24	<i>No 8 am Holy Communion</i>	
3 for 3.30 pm	Nativity service	St Paul's
11.30 pm	Midnight Eucharist	St Paul's
Mon 25, 8 am	Christmas Holy Communion	St Matthew's
9.30 am	Christmas Family Communion	St Paul's
11.15 am	Holy Communion with carols	St Matthew's

January

Mon 8, 7 pm	Women's group	Roebuck Inn
Tues 9, 7.30 pm	Music committee	Vestry
Wed 10, 2.30 pm	Faith Development group	Parish rooms
7.45 pm	PCC meeting	Parish rooms
8.30 pm	Men's group	Roebuck Inn
Thurs 11	Deadline for February magazine	
Sun 28, 12.30 pm	Bring and share lunch	St Paul's
February		
Sat 3, 9 am–4.30 pm	Musical workshop, <i>Joseph</i>	St Paul's

Coming up

Twirties Advent afternoon tea in St Paul's Hall today, 1.30–3.30 pm. For all in their 20s and 30s and families with primary school age children and younger (children welcome). A chance to catch up with others amidst the busyness that this time of year and stage of life brings.



St Matthew's Advent course continues on Wednesdays 13 and 20 December, 10–10.50 am, exploring the different accounts of Jesus' birth.

New Wine A group from the parish plans to go to New Wine in 2018! All welcome! 5–11 August, Bath and West Showground, Somerset. Camping/caravan hire, outstanding youth work and childcare, fairground, indoor beach, running club, sports tournaments, art galleries, cinema, socials and speakers from all over the world, with many types of worship. An opportunity to feed your faith, and very welcoming of non-Christian family members. Early-bird discount for bookings before Mon 4 December. Contact Susie Richardson, susannarichardson@hotmail.co.uk, 07813 641646, or Mary Copping, youth@stmatthewstpaul.org, 07921 886016.

Notices

Birthday thank you Peter writes: 'I'm having a wonderful extended celebration: it began on Sunday with the lovely card/s with their special greetings, the abundance of roses that the children/young people presented and the most generous gift, to which so many of you contributed. Thank you very much indeed – I am very touched by your great kindness.'

Mulled wine and mince pies We would be hugely grateful for any help you can offer for the wonderful refreshments after our Christmas carol service, Sat 16 December. We welcome around 200 people to this service, which is a highlight of our year, and it's a way of showing hospitality to many folk who may not usually come to church. We need help with the following, please:

- a plate of 12 homemade mince pies (we need 12 plates)
- a plate of homemade savoury snacks, e.g. cheese straws, smoked salmon (we need 12 plates)

Immediately after the service, at 7.30ish:

- help pouring wine and mulled apple juice (we need 12 people)
- help taking trays round (we need 12 people)
- help clearing and washing up (as many as can fit in hospitality area!)

Many hands make light work, so please contact Julia Seal, 854849, julia.seal@ntlworld.com. Thank you very much.

Please take a bundle or two of parish Christmas cards from the table at the back of church to distribute to local homes.

Christmas cards for sale at the back of church, or you can order and collect next week – three wonderful designs painted by professional artist Milli McGregor. £3.50 for a pack of 8 with envelopes, raising funds for *Building for Life*.

Carol singing around the parish Thurs 21 December: meet at St Paul's at 6 pm. Everyone welcome; music provided. Mince pies and mulled wine on return (about 7.30 pm) – please sign up at the back of church.

Help please! Volunteers to organise mince pies and mulled wine for carol singers, Thurs 21 December, 7–8 pm.

Coffee Urgent! We're short of helpers to prepare and serve coffee on Sunday mornings at St Paul's (once every six weeks). Please contact Sue Walker, 850559, nsue.walker@googlemail.com. It isn't difficult and it's a good way to meet others.

Toddler group is such a lovely offering to the community, but it needs some more helpers (once a month) in the New Year. Thursdays, term time, 9.30–11.30 am Please contact Mary Copping, 07921 886016, youth@stmatthewstpaul.org.

Coats4Calais Over 3,000 refugees, including minors as young as 13, are currently sleeping rough in northern France, and temperatures are rapidly dropping. So this holiday season Coats4Calais' goal is to provide each of these refugees with a warm winter coat. Please help: we're asking you to look for a winter coat you no longer wear and donate it at 147 Greenhill Road, Winchester SO22 5DU, 01962 869292. If you don't have a coat to give, you could buy a coat for a refugee for £25 at mydonate.bt.com/donation/start.html?charity=164447.

Trinity Centre Donations of men's and women's casual clothes, shoes and warm items appreciated; contact lucy@trinitywinchester.org.uk.

Nightshelter Please leave donations of black bin bags, washing powder, washing-up liquid, instant coffee, squash and tins of custard in the box at the back of St Paul's.

Winchester women's refuge A safe haven for women and children fleeing domestic abuse. Please help by giving towels and toiletries (but not clothes) and leave in the box at the back of church. Thank you.

Community Day 2017

We have a date: Sat 12 May; we have a focus for fund-raising: St Paul's *Building for Life*; we have lots of volunteers full of goodwill. **What we urgently need is someone to lead a planning group.** Could it be you? Please contact Peter Seal asap: 854849, peter@stmatthewstpaul.org.

Interested in meeting people/getting involved?

- *Twirties group* for 20s and 30s, meeting monthly on Sunday evenings; please contact Katy Charles, twirtiesstpauls@gmail.com
- *Women's group* next meets on Mon 8 Jan, 7 pm, at the Roebuck for Christmas supper; please contact Julia Seal, 854849, julia.seal@ntlworld.com
- *Men's group* next meets Wed 13 Dec, 8.30 pm, at the Roebuck for a drink and a chat; please contact Chris Sharp, 849186, chrisesharp@gmail.com
- *Daytime book group* next meets in Romsey on Mon 15 Jan for lunch and a visit to the Christian bookshop; contacts: Talia Hedstrom, 868728, or Christine Bennett, 852681
- *Tuesday homegroup* meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, 7.45–9.15 pm, to study the *Pilgrim* course; for further information please contact James Clay, 852141
- *Meditation group*, Tuesdays, 7.30 pm, in the parish rooms; all welcome
- *Thursday homegroup* meeting fortnightly, 7.30 for 7.45 pm, studying *Jesus: the voice that makes us turn* from the York course; please contact Peter and Irene Casey, 808776

Contact us

Canon Peter Seal, Rector

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Revd Mary Copping, Children/Youth Co-ordinator & Assistant Priest

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www.stmatthewstpaul.org

Please make cheques payable to St Matthew's PCC – all gifts gratefully received

Please send in any notices for the welcome sheet to ursula@stmatthewstpaul.org by Wednesday evening for inclusion the following Sunday