

**The Parish Church of St Paul  
Ansdell & Fairhaven**

# **Pews News Extra**

**Issue No 98 – December 2016**



*The Church Family of Ansdell and Fairhaven St. Paul  
Wish You Joy and Peace this Christmastime!*

## **CHURCH OFFICERS**

### **Vicar**

The Rev Paul Bye

Tel

### **Reader**

Miss Janet Kimber

### **Reader Emeritus**

Mr Peter Swindells

### **Church Wardens**

Mrs Michele Briers

Mrs Pamela Rowell

### **Verger**

Mrs Carole Johnson

### **Parish Secretary**

Mr Alan Curtis

### **Treasurer**

Mrs Loraine Lee

### **Organist**

Mrs Linda Carrington

*For a full list of Who's Who as St Paul's please pick up a list from the Parish Office, Church or St. Paul's Fundraising Shop*

**Parish Office**  
**Fundraising Shop**  
**Website**  
**E-mail**

Tel No 01253 732939  
Tel No 01253 732253  
[www.stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com](http://www.stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com)  
[stpaulsoffice2@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsoffice2@gmail.com)

## Letter from the Vicarage...

The countdown to Christmas is well and truly on. To prove it the Christmas television adverts are out! John Lewis gives us Buster the Boxer and Marks and Spencer focus on Mrs Claus.



But it's the Sainsbury's advert which has caught my eye – James Corden's brilliant song of a dad hard pressed by the Christmas rush searching to find the greatest gift he can give his family. What does he discover? 'The greatest gift I can give is me.' That's wonderfully true. While gifts are right at this time of year – giving ourselves – our time, emotions and presence is what most expresses our love to our dear ones.

Sainsburys are closer to what Christmas is all about than they might imagine! But as good as it is, it is not families or friends giving themselves to another which is the true heart of Christmas. Rather Christmas is about the greatest gift – from God himself.

When the angel appeared to the shepherds on the hillside that first Christmas, he made this announcement:

*'I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.'* Luke 2:10-11

When God gives a gift to the world, he doesn't send a pile of books to educate us a little more, or a letter with some how-to instructions for life. Rather the angel said that first Christmas God gave himself to the world, in the person of his Son, Jesus. That is the greatest gift! There is nothing more powerful and profound than that.

The little baby in the manger, weak and fragile as he was, is Christ *the Lord*. God himself come down to earth. God taking on our humanity. Becoming like us. Coming to be with us. If we had lived at the right time and in that part of the Middle East, we could have seen God! Now as we read about Jesus in the Bible, because that baby was God giving himself, we can know not just about God, but actually know him.

But why did God give this greatest gift? Notice the angel said a *Saviour* has been born. That's what the third colour on our 'Jesus Rock' sweets we've been thinking about recently, represents. Red is not only the colour of Father Christmas – but blood. The baby Jesus was born in a wooden crib so the man Jesus could die on a wooden cross. He was born to save us from the consequences of our wrong.



An anonymous poem puts it well:

*If our greatest need had been information,  
God would have sent us an educator,*

*If our greatest need had been technology,  
God would have sent us a scientist.*

*If our greatest need had been money,  
God would have sent us an economist.*

*If our greatest need had been pleasure,  
God would have sent us an entertainer.*

*But our greatest need was forgiveness,  
So, God sent us a Saviour.*

That is indeed good news of great joy for all people. So, whoever you are, we would love to warmly welcome you to our Christmas services in the coming weeks. Join us as we enjoy and grow to understand that great news of the greatest gift!

With best wishes and prayers at this Christmas time

*Paul*



## *Christmas Cards and Flyers*

*There has been a huge response to the request for volunteers to deliver this year's Christmas Cards and Flyers and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for offering your time and energy to this massive task! Thank you also to Diane Austin and Bronwyn Thomas-Laundy for co-ordinating the deliveries.*

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Hello Everyone,

Although I am sure the word has already spread I am pleased to say that Mrs Pamela Chapman has agreed to be our new Branch Leader. At our recent meeting all the Committee pledged their full support to her and I am sure that all our members feel the same. Thank you, Pam.

Our October meeting was one of reflection and sharing of a quiet moment as we held our annual Wave of Prayer, remembering all MU members worldwide and praying for their continuing mission in the steps of the MU.

Sharing the day with us was Christine Hodgkinson, our Literature representative, who brought a wide selection of literature, Christmas cards and most important – our MU diaries for 2017. We had a lovely letter thanking us for letting her join in our Wave of Prayer and for the custom on her stall, the profits from which go to the MU Charity.

Our Christmas Lunch is on Thursday 8th December meeting at 12.30 for 1pm.

We have started planning our programme for meetings in 2017. Further information will be given at the AGM on 23rd January.

May I wish our Committee, members and all at St. Paul's a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and Every Good Wish for Health and Happiness for 2017.

This month's quote:

**Innkeeper:** first century hotelier with no spare rooms who can nevertheless claim to be responsible for the fact that Jesus was fortunate enough to spend the very earliest part of his life in a stable environment.

That's All For This Year

*Jean Lyon*



# PARISHIONER'S NOTES

## Christmas Greetings

Once again, we are offering you the opportunity to send your greetings to the Church Family by adding your message to the tree at the back of Church. The tree will be available for use from the beginning of December and all donations will be going to the Blue Skies Hospital Fund, which is based at Blackpool Victoria Hospital. The Fund, also known as Peace of Mind, is used to provide care and help to both patients and their families, in many different areas across the Fylde.

Please support us if you can!

Many thanks

*Bronwyn & Pam*



## Thank You

A big thank you to all who contributed to, filled and packed all the Christmas Shoe Boxes this year. They have now been collected and will hopefully bring some benefit and happiness to the children who receive them.

*Sheila Swindells*

## Many Thanks

Many thanks to all my friends at St. Paul's Church for your kindness at a very sad and bewildering time; and for the many cards, condolences and flowers that kept arriving. The lounge looked like a flower shop! It really lifted our very low spirits. Your kindness was overwhelming. The family join me in thanking you all sincerely for being so nice.

It was lovely that so many turned up for the Buffet, and I can safely say it was enjoyed by all. It was lovely seeing all the family again.

God Bless You

*Liz Geddes*



# Advent & Christmas at St. Paul's

## Wednesday 7th December

7:30pm ~ Churches Together Advent Service  
at Fairhaven Methodist Church



## Thursday 8th December

6:15pm for 6:30pm ~ Christingle Café



## Wednesday 14th December

4:00pm ~ Carols on the Corner  
St. Paul's Fundraising Show



## Sunday 18th December

6:00pm ~ Carols by Candlelight



## Saturday 24th December

4:00pm ~ Crib Service  
Eucharist



## Sunday 25th December

10:00am ~ All Age Service with  
Communion



11:30pm ~ Midnight



shortened

*Please come along and join us!*

## **READERS' ROTA – SUNDAY (10:30am)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings</u>		<u>Name</u>
4 Dec <b>Advent 2</b>	OT & Ps	Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Bryan Nicholson
	NT	Romans 15:4-13	Sheila Swindells
	Gospel	Matthew 3:1-12	Janet Kimber
11 Dec <b>Advent 3</b>	OT & Ps	Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46b-55 (Magnificat)	Richard Redcliffe
	NT	James 5:7-10	Sheila Redcliffe
	Gospel	Matthew 11:2-11	Pam Rowell
18 Dec <b>Advent 4</b>	OT & Ps	Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18	Ken Pocock
	NT	Romans 1:1-7	Jo Pocock
	Gospel	Matthew 1:18-25	Barbara Jackson
25 Dec <b>Christmas Day</b>	OT & Ps	Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98	Eileen Russell
	NT	Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]	Liz Geddes
	Gospel	John 1:1-14	Janet Kimber

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## **SUNDAY EVENINGS IN DECEMBER**

| <u>Date</u>   | <u>Sunday</u> | <u>Said/Sung</u>        | <u>Leader</u> | <u>Preacher</u> |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| December 4th  | Advent 2      | Sung (4:00pm)           | Janet         | Paul            |
| December 11th | Advent 3      | Said (4:00pm)           | Paul          | Janet           |
| December 18th | Advent 4      | *6:00pm ~ Carol Service |               |                 |
| December 25th | Christmas Day | *No Evening Prayer      |               |                 |

***\*Please note the changes for the last two Sundays of December.***

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## **Parishioner Donations**

This is proving to be very popular way of giving much needed items to church. So, if the thought of donating money towards a specific item, such as a box of candles, wine or wafers, appeals to you, then please speak to one of the Wardens or a member of the PCC.

They would be very pleased to hear from you.



# NOTES FROM THE ORGAN LOFT

## CAROL SINGING IN THE COMMUNITY

I hope that you've been practising your singing Centre and Lake View Care Home. We are and at Lake View the following evening at church.



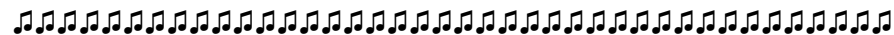
skills in readiness for our Christmas carol singing visits to South Hey Community due at South Hey on Monday 55th December at 12:30 (to be followed by a buffet) 6:00pm. If you can join us please sign your name on the list at the back of the



## "SONGS OF PRAISE"

Our next "Songs of Praise" service of your hymn requests will be on Sunday 29th January. I look forward to receiving your choices of hymns to get 2107 off to a good start. Requests need to reach me by Sunday 8th January.

*Linda*



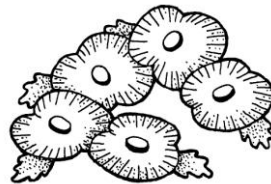
## Charity Shop Window

Next time you are passing St Paul's Fundraising Shop do stop and have a good look in the window.

Sheila Redcliffe dresses the window each week and recently she did a special one for Remembrance Week and it was fantastic. It was commented upon by so many customers who said that it was absolutely wonderful and we were asked to pass on their compliments.

Well done Sheila!

Obviously once you have taken in the window,  
Judith Lakin



call in and say "Hello" you will be surprised what you will find there!



## Paraprosdokians ~ Part 2 of 2

A **paraprosdokian** is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently used in a humorous situation.

*"Where there's a will, I want to be in it," is a paraprosdokian.*

Here are some more:-

- ❖ To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
- ❖ Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
- ❖ To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
- ❖ War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

- ❖ If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- ❖ A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.
- ❖ Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

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*Please continue to pray  
for Andrew, Anna & Phoebe Beckham*

Anna, Andrew and Phoebe are living and working with the Laarim people in South Sudan. They are being supported by Africa International Mission.

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### ***Some observations on Christmas ...***

- I heard the bells on Christmas Day their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, goodwill to men! (*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*)
- The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable. (*R Sockman*)

# The Most Beautiful Story

*Canon David Winter reflects on the coming of Jesus...*

Earlier this year a well-known atheist was being interviewed on Radio 4. In the course of an enlightening chat he was asked how he spent Christmas, and he said that he went to Midnight Mass at church. 'But you're an atheist', his interviewer protested. 'Yes', he replied, 'but what they celebrate at Christmas is the most beautiful story ever told'.

That 'beautiful story' tells of a Creator who sent His Son to share the life of His creation, to be born as a helpless baby, to grow up as a man of extraordinary wisdom, gentleness and love, who was executed by the authorities for contradicting the traditions of the time. His followers – who today number about two billion people all over the world – believe that He rose from the dead, and that by His death and resurrection He has made possible forgiveness and eternal life for men and women everywhere.

That is certainly quite a story, perhaps the greatest story ever told, and yes, beautiful. And that is the story that will be rehearsed again this Christmas, in children's Nativities, in hymns and carols, in Bible readings and sermons all over the country. People who stay away from church all year turn up to hear it, and who can blame them? This is a story of hope, of love and of heaven touching earth.

During 2016 we have all become familiar with probably the best-known statue in the world, Christ the Redeemer, towering over the Olympic city of Rio, His arms outstretched in blessing. Christmas His birth changed history, His life transformed our time a tragedy and a triumph. Yes, 'the most



celebrates the birth of that great Redeemer – a tiny baby laid in a feeding trough. understanding of what it means to be human, His death was at one and the same beautiful story ever told'. Enjoy it again this Christmas.



# Christmas

## *Why does it begin at midnight*



The hour was first chosen at Rome in the fifth century to symbolise the idea that Christ was born at midnight – a mystical idea in no way hindered by historical evidence! No one knows the hour of his birth.

Certainly in recent times, Holy Communion at midnight on Christmas morning has proved popular with modern families. One British writer pointed out its “domestic convenience” in 1947: “for where there are children and no servants, husband and wife may be unable to communicate at any other time.” (So things don’t change, then!)



## *with Holy Communion?*

century to symbolise the idea that Christ was born at midnight – a mystical idea in no

## *Christmas and St Luke's Gospel*



It is to St Luke's wonderful gospel that many Christians turn as the year draws to a close and Christmas approaches, for it is to St Luke that we owe the fullest account of the nativity.

Luke alone tells us the story of Mary and the angel's visit to her, and has thus given the Church the wonderful Magnificat of Mary.

Luke alone tells us the story of Simeon's hymn of praise, thus giving us the wonderful Nunc Dimittis. Imagine an Anglican evensong without the Nunc Dimittis.

Luke alone tells us the story of how the angels appeared to the shepherds and how the shepherds then visited the infant Jesus.

Imagine Christmas cards and nativity scenes without the shepherds arriving to visit baby Jesus. Imagine school nativity plays without our children dressed as shepherds or sheep. So – thank you, Luke!

What makes it so amazing is that Luke was not a Jew! The man who wrote the fullest nativity story, and indeed more of the New Testament than any other single person, was a Gentile!



# The Story of the Christingle



The word 'Christingle' actually means 'Christ Light', and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. Stories of how the Christingle began look back to the Moravian Church, which is found in the Czech Republic. The Moravians have held Christingle services for more than 200 years, and according to them, this is how the first Christingle might have been made:

Many years ago the children in a village were asked to bring a Christmas gift to put beside the crib in the church. One family was very poor, and had no money for gifts, but the three children were still determined to take something. The only nice thing they had was an orange, so they decided to give the Christ-child that.

But then they discovered the top was going green, so the eldest cut it out, and put a candle in the hole. To add some colour, one of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle of the orange. It was hard to make the ribbon stay still, so they fastened it in place with toothpicks. The toothpicks looked a bit bare, so the youngest child added some raisins to them.

The children took their decorated orange lantern to the church for the Christmas Mass. The other children sneered at their meagre gift, but the priest seized upon it with joy. He held it up as an example of the true understanding of the meaning of Christmas, for the following reasons: the orange is round, like the world; the candle gives us light in the dark, like the love of God; the red ribbon goes round the 'world', as a symbol of Christ's blood, given for everyone; the four sticks point in all directions, and symbolise that God is over all: North, South, East and West; and the fruit and nuts remind us of God's blessings.

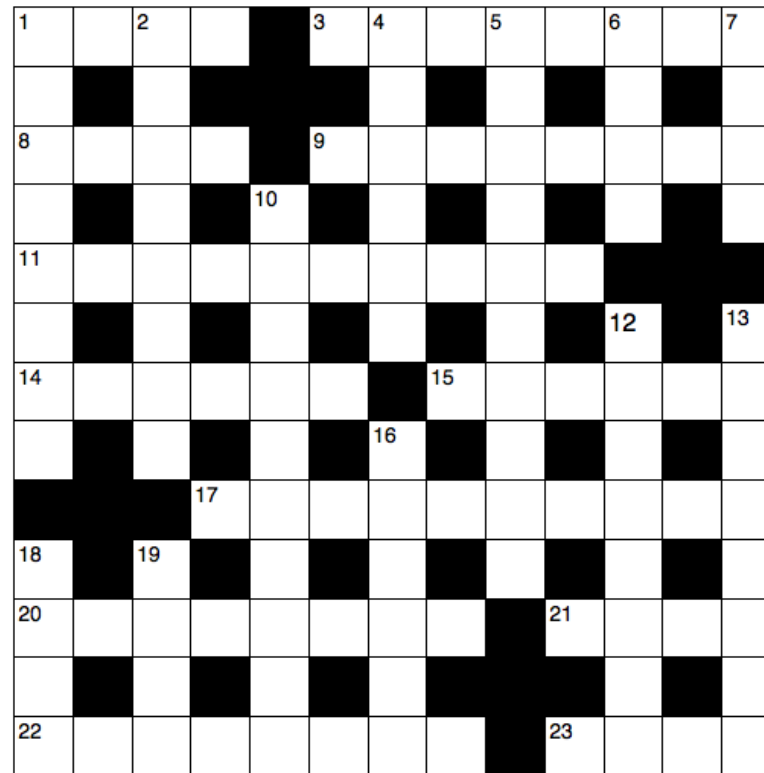
The Children's Society first introduced the Christingle Service to The Church of England in 1968, and it has since become a popular event in the church calendar. This candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith, while helping to raise vital funds to help vulnerable children across the country.

Visit: [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)



# December 2016 Crossword

(The Bible version used in these crosswords is the NIV.)



## Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
- 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
- 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
- 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
- 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
- 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
- 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)

23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

**Down**

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)  
2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)  
4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)  
5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)  
6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)  
7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)  
10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)  
12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)  
13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)  
16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)  
18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)  
19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

*Crosswords reproduced by kind permission of BRF and John Capon,  
originally published in Three Down, Nine Across, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF).*



**Crossword Answers for November 2016**

**ACROSS:** 1. Charioteers 9. Immoral 10. Cairo 11, SAE 13. Inns 16. Firm  
17. Accuse 18. East 20. Ogam 21. Judith 22. Seba 23. Msgr 25. Den 28. Inane  
29. Entreat 30. Chrysoprase

**DOWN:** 2. Human 3. Rare 4. Oils 5. Ecce 6. Raising 7. Citizenship  
8. Commemorate 12. Assail 14. Sat 15. Scouse 19. Sabbath 20. Ohm  
24. Seeds 25. Deny 26. Nero 27. Star



*Many of the articles and pictures in the  
Pews News Extra are sourced from the  
Parish Pump Website and the  
Association of Church Editors monthly edition of "Ideas Forum"*



# Christmas

All heaven waited with bated breath  
As the Lord sent Gabriel on ahead  
To break the news to the young Jewish girl,  
'You will be with child' was all he said

'How can this be?' Poor Mary cried,  
'I am a maid and know no man.'  
'With God all is possible' came the reply;  
This child would fulfil redemption's plan

News spread fast when the baby was born,  
Shepherds were alerted by a heavenly host,  
Glory to God and peace on earth,  
God was coming to redeem the lost.

This Christmas day we celebrate,  
Like the shepherds and wise men we play our part,  
As they bring their gifts we worship Him too,  
But the one gift He longs for is our heart.

By Megan Carter



## *Christmas Prayer*

Father,

Thank you for creating us and for loving us so much  
we know the love, peace, comfort and joy that only  
love in this dark world to bring glory to you. In Jesus'

By Daphne Kitching

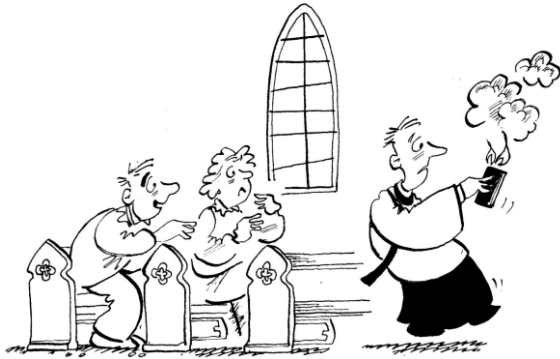


that you sent Jesus to become one of us and to be our way to you. This Christmas may  
you can give, no matter what our circumstances. And may we reflect your light and  
name. Amen.





# Time for a Smile



*...relax Miss Pugh... he's not introducing incense ~  
he's just got a new 'phone with a faulty battery!*

## Messiah

A visiting choir was due to come and sing 'The Messiah' at the local church just before Christmas.

When a big snowstorm postponed the performance, the minister put up a sign outside which read:

*'The Messiah is postponed - due to snow.'*

## No room

The Sunday School teacher was telling the story of the Nativity, and had just finished the part about there being 'no room at the inn'. A small voice piped up: 'I blame Joseph. He should have booked.'

## Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus

The teacher asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favourite Bible story. She was puzzled by Kate's picture, which showed four people on an airplane. She asked her which story it was meant to represent. "The Flight to Egypt," was her reply.

Pointing at each figure, the teacher ventured: "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh," explained Kate happily, "that's Pontius - the pilot!"



*"Of all the cheek! Rides up on his sleigh in his flashy red suit, pushes to the front of the queue to the stable shouting 'Ho! Ho! Ho!'... who DOES he think he is?!"*

## **Come and Join Us! Everyone is Welcome!**

### **Regular Church Hall Activities**

<b><u>Day</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Organisation</u></b>
Monday	2:15 - 4:15pm	Mothers' Union (4th Monday)
	7:30 – 8:30pm	Zumba Class
Tuesday	6:00 – 8:15pm	Beavers & Cubs (Term-Time only)
Wednesday	From 10:30am	Church Coffee Morning
	6:30 - 7:30pm	Zumba Dancing
Thursday	6:15 – 7:30pm	Family Service
Friday	5:00 - 9:00pm	Rainbows, Brownies & Guides (Term-Time only)

### **Other Regular Church Activities**

<b><u>Day</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Where</u></b>
1st Saturday	8:00-9:00am	Prayer Breakfast	In the Shop

### **St. Paul's Fundraising Shop** (Woodlands Road)

#### **Opening Hours**

**Monday to Saturday  
10:00am until 4:30pm.**



***Volunteers are needed. If you can help in any way please  
contact the Volunteer Managers on 01253 732253.***

## **Ansdell and Fairhaven St. Paul** **Church Services**

### **Sunday**

8:30am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10:30am Parish Eucharist (CW)  
4:00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

### **Wednesday**

10:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

### **Thursday**

6:15pm Family Service

(A service for the younger members of our church, including songs,  
Bible Stories, prayers and activities.)



(BCP ~Book of Common Prayer; CW ~ Common Worship)



### **'Parish Surgery'**

*If you would like to discuss any matter with Paul, the Vicar,  
you are welcome to attend the following surgery:*

**Wednesday ~ 9:00-9:30am at the Parish Office**



### **Weddings, Thanksgiving, Baptisms etc.**

#### ***Thanksgiving/Baptism***

If you're interested in finding out about the possibility of having a thanksgiving service or baptism for your child or yourself, please contact Paul, the Vicar where he can explain the process more, or join us on a Sunday morning at 10.30am.

#### ***Weddings***

If you wish to arrange a wedding, please contact Paul, the Vicar.

You can contact Paul about these, and other matters by:

- telephone on 01253 734562, or
- email at vicar.stpaulsaf@gmail.com



## Dates for Your Diary



December 2016

Saturday 3rd **Men's Prayer**  
8:00am ~ in the Shop

**Breakfast**

Wednesday 7th **Churches Together Advent Service**  
7:30pm ~ at Fairhaven Methodist Church

Thursday 8th **Christingle Café**  
6:15pm for 6:30pm ~ in the Church Hall

Wednesday 14th **Carols on the Corner**  
4:00pm ~ St. Paul's Fundraising Shop

Sunday 18th **Carols by Candlelight**  
6:00pm ~ in Church

Saturday 24th **Crib Service**  
4:00pm ~ in Church  
**Midnight Eucharist**  
11:30pm ~ Midnight Eucharist

Sunday 25th **All Age Service with Shortened Communion**  
10:00am ~ in Church



### **ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY PNE**

If you have an article for inclusion in the January PNE, please make sure that I have it by **Thursday 15th December**.

Thank you.

*Janet Kimber*



*For more information  
about our Weekly Services  
and Activities please see  
pages 18 and 19*

