

Newsletter

December

2021

ST. PETER'S CHURCH



WESTHAMPNETT

Registered Charity No: 1191476



For more information about St Peter's please go to
<https://stpeterswesthampnett.uk>

The church is open daily and all are welcome.

Address: [St Peter's Church,](#)
[Stane Street,](#)
[Westhampnett](#)
[PO18 0NT](#)

Associate Rector

The Reverend Rachel Hawes

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*St Peter's is part of
the United Benefice of*

St Paul, Chichester with St Peter, Westhampnett

The Rector of the Benefice: Reverend Canon Simon Holland
simonholland578@btinternet.com 01243 779089

Regular Services at St Peter's

First Sunday of the month

8.00am	Holy Communion
9.45am	Parish Eucharist — family service

First Wednesday of the month

10am	Village Eucharist at Westhampnett Community Hall (see page 6)
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Second Sunday of the month

9.45am	Parish Eucharist
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Third Sunday of the month

8.00am	Holy Communion
9.45am	Parish Eucharist

Fourth Sunday of the month

9.45am	Parish Eucharist
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Fifth Sunday of the month

(when applicable)

9.45am	Parish Eucharist
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Pastoral Care

If you would like to speak to a priest please contact the Associate Rector, the Revd Rachel Hawes, or, if she is not available, the Revd Simon Holland. (Contact details on page 2). There is also a Pastoral Care Helpline operated by volunteers at St Paul's Church. Call 07843 719594, leave a message and they will respond within 48hrs.

Reverend Rachel's Letter

Dear Friends

As I write this, we are approaching the start of Advent and the beginning of a new liturgical year in the Church. This is a pivotal moment – we turn from the year that is past to look towards Christmas.

If you are someone who has looked at Christmas merchandise in the shops as early as October with a sense of 'no, not yet!' then the Advent season might be something you welcome. The themes of the Advent season are subtle and complex and easily lost in the frenetic build-up to Christmas. Predominant in these Advent themes is the sense that the time is near but 'not yet'. It is a time of waiting and expectation – of joy hoped for, but not yet realised. The Prophet Isaiah's image of the watchmen on the city walls captures this well: they strain their eyes into the darkness, looking for the coming of the light.

Advent, for the Church is traditionally a penitential season – it is a time when, as we wait, we reflect on the year that has past and our part in it. Inevitably this year we will be reflecting on the impact of the global Coronavirus pandemic, which has so changed the environment in which we live. We would like to think that we are emerging from this pandemic but, although, with the impressive roll out of vaccine, we can feel much more hopeful this year than last, we know that we are not yet through the crisis. Many parts of our world remain without the help of vaccine and, even in Europe, take up has been lower than it might have been. It is difficult to escape a sense of responsibility for this disease. It is part of our wider responsibility for the damage to our planet, which has already brought about catastrophic climate change. I still remember seeing

the first photographs of the earth from space in 1972. It hung there – a vast, glorious blue ball of ocean and cloud. We have not been good stewards of this beautiful but fragile world we inhabit. Advent is a time to pause and take stock – to look at our own lives too and the areas of our lives which may have come to feel disordered and out of tune.

Sharpened senses are another of the Advent themes. The early Church expected Christ to come again, imminently, in glory and in judgement. They were watching eagerly for the signs of Christ's return. "Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come." (Mark 13: 33) We, who come so many centuries after, may find the sense of urgency these texts convey, more difficult to engage with. Yet there is something that rings true about the idea of rousing ourselves to live actively in the present moment; of being honest with ourselves about how much time we spend just marking time – not doing anything especially bad, but not doing anything particularly worthwhile either. Just getting through the routines of every day. Maybe Advent is a season in which to review our priorities? What needs to be done may call for things, more costly and less easy to give, than money – our time, our commitment and our personal skills.

Hope – that is the last and greatest theme of Advent – we wait, with hope, for the coming of the Christ Child among us at Christmas. We wait for His light to shine in the darkest places of our world. As we wait, let us take this time to prepare a place for Him – in our hearts and in our lives. And so we pray, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

With every blessing,

Rachel

Monday 6 December 2021, 7.30pm
St. Peter's Church, Westhampnett

A Song Shall Rise

Howells

A Hymn for
St. Cecilia

Mendelssohn

Hear my Prayer

Fauré

Requiem

St Richard Singers

Conductor: Sachin Gunga

FREE with retiring collection



St. Peter's Church
Stane Street
Westhampnett
PO18 0NT



A Song Shall Rise : Choir Concert with St Richard Singers

St Richard Singers would like to give a choir concert on 6th December as a huge thank-you to the people of St Peter's for letting us use the paddock for our first Covid-safe choir rehearsals after lockdown and the singing ban. We were inspired by this great "Cathedral of the Outdoors" which guided us in the choice of music we will be presenting. It is an unusual collection of old and



new, known and lesser-known, mournful and celebratory pieces. With it we wish to remember the past year, who and what we have lost, but also give thanks for what we have found: who else in these temperate climates could say that they were met

by (grass) snakes on the way to choir practice. Even the nights drawing in, and the rain which was a little too copious during August, could not deter us. Instead, it saw the conductor setting up his keyboard in the porch and the choir literally "singing in the rain". Entry is free with retiring collection to be split evenly between St Peter's Church & St Richard Singers.



Kirsten Scott

Chairman St Richard Singers

Fundraising and Events Update

It's been a fantastic year for the events and fundraising team. We have so far run a quiz night with a raffle in the spring; had a family picnic in the summer and hosted a concert in St Peter's in autumn. There have also been many successful cake and jam sales as well as a litter pick and Ride and Stride event. Thank You so much for your support. Fundraising is vital for St Peter's to continue to run. We are planning more exciting events to come: please watch this space.

Rebecca

'Ride and Stride'

Sussex Historic Churches Trust held their annual 'Ride and Stride' event on Saturday 14th September. The Trust was founded in 1956 with the sole aim of preserving the county's historic places of worship and, since that time, has helped more than 500 churches and chapels. To qualify, buildings must be over 100 years old and open for public worship. 'Ride and Stride' is a sponsored event where participants walk, cycle or even horse ride to as many churches as possible. Money raised is shared between the Trust and the church each person is supporting. This year four adults and two children took part on behalf of St Peter's. We had a super morning walking and riding around the many places of worship in the city. The sun shone and we enjoyed a warm welcome at the different churches we visited. We raised an amazing £385 which will help with the upkeep of our beautiful old churches, including St Peter's. Many thanks to everyone who supported this event in any way.

SPONSORED RIDE & STRIDE



IN AID OF HISTORIC
CHURCHES & CHAPELS

Parish Nature Notes

Late autumn, trees shedding their dry tears lamenting the passing of summer. Red admiral butterflies sipping nectar from the last of the flowering shrubs or basking in the increasingly weak sunshine. Queen wasps, our royal visitors, as we call them, seeking corners in our sheds to hibernate. The occasional seesaw song of the great tit while the robin, soon to adorn our Christmas cards, whispers his own melancholy autumn song. Little parties of long tailed tits flit through our gardens never staying anywhere very long. I've seen as many as a dozen on one bird feeder. Jays have been busy stashing acorns from the great oak trees scattered across our parish in readiness for hard times ahead. Some will be eaten by voles and field mice, others the jays will forget and a very few of these may germinate in a secluded spot (away from tramping feet, browsing deer or whirling strimmers) and mature, and, in their turn, harbour myriad insects and caterpillars for future generations of Westhampnett birds.

by Bob



Happenings in Westhampnett Community Hall



November classes include:

Mindful Mama (child group - Monday mornings)

Making Mothers group (midday Monday)

Little City child role play (22/11)

Nurture Curious Minds (Tuesday morning)

Yoga (Mondays and Wednesdays)

Art Group (Tuesday morning)

Flute/Choir (Tuesday evening)

St Peters Church (every 1st Wednesday)

Adult Singing (Wednesday evening)

Lindy Hop Dancing (Thursday evening)

Children's Dance (Friday morning and evening)

Toddler Ballet (Wednesday afternoon)

Jolly Fit (adult fitness-Friday lunchtime).

Trainmaster (27/11)

Chichester Quilters.

Women's Institute.

If you would like to attend any of these please look on the Hall website www.westhampnetthall.co.uk for the Hall Calendar and hirer contact details, or email: westhampnetthall@gmail.com

Village Eucharist at Westhampnett Community Hall

Join us for our monthly Village Eucharist and Coffee Morning. This short service of Holy Communion, followed by coffee and cake, is held in the Community Hall, (Hadrian Dr, PO18 0FP) on the first Wednesday of each month. The service starts at 10.00am and lasts about 30 mins with coffee and cake served from 10.30 onwards. Do come and join us and meet your neighbours. **You are welcome to come just for coffee at 10.30** - we would love to see you! Mum's and small children most welcome.

Community Café

This new venture is held on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 10.30am to 12 noon and All are Welcome

Christmas Fair and Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on at the Community Hall : Sunday 28th November 1.30pm to 4pm

There will be many stalls including Christmas Gifts / Toys, Santa's Grotto, Wreath Stall, Jams & Preserves, Raffle and Café and the Christmas Tree and Lights at Westhampnett will be Switched On at 4-30pm

Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on at Westerton

On the corner of Richmond Road and Westerton Lane **Sunday 28th November** Switch On Tree Lights, time to be confirmed, likely to be after 4.30pm or later in the early evening, and to be announced as soon as possible.

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 13th December at 7pm in Westhampnett Community Hall. All residents welcome.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES



**AT
ST PETER'S 2021**

<https://stpeterswesthampnett.uk>

Sunday 28th November – 1st Sunday in Advent
9.45am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm Advent Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 5th December – 2nd Sunday in Advent
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Eucharist

Sunday 12th December - 3rd Sunday in Advent
9.45am Parish Eucharist

Sunday 19th December – 4th Sunday in Advent
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm Christmas Carol Service by Candlelight

Friday 24th December – Christmas Eve
4.00pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

(Incense will be used)



Saturday 25th December – Christmas Day
9.45am Parish Eucharist

during which there will be a Christmas Star hunt for the children!

Sunday 26th December – St Stephen

9.45am Parish Eucharist

Do come and join us!

