



NEWS AND NOTES

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dear friends,

As we step into the second week of Advent, our focus turns to *Peace*—the deep, steady peace that Christ offers, even in the midst of turmoil. Advent invites us to pause, to breathe, and to make space for God's presence in our lives and in our world.

I encourage you to continue with the devotional material we've shared, letting it guide your daily reflections and our shared Sunday rhythm. These practices are small but powerful ways of preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

This week, I also want to invite us to hold in prayer those affected by the recent fire in Hong Kong. Some of our own St Peter's family have roots there, and they are carrying the weight of grief and distress. Let us stand alongside them in compassion, lifting up all who mourn and all who are working to bring healing and restoration.

May the peace of Christ guard our hearts and minds, and may we become bearers of that peace in our community and beyond.

With hope and blessing,

Revd Pam Smith



SERVING THIS WEEK

St Andrew:

Prayers: Helen

Reader 1: Graham

Reader 2: Ruth

St Paul:

Prayers: Ikemba

Reader 1: Daniel

Reader 2: Ikenna

St Peter:

Prayers: Sue

Reader 1: Bev

Reader 2: Sue

READINGS

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

The Peaceful Kingdom

11 A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.



² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of
the Lord. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of
the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes
see, or decide by what his ears hear;
⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the
poor, and decide with equity for the meek of
the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod
of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he
shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be
the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the
belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with

the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

New Testament Reading

Romans 15:4-13

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel for Jews and Gentiles Alike

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,

and sing praises to your name';

¹⁰ and again he says,

'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people';

¹¹ and again,

'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,

and let all the peoples praise him'; ¹² and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

3 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' "

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

WEEKLY CHURCH PRAYERS

Collect

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again
as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

Post Communion Prayer

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.

SCHOOLS IN CHURCH



This is the best season for our churches to engage with our local school children, and we welcomed Pike Fold to St Peter's this week to set us off in a wonderful way. They acted out the Christmas Nativity story, and informed us how other faiths celebrate their

own festivals in the deep, dark winter time.



In a couple of weeks we will welcome Crosslee to St Paul's for two days, and Crab Lane and Bowker Vale to St Andrew's.

CALENDAR

Midweek services:

Wednesdays 10.45am St Andrew's

Thursdays 11.00am St Paul's (Hub)

CHURCH MEETINGS

WORSHIP LEADERS MEETING

Weekly on Mondays at 4pm online

Our next in-person meeting will be on

Monday 8th December at 7pm in the Rectory

PCC MEETINGS

St Andrew's – 14th January 2026

St Paul's – 20th January 2026

St Peter's - 22nd January 2026

DEANERY MEETINGS

Deanery Synod February 2026 (date TBC)

Deanery Chapter January 2026 (date TBC)

BLACKLEY CHURCH COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NEWS

Advent & Christmas Services

St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival

Opening times:

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December

2.00 – 4.00pm

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December

2.00 – 4.00pm

Schools Visits

15th December – Crab Lane at St Andrew's (rehearsal)

16th December – Crab Lane at St Andrew's (performance)

16th December – Crosslee at St Paul's

17th December – Bowker Vale at St Andrew's

17th December – Crosslee at St Paul's

Carol Services

7th December 6.00pm St Andrew's
with Blackley Band
14th December 4.00pm St Peter's
Community Carols
21st December 6.30pm St Paul's
Carol Service

Wednesday 24th December

10.45am No morning service at St Andrew's

Christmas Eve 4.00pm

Crib Service at St Paul's

Christmas Eve 7.00pm

First Communion of Christmas at St Peter's

Christmas Eve 11.30pm

First Communion of Christmas at St Andrew's

Christmas Day 10.00am

First Communion of Christmas at St Paul's

FOR YOUR PERSONAL PRAYERS

Those getting married in 2026

Those grieving or remembering an anniversary at this time

- ✚ For the family of **Ray Moth** whose funeral is on Monday 15th December (St Paul's parish)
- ✚ For the staff and residents at Allendale who are mourning **Richard Mayle**, whose funeral is on Thursday 11th December (St Peter's parish)
- ✚ For the family and friends of **Mark Pinder** who are mourning his death this week. Also for the community of Blackley for whom Mark was such a presence and character. Mark's funeral will be on Thursday 18th December at 10.00am.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls

and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Those caring

- ✚ Staff, residents and visitors at View Park Residential Home

Our Young People

- ✚ Teachers, Support Staff, Children and Governors at Camberwell Park Specialist School

Those exploring Christian faith

- ✚ **Lee** who will be baptised at St Peter's on Sunday 7th December
- ✚ **Daniel** who will be baptised at St Paul's on 1st February 2026
- ✚ **Hudson** who will be baptised at St Peter's on 12th April 2026
- ✚ **Those who have enquired about being Confirmed next year**

Those who are ill or are in hospital

Our Community Partners

- ✚ Staff and service users of Wellmindz

Residents and Visitors

We pray for all those people in Addingham Close, Andrew Road and Alnwick Road

Worldwide Church

The Church of Bangladesh

CONTACT DETAILS

Rector: Rev Pam Smith

SSM: Rev Jane Astley

Safeguarding Officers: Dianne McCann (St Andrew's), Taron Entwistle (St Paul's) and Karen Moores (St Peter's)

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