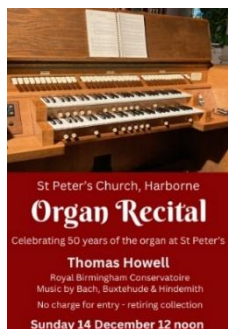


DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.
Amen.

Today



**Christmas
Craft Fayre** in
the church hall
at coffee time.

**12.00pm
Organ Recital**
in church to
celebrate 50 years since the
installation of the organ.



Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion with Revd. Canon Kate Stowe. This may start near to 10.15am as the school will be in church from 9am doing their nativity service.

The **Altar Guild** will meet on **Thursday December 18th** at **10.00am** to prepare the church for the Christmas season. If you can spare a couple of hours, do please come along.

NEXT WEEK December 21st FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion
6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Monday December 22nd at 10.00am there will be a working party to ready the hall for re-decoration in January; if you have a couple of hours to spare, please pop along- many hands make light work!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 21st

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Wednesday 24th Christmas Eve
5.00pm Crib Service

10.30pm Community Carols

11.15pm Midnight Mass

Thursday 25th Christmas Day
8.00am Holy Communion

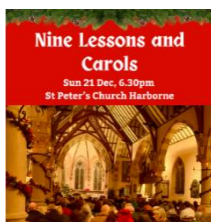
10.00am Parish Communion with Carols

Sunday 28th

8.00am Holy Communion

10am Parish Communion

6.30pm Said Evensong



WELCOME TO ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Growing in Love, Deepening Faith,
Working for God, Welcoming All

*To Newcomers: We are especially glad to see you.
By way of introduction please fill in a **welcome slip**
at the back of the church and return it to a
Sidesperson or contact the Parish Office on 681 1940.*

Please take this notice sheet home.

www.stpeterharborne.org.uk

Email: parishoffice@stpeterharborne.org.uk

SERVICES FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 14th 2025 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00am
HOLY COMMUNION
Green Prayer Book

10.00am
PARISH COMMUNION
WITH JUNIOR CHURCH NATIVITY
Common Worship ~ HA & M
Setting: Murray

Organ Voluntary: Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme ~
Max Reger

First Hymn: 75

Offertory Hymn: 39

Sermon: NATIVITY

Anthem: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love ~ arr.
Geoff Weaver

Communion Hymn: 51

Final Hymn: 42

Recessional Voluntary: Wachet auf, ruft uns die
Stimme ~ Sigfrid Karg-Elert

6.30pm
FULL CHORAL EVENSONG
Green Prayer Book ~ NEH

Hymn: 15

Responses: Ferial

Psalm: 12

OT Lesson: Isaiah 5.8-end

NT Lesson: Acts 13.13-41

Anthem: Rejoice in the world always ~ Anon

Homily: Revd. Pete Brayshaw

Final Hymn: 16

RIP

Jill Bettam

Derry McWhirter

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on the morning of **Tuesday 16th December** but will instead open from 12.00-3.00pm.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14th 2025 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Confirmation and First Communion

We will be running sessions to prepare for Confirmation and First Communion in the New Year. If you are interested or would like to know more, please talk with Revd Pete or Revd Kate.

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Postcards listing Christmas Services and Events are available at the back of church. Please pick up a handful and post them through local doors - write your name and the road(s) you are delivering to on the sheet. There is also a stack of Tower Fundraising leaflets to be distributed at the same time, so please make sure you have both before you post!

St. Peter's has a vacancy for the role of **PARISH SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR - PSC**. This is the key link person between our church and the Diocese concerning safeguarding matters. The PSC has an overview of all church activities involving children, young people and vulnerable adults and will seek to ensure the implementation of safeguarding policy. If you would be interested in taking on this role and would like to know more, please do speak with Revd. Canon Kate. In the interim, any safeguarding concerns can be raised directly with either of our Churchwardens, Sid Werrin and Jan Willcox.

CofE Birmingham is seeking to capture a snapshot of safeguarding culture across our diocese to help inform future priorities and strengthen ongoing work to improve safeguarding practice and governance. If you could help, please take their short, online Parish Safeguarding Survey, available at:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/Cofebirmingham/ParishSafeguardingSurvey2025>

You can also access it by scanning the QR code on the poster either at the back of church or in the hall. **The survey closes today.**

Thank you for your support with this important survey and for all you do to make our churches safer places for all.



PLEASE CHECK YOUR PIGEON-HOLE AT THE BACK OF CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS CARDS. With the cost of postage, many of us are using the pigeon-holes to deliver cards to our church family

and friends. Do please check under the initial of your surname to see if you have any!