

PRESCOT PARISH NEWSLETTER



Churches of St Mary & St Paul . www.prescotparish.org.uk
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. SHARING THE LOVE & LIGHT OF CHRIST IN PRESCOT, THROUGH WORD & ACTION .

Sunday 19 December 2021—Fourth Sunday of Advent



A Eucharist will take place at St Paul's Church at 10am today and every third Sunday of the month.

Prayer for the lighting of the Advent candle

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. Amen.

Preacher

St Mary's Revd Karen Beck
St Paul's Revd Christopher Perrins

Readings

Old Testament Micah 5.2-5a
New Testament Hebrews 10.5-10
Gospel Luke 1.39-55

Hymns

634 The angel Gabriel
631 Tell out, my soul

In place of the psalm, the choir will sing *Ave Maria*, by Simon Lindley.

During Communion, David Kernick will sing Robert Howard's new setting of *Ave Maria*, with Rob at the piano.

Readers

Dyane Basinger
Alan Williams

Intercessions

Val Sugden

Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For your prayers:

- Departed: Mike Wynn, Anne Kenny, Himmin Stove
- Anniversary: Maureen France

NOTICES

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our first ever ecumenical service of Christmas carols around the tree such a beautiful community occasion. Thank-you also to those members of the Methodist Church who joined our choir afterwards to sing for the residents outside Fazakerley House and John Joseph Powell care homes.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT at 6.30pm this evening (Sunday 19 December), when we will be joined by our neighbours from the Church of Our Lady Immaculate and St Joseph's for a service of Christmas carols, Bible readings, prayers and music from the choir.

A BIG THANK-YOU to Sue Snow for spending the last few weeks serving us in Prescot. We wish her all the best and keep her in our prayers as she continues her journey of discernment in her ministry.

PLEASE SEE BRENDA BURGESS if you would like a copy of next month's Our Daily Bread (Bible Notes), as she has some spares.

THE CHURCH OFFICE is now closed until Tuesday 11 January.

MOTHERS' UNION IMPORTANT NOTICE: From January 2022, meetings will be held on the fourth Friday of the month at 1.30pm. The first of these is on Friday 28 January at 1.30pm in the Parish Centre.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 19 December 6.30pm **Carols by Candlelight**—a service of readings, prayers, Christmas carols and music from the choir

Friday 24 December 3pm **Crib Service**—the Christmas story with songs, ideal for families with young children

Friday 24 December 11.30pm **Midnight Mass**—join us for the first

Eucharist of Christmas

Saturday 25 December 10am

Eucharist for Christmas Day

Sunday 26 December 10am

Eucharist for the Feast of Stephen

Sunday 2 January 10am

Sung Eucharist for the Epiphany

ON WEDNESDAY 29 DECEMBER we would like to provide transport for anyone who is housebound to attend our special 2pm Eucharist. Please contact Dave on 07835090752 or kernick@gmail.com if you would like to arrange transport.

THANK-YOU to our tech volunteers—Andy, Keith and Thomas—for all their hard work and dedication over the past year. It's important to us that we include as many of you as possible in our worship, even if you can't be at church in person, perhaps because of disability, mental and physical health, or work and family commitments. This Christmas the team will be livestreaming the following services on our Facebook page at facebook.com/prescotparishchurch: Sunday 19 December 10am *Sung Eucharist for the 4th Sunday of Advent* 6.30pm *Carols by Candlelight*, Friday 24 December 11.30pm *Midnight Mass for the Eve of Christmas*, Saturday 25 December 10am *Eucharist for Christmas Day*, Sunday 26 December 10am *Eucharist for the Feast of St Stephen*.

PLEASE HELP SHARE KNOWSLEY spread some seasonal cheer to refugees and asylum seekers living in Knowsley by donating gifts to their Christmas party. Hats, gloves, scarves, colouring books and items, and men's and ladies' toiletry gift sets are ideal. Please bear in mind that SHARe has more men than women. Donations can be dropped off at the Old School House, St. John's Road, Huyton, L36 0XL. Alternatively, donations of money are always well received. Please email admin@shareknowsley.org.uk if you would like to make a bank transfer, or call 07842 185100. Also, as bus fares are expensive, and clients live on less than £40 a week, SHARe always welcomes donations of bikes in good working condition. Please leave a message with Sarah on 07565208046 if you can help, and they will contact you to arrange collection.

PLEASE WEAR A MASK in church if you are able and comfortable. We encourage you to remain mindful of others, especially as the winter approaches and Covid and other viruses are on the rise again.

THE PRAYER LIST for those who are sick is updated at the beginning

of each month. See Norine if you'd like your name or that of a loved one to go on the next month's list, but please only add names to the list with the person's express permission.

GREETINGS CARDS are now on sale to help raise parish funds. There are two designs, specially created by Prescot-born artists The Jones Boys, and featuring a spring/summer illustration of St Mary's and a winter one, ideal for Christmas. The cards cost £2 each and are available from Val Sugden on 0151 493 9081 or Lesley Porter on 0151 426 1819.

PRESCOT FOODBANK is open 12pm-2pm every Wednesday at the Salvation Army (Ash Grove/Warrington Road). You can leave donations of imperishable foods and toiletries at Prescot Tesco Extra. Please note that FoodBank will be open over the holidays, on 22 and 29 December.

Stay in Touch

prescotparish.org.uk | facebook.com/prescotparishchurch
If you're struggling & need pastoral support or practical help, please contact someone: Revd Kim Mannings—073059223920, revkimberleymannings@gmail.com; David Kernick—07835090752, kernick@gmail.com; Churchwardens: Marian Piert—01512890248; Val Sugden—01514939081, Steve Martin—07921835823.

LISTENING EAR—SOMEONE TO TALK TO: If you're struggling with any of the following issues and feel you need to talk to a professional counsellor, Listening Ear can help. The service covers such issues as bereavement, separation, depression, anxiety, loneliness, phobias, panic attacks, stress, low self-esteem, health anxiety, domestic abuse and financial worries. Call 0151 488 6648 in confidence, and leave your name and number, and say you found out about the service through a parish in the Huyton Deanery. They'll call back to arrange an appointment. Visit www.listening-ear.co.uk to find out more.