



# ST. PETER'S CHURCH DECEMBER 2019

# BROADSHEET

A MONTHLY NEWS ROUND-UP FOR THE PARISH OF ALDBOROUGH HATCH

## Services

### Sunday 1st December

*Advent Sunday*

8am Holy Communion  
10.30am Morning Prayer  
6.30pm Holy Communion

### Sunday 8th December

*Second Sunday of Advent*

8am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Evensong

### Sunday 15th December

*Third Sunday of Advent*

8am Holy Communion  
10.30am Service of Five  
Lessons and Carols  
6.30pm Holy Communion

### Sunday 22nd December

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Service of Nine  
Lessons and Carols  
at St. Paul's Church,  
Goodmayes

### Tuesday 24th December

Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle/Crib  
Service in aid of  
The Children's  
Society  
*(Come dressed in  
Christmassy jumpers)*

11.30pm Midnight Holy  
Communion

### Wednesday 25th December

*Christmas Day*

11am Holy Communion

### Sunday 29th December

*First Sunday of Christmas*

8am Holy Communion  
10.30am Morning Prayer with  
Carols

*No evening service*

The church is open for private prayer  
Wednesday (10am to 12noon)  
**Wednesdays**  
11am: Holy Communion

## Christmas at St Peter's Aldborough Hatch



### Saturday 7th December

*A Jazzy Christmas Celebration*

Keith Nichols on piano

7pm for 7.30pm

*A concert of festive songs and music for all  
the family.*

Tickets £12 (to include nibbles and  
seasonal refreshments)

from Jenefer Allen (020 8599 8738)

### Sunday 15th December

10.30am Service of Five Lessons and Carols

### Sunday 22nd December

5pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

at St. Paul's Church Goodmayes

35 Barley Lane, Goodmayes,

ILFORD IG3 8XE

### Tuesday 24th December

#### Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle/Crib Service in aid of  
The Children's Society

*Come dressed in Christmassy jumpers*

11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

### Wednesday 25th December

#### Christmas Day

11am Family Communion

### Sunday 29th December

10.30am Morning Prayer with Carols  
(No evening service)

## A message of love

What is your favourite part of Christmas? The days leading up to it; hearing snatches of a much-loved carol or Christmas hit on the radio and being suddenly transported back to a happy time or younger days, full of innocence and laughter?

Perhaps buying the Christmas tree and the smell of pine? The reminders of those years when the children were little and helped you decorate the tree, which became a glorious mess.

Perhaps the shops as you step into them with their great bursts of colour, like spring, of reds and gold and greens? The buying of New decorations.

Perhaps it's Christmas Eve and the utterly delightful toddlers'

Nativity plays, or the warmth and comfortable feeling of singing carols in a church service, with lit candles, and the sense that something special is literally just around the corner?

Maybe you come to the late-night Christmas services in church and Christmas isn't complete without this visit.

You've had a nice meal, perhaps been out to friends or the pub, then shrug into your coats and wander round to that place with the big spire and the candles, the men and women in flowing robes, and hear them sing the carols; the wonderful, traditional, meaningful hymns of hope and love and joy.

And, of course, there are the presents: the joy and the excitement of tearing off the wrapping paper. And there's the laughter when someone got the perfect gift or the wrong gift.

Not to mention the Christmas meal - seven times more (at least) than we would normally eat. And after? The fun and frivolity of that special day, of people in paper hats hunched around those brightly-coloured board games. Or the Queen's speech and the oldest in the house pretending they are not asleep, but actually watching it.

Maybe for some, of course, Christmas does not hold such things. Perhaps it means another special day spent with no-one around or spent with strangers. Maybe this is a first Christmas without a loved one; then it is a time of feeling most alone.

Whatever your experience of Christmas this year you are welcome to any of our services at St. Peter's.

The Christmas message isn't just a message for the happy; it is the messenger of God sending his only Son to be with humanity in all its fragility and difficulties. It's a message of love to the lost and the lonely. Christmas Day is filled with a special kind of love for all of us, where-ever and who-ever we are.

If you get the chance to pop in to church for one of our services, it will be lovely to see you. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

In the meantime, all of us here at St. Peter's wish you a peaceful and happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

God bless You

**Rev Kate Lovesey,**  
**Priest-in-Charge**

# A Jazzy Christmas Celebration

## Keith Nichols on piano

St. Peter's Church Halls



**Saturday 7th December**

7pm for 7.30pm

Tickets £12 to include nibbles and  
Christmas refreshments from  
Jenefer Allen (TEL: 020 8599 8738)

## The Advent Sleepout Challenge

Mark Lovesey is taking part in the above by sleeping in the church porch overnight on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December. It costs £13.50 to take someone off the streets and provide them with a bed for the night. Please give generously to support Mark by going to the link here or contacting Mark at the Vicarage: <https://adventsleepoutchallenge2019.eventbrite.com/uk/aldborough-benefice-sleepout>

**St Peter's  
Coffee Morning and  
Bring & Buy Sale**  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December**  
**10am to 12noon**  
*Preserves – Refreshments*  
*All very welcome*

**St. Peter's Organisations**  
**Monday Club** – Monday 2pm  
**Beaver Scouts** – Monday 6.30pm  
**Cub Scouts** – Monday 6.30pm  
**Scouts** – Monday 8pm  
**Guides** – Wednesday 7pm

## Yet more bulbs!

This Autumn Redbridge Council announced that they were giving away spring bulbs 'as part of a borough-wide movement to bring everybody together to beautify the streets and bring a smile to people's faces.' Reading that the bulbs are to be planted in spaces that benefit the community and not wishing to miss out, St Peter's requested bulbs for planting in the churchyard and the community memorial garden - where over the past four years members of the church and friends have planted some 7,000 bulbs.

Said the Revd Kate Lovesey, Priest-in-Charge: "We are grateful to the Council and to this group of residents who planted the bulbs. The same group have worked tirelessly in recent weeks to keep the churchyard tidy by cutting the grass and hedges. We look forward to welcoming everyone to see what will be a glorious display in the spring."



(Above) Friends of St. Peter's planting the spring bulbs - in the churchyard on 19th October (from left to right) Sue Hastings, Sue Lofts, Suzanne Batey, Janice Parker and Robert Batey.

## A Christmas story from St. Paul's Cathedral

One of the Christmas highlights for me in recent years has been attending with friends "A Celebration of Christmas" at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. The choir and organ are supplemented by an orchestra, with celebrity readers. The music, singing and readings are warm, heartening and uplifting – such a change from the dark, dim and often grim of today. At the end of the evening, Andrew

Carwood, Director of Music, speaks. A year or two back he told a Christmas story. I trust you will enjoy it as much as did the congregation at the Cathedral, whose peels of laughter rang out!

A lady had three sons, two of whom were multi-millionaires whilst the third son struggled to make ends meet. Each son pondered what to give his mother for Christmas. The first son decided to buy his mother a new house. The second son knew that his mother would be pleased to have a new car.

The third son was uncertain what to buy his mother with his limited means. And so he went into the town to see what he could find. He spotted a notice in the window of the pet shop which read: "Parrot for sale. Tell him the name of a book of the Bible and he will give you a quote!"

Hurrying into the shop, the third son asked the owner if he might test the parrot.

"Genesis," said the son. "In the beginning, in the beginning," said the parrot.

Amazed, the son said: "Isaiah," and the parrot responded: "Comfort ye my people, Comfort ye my people,".

Dumbfounded, the son said: "Psalms" and the parrot replied: "The Lord is my shepherd, the Lord is my shepherd."

Deciding to buy the parrot for his mother, the third son asked how much? "Two thousand pounds," said the pet shop owner. Realising that this would take all his savings, but knowing that his mother would so enjoy having the bible-speaking parrot, the third son paid the money and took the parrot home.

On Christmas Day, the first son telephoned his mother, who said that she was delighted with the new house and would move next week. The second son rang and his mother said she was so pleased with the new car and would go for a drive that very day.

The third son telephoned to ask his mother if she liked the parrot. "Yes," replied his mother, "it made a change from turkey!"

**Happy Christmas!**

**RJ**

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**Published by:** St. Peter's Aldborough Hatch Parochial Church Council

**Printed by:** SPS Print – 020 8432 6675

**Copy deadline for Next Issue:**  
**Monday 2nd December**