KESTON PARISH CHURCH MONTHLY PEW SHEET December 2024





WELCOME to this service today, especially if you are a visitor. Hope you leave feeling blessed and minded to come again. If you use a hearing aid, please put it to the "T" setting. Large print copies of the service are available – please ask.

HOLY COMMUNION is offered every Sunday at 10am (except the first Sunday of the month at 8am) and each Monday morning at 8am in this Parish Church. At Communion we come together as members all of the one Body of Christ. *Everyone is welcome at the Lord's Table, the table of Jesus Christ.* If you require a gluten free wafer please inform one of the welcomers or the rector <u>before</u> the service. The wine is offered by the Common Cup, in line with the Canons of the Church of England, and as Jesus offered it to his disciples. Post-Covid, the practice of administering the wine by 'intinction' has persisted, with an assumption that it is more hygienic. Intinction is where, in our church, the rector will dip the wafer into the wine, before offering it with the exhortation 'the Body and Blood of Christ'. There is no proven research which says that intinction is more hygienic than the Common Cup. Scientific research has shown that the risk of infection from the Common Cup is minimal, not least by the priests who over many centuries have been consuming all the wine after many communicants had drunk from the same cup. Cathedrals with large congregations have largely returned to the Common Cup and do not permit intinction under any circumstances. Receiving in one kind is to receive the sacrament in its entirety.

When invited to approach the table, please: Come up **first** if you wish to receive from **the Common Cup**; Approach **afterwards** if you wish to receive **by intinction**; If you want **just a blessing**, come at either time and **bring your service booklet with you** and bow your head. Please follow the guidance of the sidespeople.

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS – These are important landmarks in the life of any family. Your Parish Church is here to mark these important times with you. Baptisms, also called christenings can be conducted at any age – please ask. Confirmation is the next step if you were baptised as a child or an infant. It is usually offered just after you start Secondary School and is when you make the promises for yourselves. Don't worry if you have passed that age, God always welcomes you. If you get baptised as an adult, you will usually be invited to be confirmed at the same time. Please speak to the Rector, Reverend Belinda on 01689 853186 or by email rector@kestonparishchurch.org.uk regarding any of the above.

1ST **SUNDAY OF THE MONTH SERVICE** is Celebrational Worship and is a non Communion service including contemporary hymns and songs. It is a service of the Word (built around the Word of God in scripture) and is intergenerational and suitable for all the family. Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits are offered after the service. All are very welcome. Bring a friend.

<u>Mondays we will offer MORNING PRAYER @ 7.40am and @ 8 am SAID (1/2 hour)</u> <u>Communion Service</u>. This is to pray for the needs of our Parish, its Church and its Community. Please do pop by on your way to work, a good start to the week as we place our week in God's hands. There is a free car park while you attend. All are very welcome. **NO service on Monday 6**th **January 2025**.

TOY SERVICE – 1ST **DEC** – **THANK YOU** - For all your generous gifts, the Salvation Army will distribute these gifts to help local families have a brighter Christmas. A particular thank you to Keston School Choir for joining us.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLES – We will be selling raffle tickets for our Christmas hampers, be sure to purchase a few! £1 per ticket, and the proceeds will go towards running our beautiful Church. All items are given by members of the Social Committee.

CHRISTMAS CARDS TO CONGREGATION MEMBERS – We will have a Christmas tree in the foyer and labels for anyone who would like to send Happy Christmas messages to members of the congregation. We also ask for you to put the money you have saved into the donation box, and this will be given to Bromley LATCH project helping local homeless people.

PRAYER WALKS – Every 1st Tuesday & 3rd Wednesday of the month, 3rd & 18th Dec, then 7th & 15th January. Please come along with or without a dog, and enjoy a good chatter, then stop, reflect and pray. We assemble at 9.30 am on Commonside on the green near the Greyhound Pub, and usually end up at/in Heathfields at 11ish to have a 'cuppa'.

SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER 2 – 4 PM – Christmas get-together at the Rectory, you and your family are invited to come and join us for Christmas teas, cake and festive nibbles.

FRIENDS OF WELCARE IN BROMLEY COFFEE MORNING – Sat 14th Dec 10.30 am – noon with Mince Pie Tasting! St. Paul's, Beckenham, Church Hall, £5 entry. CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL TO RAISE MONEY FOR WELCARE – St. Francis of Assisi Church, Ravenswood Avenue. 14th Dec 10am – 1 pm; 15th Dec 12 noon – 3 pm; 18th Dec 10.30 pm – 1 pm; 20th Dec 10 am – 1 pm; 21st Dec 10 am – 1 pm.

HEALING & WHOLENESS ON 3RD SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE – On the third Sunday of each month, (**15th Dec & 19th Jan**) just after taking Communion, go through to the foyer where church members will be happy to pray with and for you.

MEN'S PUB SOCIAL – Every 3rd Wednesday of the month **18th Dec, then 15th Jan** at the Greyhound pub.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENT WORKSHOP AND DEMONSTRATION on Thursday 19th December, 2 pm start. Please bring your containers, flowers, Christmassy decorations and candles to this very festive event. Please add your name to the list if you hope to come.

CAROL SERVICE – Sunday 22nd December, 6.30 pm, with Mulled wine & Mince Pies, bring your friends to this traditional Carol Service, with Carols and Bible Readings.

MESSY CHRISTINGLE SERVICE – TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER @ 3.30 for 4 pm **Service.** Invite your friends and their children to this fun time where the children make the Christingle from 3.30 pm and then take them into The Church for a Christingle Service.

BOOK READING FELLOWSHIP – Monday 6th **January 2025 at 2 pm** – Come and discuss books with some Christian content that you have read, and enjoy fellowship and friendship, a cup of tea/coffee and cake! Please let Sally know if you can come.

'BEAT THE BLUES' COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 18th January at 10 am in the Church Hall. There will be a bring-and-buy table, and lots of hot drinks and cakes. Entrance price £4 which includes a cup of tea/coffee and slice of cake.

CHURCH SOCIALS – Please note: the date of the next Church get together on Tue 28th January at Heathfields at 12.30 pm.

1st December – First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Jeremiah 33: 14 – 16; *Luke* 21: 25 – 36 (*NLT Bible*) 8th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

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. Amen

Malachi 3: 1 – 4; Luke 3: 1 – 6 (NRSV Bible)

15th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right,

with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Zephaniah 3: 14 – end; Luke 3: 7 – 18 (NRSV)

22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Micah 5: 2 – 5a; Luke 1: 39 – 45 (NRSV)

Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Isaiah 52: 7 – 10; John 1: 1 – 14 (NRSV)

Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen

Isaiah 9: 2 – 7; Luke 2: 1 – 14 (NRSV)

29th December – First Sunday of Christmas

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

1 Samuel 2: 18 – 20, & 26; Luke 2: 41 – end (NRSV)

OUR SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT - We want our church to be a safe place for everyone – a place where the love or God shines through all we do. Therefore, in accordance with the Government, the Church of England, the Charity Commission and our insurance company, our workers/volunteers are safely recruited (including DBS check if legally eligible), regularly trained and we adhere to Diocesan Safeguarding Policies. Our Safeguarding Officer is Steff Nash please speak to him if you have any questions or concerns or contact him on safeguarding@kestonparishchurch.org.uk