

St. Paul's Barton - Sunday 12.12.21 Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome...

To our **Worship & Communion Service** with Rev. Dr. Dennis Lloyd today. As it is now a 'personal choice' as to the wearing of masks, do please respect one another's preferences with regard to the wearing (or otherwise) of masks and social distancing etc.



Third Sunday of Advent

Please remember to maintain social distancing when going forward to receive Holy Communion.

Tea & coffee is available after the service.

Should you prefer a quieter service with no singing and more space in the building there is a service of Holy Communion or Morning Prayer every Wednesday morning at 10:15am.

Sunday services are streamed live on [Facebook](#) and are available later on our [YouTube](#) channel.

From the Vicars Desk....

Are you ready for Christmas?

I love the Christmas season. It's my favourite time of the year. Everyone seems to want to celebrate this special time of the year. As people prepare for Christmas, a question that is often asked many times is this, "Are you ready for Christmas?"



Once this question is asked, the response can go any direction - Not yet because I haven't finished shopping, or I am yet to wrap the gifts or better still - I haven't put up the Christmas tree neither have I posted the Christmas cards. The responses always revolve around

people's activities. We meet ourselves coming and going, so we call it "the Christmas rush." Sometimes the Christmas season becomes very hectic, and because of that we tend to forget much of the reason for the season. So, what's the reason for the season - you may ask? When I was a child, I asked my mum the same question with real childhood innocence. I remember my mum telling me that Christmas was a celebration party to mark the birth of Jesus Christ our Saviour. A bit like a birthday party for Jesus. I believed my mum. Sadly,

as I grew older, I observed that my childhood understanding of this season was far from reality.

I watched people exchange gifts with each other without giving any offering in church. I saw people drinking, eating, and partying without any mention of the name of Christ Jesus. It was even more puzzling to notice that some people have nothing to do with church although they celebrated this event in their own way.

Imagine if you had a birthday party and all the people you invited turned up. Then when it was time to present gifts, surprisingly your guests gave the gifts to each other instead of you - the celebrant. How will you feel? I am pretty sure you will be upset. No celebrant will be happy when the focus shifts from him/her to the guests. This is a clear example of how most people treat Jesus during Christmas. We spend more time focusing on giving to ourselves and others more than giving to God.

Permit me to ask you this question, "Are you ready for Christmas?" This pertinent question I'm asking you refers to more than your activities. I'm asking about your attitudes.

What does Christmas really mean to you. Can you pause from the busyness and ponder on this salient question? Christmas says that "God became a human being." **We see this in John chapter 1 verse 14; The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw His glory, the glory which He received as the Father's only Son.** God expressed His love by living among us, by walking with us, and talking to us." That's what Christmas means.

What are the right attitudes we ought to have so that Christmas can really happen in our homes and in our lives? Remember every year Christmas is a special and blessed time. If you haven't made that crucial decision yet to let Jesus into your heart, now is the time to do so, and years from now you will rejoice, remembering that Christmas in 2021 was the most blessed that ever happened to you.

Merry Christmas!

Rev Dozie Moneme.

A picture and words - 7th December 2021

In prayer this morning, I had a picture of a hot air balloon. This balloon I perceived represents the church.

The balloon (Church) is ready to fly and soar, away up in to the skies. However, it is unable to move from the ground into the skies, as it is weighed down by various issues. These matters, I sensed in my spirit will continue to inhibit the rise of the Balloon (Church) until they are



DECEMBER

Date	Time	Event
Tue 14th	9:45am-11:30am 12:00pm	Little Rascals Toddler Group The group meets in St. Paul's Christian Centre from 9:45am to 11:30am each Tuesday in school term time. Little Rascals Team Lunch - The Living Room.
Wed 15th	10:15am	Holy Communion BCP (Book of Common Prayer) - Rev. Dozie Moneme.
Thu 16th	2:15pm	Ladies Fellowship - In the Christian Centre. For more information speak to Mary or Margaret P.
Sun 19th	10:00am 6:30pm	Word & Worship Service - Speaker: John Yates. Carols by Candlelight - Speaker Rev. Dozie Moneme.
Mon 20th	7:30pm	Monday Online Fellowship Group For more information speak to Andrew.
Wed 22nd	10:15am	Holy Communion BCP (Book of Common Prayer) - Rev. Dozie Moneme
Fri 24th	9:00pm	Christmas Eve Holy Communion with Rev. Dozie Moneme.
Sat 25th	10:00am	Christmas All-Age Worship and Communion with Rev. Dozie Moneme.
Sun 26th	10:00am	Word & Worship Service.

dealt with through prayer, combined with repentance.

Some things are in opposition to the move of God and the power of His Holy Spirit. It may be personal grievance, then seek a time for reconciliation, forgiveness and healing. They all carry a massive weight.

At times the familiar is hard to break away from, religious ways of doing things. The Holy Spirit wants to move, allow Him to do so. When we read about the Sanhedrin, Pharisees and Sadducees in the Gospels Godly, we must all agree, but All very religious. They failed to see Jesus Christ as the Messiah – The Son of the Most High God.

As I had this picture and words, they left an impact on me all day. I pray this picture and words speak into your heart. A hot air balloon is purposed to lift and soar above the earth. I believe so with The Lord's Church - The body of Christ is designed through collective Praise, Prayer and love for one another, to get in to the balloon and together, rise and rise and rise.

May we become a Fishing Church in the year ahead 2022, casting our nets wide.

Reading: Psalm 51, John 21, Mark 14:53-72, 2 Chronicles 7:14 & Psalm 4.

Margaret T.

Carol Singing

Would you like to sing some carols? If you would be interested in singing some carols outside the Pan Centre on Friday 17th December please speak to Kathy or Ian.

Little Church On Sundays (except for 'All-Age' Services), there is provision, in the Chris-

tian Centre, for children (3 years to the end of Primary). Parents, Grandparents or Guardians can bring them to the Centre just before 10:00am. **Please come and collect them at 10:40am to join the service in the church.**



New Intercessory Prayer Group for 2022

St. Paul's Intercessory Prayer Group will be starting in the new year. The meeting will be held fortnightly from Friday 7th of January 2022 from 12:00pm -2:00pm.

For more details, please speak to Pam or Margaret T.



CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday 19 December

Word & Worship 10am

Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm

Christmas Eve -

Fri 24 December

Communion 9pm

Christmas Day -

Sat 25 December

Worship & Communion 10am

Sunday 26 December

Word & Worship 10am



JESUS BE THE CENTRE OF IT ALL

Offering / Giving

Thank you for your giving to the work at St. Paul's. If you have not yet committed to regular giving, we would ask you to prayerfully seek God's will regarding this.

Ways to Give:
You can put your offering in the offering bag or the plate at the back of the church.



Set up a Standing Order from your bank, you can request a form from Penny (our treasurer), or [download one from our website](#). Just fill it in and give (or post) it to her or phone her for more details or to arrange for your form to be collected.

If you use online banking, you can give to St. Paul's by **Bank Transfer or by setting up a Standing Order**. Details of the church bank account are:

Bank: **NatWest Newport Isle of Wight** Account Name: **Parochial Church Council of St. Pauls, Barton Parish** Sort Code: **54-10-34** Account Number: **92513263**

If you are a tax payer and have not filled in a **Gift Aid Form** these are available from Penny or [on the church website](#).

New to St. Paul's? You are very welcome!

Our usual Sunday services are very simple - an opening hymn, a time of prayer, some liturgy and confession, a talk, followed by a time of worship and prayers then (twice a month) we have Holy Communion (all are welcome) and finally, a closing hymn.

There is an offering plate at the back of the church, we welcome contributions but please don't feel obliged to give! If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Christian speak to Rev. Dozie or Andrew and Josephine our Churchwardens.

Revive Newport December Prayer Letter 2021

Dear Prayer Partners,

I trust that this prayer letter finds you safe and well, and hopefully feeling festive.! It seems unbelievable that Christmas is only just over two weeks away. This has been a very hard and dark year, and I know that some of you are also facing personal struggles of your own. Thinking about this, I was encouraged by my Advent readings this week, and thought I would share it with you...

The world was in a very dark place, and the people were struggling, when God sends the angel Gabriel to Mary, to share His plans for her life. No small task! But her answer always blows me away, "I am the Lords servant. Let it be to me as you have said". Joseph also, faced an impossible situation, but when the angel spoke to him, he took Mary on, and stepped up to the plate! The willingness and obedience of those two people, despite the world situation, and despite the effect on their own lives, helped to completely change the world. Light had come into the darkness.

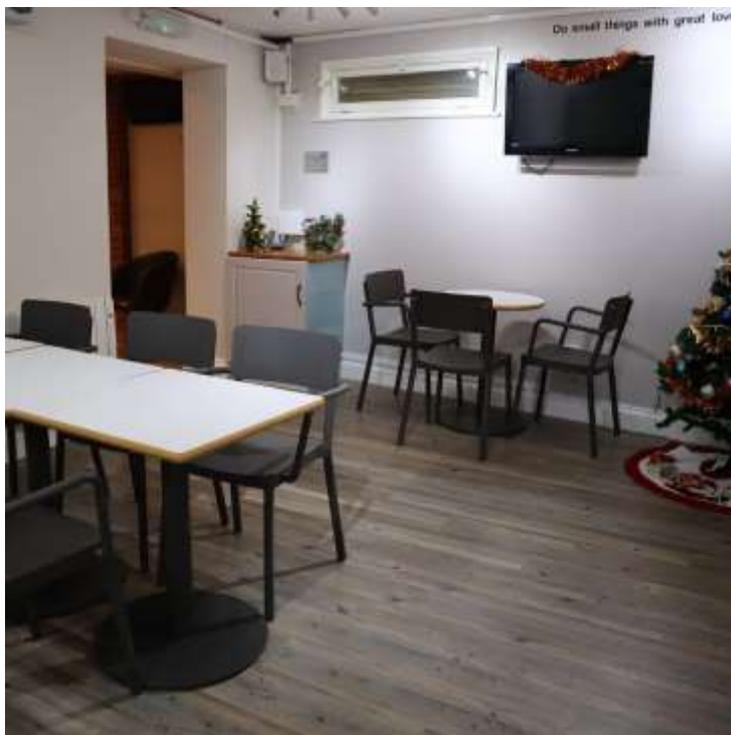
These thoughts encouraged me, and as I feel that Christmas always brings a challenge to refresh our commitment, I hope that whatever God's call and plans are for our lives, like Mary, despite the worlds, or our own situation, we can answer "I am your servant. Let it be to me" and wait to see what happens!

I do hope that God's call on your life includes continuing to be a prayer partner for Revive, as we certainly need the undergirding of your prayers for His plans for the future! So, here are our prayer points:

First of all, we would like to thank you for your prayers for Pete. After two difficult years, including twenty months of worry and lack of sleep, the strain finally got too much and Pete had a bit of a breakdown. He had to take a complete break, and take extra time to recover, which he has done, and is recovering slowly.

Please continue to pray for his complete recovery in mind, body, soul and spirit. Please pray for the whole family, Niki, Sebastian, and of course, the twins, Asher and Leo, that they will continue to improve and develop as they should.

The Living Room The team have done an amazing job keeping the café progressing and they have a now brought back roasts on the menu. Please pray for Michele as cafe host, Sammi as kitchen manager, Sally as kitchen porter, and Mike and Kevin as volunteers, that they will be blessed in their work, and conversations with customers. Pray for increased patronage, and sales of seasonal cards and gifts, as it has been a difficult year financially.



Newport Youth Cafe Marie has been amazing helping the young people who are struggling with the present covid situation, and give them some stability in their very unstable lives. Please keep Marie, the helpers, and all of them in your prayers, and for the need of additional support in this work.

The Food Bank This is, of course, their very busy time, so do uphold the team, that they will have strength, love and wisdom as they deal with those who

come in, pray that the customers will feel valued and blessed, at this special time of year, and that all the needs for stocks will be met.

This is such a busy time of year, and we are blessed just by the fact you take time out to pray for us. God bless each one of you, and all of us at Revive pray your Christmas will be filled with love and joy, and your New Year with peace and hope, whatever your situation will be.

As we are nearly half way through December and have the holidays coming up, our next Prayer Letter will be in February, so see you in the New Year.

Love and Blessings,

Maureen - Revive Prayer Coordinator.

GAFCON Isle of Wight



You can find a second thought for Advent and Christmas from Rev. James Leggett from St James's Church, Ryde on the [Gafcon IOW YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGafconIOW) or via the website gafconiow.org.uk.

Speak "Saltly"!

Col 4:6 *Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*

What is it about salt? And how do I season speech with it? Gracious speech is sweet, yet Paul says to season it with salt.



A friend of mine makes this interesting breakfast of quinoa grain mixed with some oatmeal, coconut oil, dried fruit and nuts with some date honey to sweeten it. Then, might seem strange, he adds salt. Salt brings his healthy breakfast to a new level of flavour. Salt carries all the other fla-

vours to a new level of palatability. It brings a wonderful balance to the sweet porridge.

Take out the salt in any recipe and there's something vital missing. What is it about salt? By itself, salt

doesn't taste so great. It's too strong. Yet add it to the recipe and its power becomes the very thing which brings life to the food.

I think salt is that element of God's truth that enhances, preserves and strengthens us. Speech seasoned with salt will encourage or warn, it will impart life and prevent decay from setting in, or stop it in its tracks. Stopping decay is reversing a fundamental element of the Fall. Salt is vital to life and salted speech is too.

Believers need to be "salty" in a world that is falling apart from the suffusion of sin and decay.

Our message is sweet. God forgives, He loves, He brings eternal life. Yet these wonderful truths exist in an awful context of death and decay which we must not ignore by only speaking graciously. We must add salt.

George Whitten - worthyministries.com

Carisbrooke Priory Carol Service



**With the Salvation Army
Band and Songsters**

**Friday 17th December 2021
7.00 p.m.**

Refreshments served after

Carisbrooke Priory Trust Co Ltd
39 Whitcombe Road, Newport, PO30 1YS
Company No. 06624300 - Registered Charity No. 1126024

CHRISTMAS ✨ AT ST. PAUL'S

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