



**St Nick's, Allestree
& St Paul's, Quarndon**

January 2025

Stars of Wonder

A few weeks ago, I spent a week based in a small cottage in a very remote area of Northumberland. One of the many joys of the visit was being able to gaze into the cold and crisp night sky and see the amazing canopy of stars, large and small, bright and dim that we are unable to spot from our towns and cities because of light pollution. Looking upwards in the darkness reminded me both of the awesome creativity of our God and of God's promise to Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as all the stars in the sky.

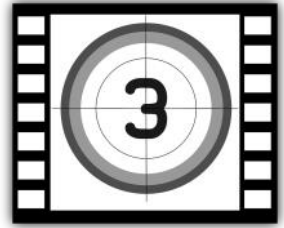
He took him (Abraham) outside and said, 'Look up at the sky and count the stars – if indeed you can count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.'

Genesis 15:5



We know that because of his faith in God, Abraham was credited with righteousness. As for us, those of us who put our faith in trust in Jesus are also declared righteous. Indeed, through our faith in Jesus Christ, we are the very descendants of Abraham that God promised in Genesis 15.

As I pondered the beauty of the night sky, I was also reminded of a childhood memory of Christmas past. My dad was the manager of our local cinema. From around the age of eight I was packed off on Christmas Eves to spend the evening with him at work and watch the last showing of the day. Staying up late, I think, was an inspired tactic to prevent me disturbing my parents at very early the next morning!



I vividly remember waiting for the last bus home on a cold starlit night and looing upwards, perhaps hoping for a glimpse of a reindeer hauled sleigh. Instead, I found myself wondering what the Star of Bethlehem had actually looked like and why the real Christmas story was so important. Just for a few moments my thoughts strayed from the eager anticipation of receiving gifts to the Epiphany visit of the wise men to the stable.



Just as the bright artificial lighting in our towns and cities makes it difficult to see the beauty of the sky at night, the business, stresses and sometimes frenetic activity of what is now called “The Festive Season” can lure our eyes away from the awesome and life-changing truth that God sent His own Son into our world as a tiny baby to open the way to a wonderful relationship between each one of us who will accept the invitation and the God who put the stars into space and gave each on a name.

He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

Psalm 147:4

So, perhaps, as we move on from the celebration of Christmas through Epiphany, we might also find ourselves a quiet and unpolluted spiritual space to spend some time reflecting on and engaging with our Lord and, with the help of The Holy Spirit, reminding those around us in a gentle manner that although Christmas may be over for another year, the Babe of Bethlehem can still make a life-changing difference to all who hear and respond.

That you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation’. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.

Philippians 2:15b-16

By Phil Moncur



Christingle Service @ St Pauls Church

4pm
19th
January



Please join us for our wonderful
Christingle service.

Everyone is invited

St Pauls Church, Quarndon

Extra Worship opportunities

Fancy a mid-week communion service? Or an early evening service?

St Edmunds, Allestree have a Communion service 10am every Wednesday.

The Evening Service (Evensong) at 6 pm on a Sunday alternates between St Edmunds and St Matthews, Darley Abbey, and always follows the Book of Common Prayer.

This months 6pm services are:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 5th January | St Matts: Evensong 3pm St Eds Church Hall: Epiphany Celebration |
| 12th January | St Eds: Choral Evensong |
| 19th January | St Matts: Choral Evensong |
| 26th January | St Eds: Choral Evensong |



<https://www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk/diary>—for more information on upcoming services.

The New Year

In the New year what will we be praying for? Listen to the story of Jesus' birth.

Mary and Joseph were poor and travelled many miles to reach Joseph's home town, Bethlehem where Jesus had to be born. Mary was heavily pregnant, but they couldn't find anywhere there where Jesus could be born except a stable with the animals. But all was well, the star glittered above them, the angels sent the shepherds to worship Jesus, and the three Kings eventually found Him beneath the star in Bethlehem and offered their gifts to Him.

Eventually Jesus' family had to flee from Herod to Egypt and many young boys were killed instead of Jesus, but Jesus survived and when Herod died they went back to Nazareth and He grew up to be baptized by John, and start His ministry. He told people about God, our heavenly Father and talked about the reality and love of God. Though Jesus was God's Son, and His coming was prophesied by many, He was arrested and killed – the priests ignored the facts, nailed Him to the cross and crucified Him. But on the third day He rose again from the dead. After He rose He spent time with His disciples preparing them for telling the world God's message of peace, love and care.



After Jesus had gone back to heaven, God send his Holy Spirit to be with His disciples as they shared God’s message of love and care with others. We too can receive God’s Holy Spirit to guide us as we share God’s life-changing message and in the way we live our lives.

What will we be praying for in 2025? We will pray and read the Bible and tell everyone that Jesus is alive in our world today. Let us follow Him, let us worship Him, let us care for one another and listen to His voice—and change the world.

Amen.

By Daphne Harris



VENUE FOR HIRE

St Nicks Church



We have a large hall available to hire for a single event or a regular class.. Ideal for birthday parties and concerts

For more details contact our church administrator:
stnicksallestree@outlook.com
550431

For smaller groups we have rooms available for up to 40 people with access to small kitchens perfect for making refreshments.

Large car park on site

VENUE FOR HIRE

ST PAULS CHURCH

Village Hall

Ideal for Childrens
birthday parties, dance
classes, music
ensembles or local
community groups.
Car park on site .

CONTACT US

hallstpauls@outlook.com
or 07973702002





Quarndon Pre-School

2 YEAR OLD FUNDING PLACES AVAILABLE

Have you checked to see if your child is eligible for 2 year old funding ?

We are now accepting applications. Please contact Dawn for more information.

Please note: Additional costs for extras such as consumables and non-funded hours are chargeable. Funded only sessions will have a set consumables charge applied

01332 556611 / 07708906743

quarndonpre-school@hotmail.co.uk

<https://quarndonpreschool.org/index>

Donations for the Children's Society

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations on Advent Sunday and the parents at Play and Praise the following Tuesday. I sent a total of £316.82 to the Children's Society last week.

And thank you Emma for helping to find the Christingle bits and pieces and setting up the paying in machine etc.

Hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas and best wishes for the New Year

Helen

Play n Praise

Would you like to help out at the very successful Play n Praise which is for preschoolers and their adults @ St Nicks on a Tuesday morning (term time only).

We are looking to set up a team of volunteers on a rota. You would not be required every week, but every 4-6 weeks.

If you would like to know more, why not pop along on a Tuesday 9.30-11am and meet the current team and families who attend? Coffee and cake available.



Online donations @ St Nicks

We have a QR code for online giving for those tech savvy people amongst us who feel more comfortable giving in this way.

Thank you.



Church Prayer @ St Nick's

Pre-church prayer takes place in the chapel from 9.30am to 9.45am on a Sunday morning. We pray for the service to follow and anything else the Holy Spirit prompts us to bring to our Father.

Church prayer will be held in the Chapel or on Zoom depending on the weather on:

22nd January 7.30pm

Contact Graham if you are interested in joining us in prayer.



St Nick's Prayer Circle

St Nick's have a prayer circle as part of their pastoral care set up. For those unfamiliar with the practice, it is simply a circle of people who are committed to phone along a chain when people request prayer, or a situation arises that needs communicating and praying for. You can rest assured that you are being covered in prayer when you approach someone who is on the contact list.

If you would like to be added to the prayer circle, please get in touch with the church office.

Pastoral Care Update.

Are you going through a difficult time at the moment and would like some emotional, spiritual or physical help? Then please let Clare Stacey know.

For various understandable reasons, many people find it difficult to reach out and ask for help but if you are aware of anyone who is struggling at the moment, please let us know. It could include for example, help with shopping, a home visit or merely a friendly chat on the phone. If we don't know, then it's difficult to help.

We are part of your church family and have been DBS checked and have completed the Diocesan Safe Guarding Training.



Prayer Requests:

Please pray for:-

- For those that are unwell and unable to get out at this time.
- For the new Children's and Youth leader as they begin their new role.
- Church vision and the plans for the church café.

Coffee & Chat @ St Nick's

A reminder that Coffee & Chat takes place every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, in the Church Room, 10:30am -12noon. All are welcome to join in and enjoy this lovely social, which is much appreciated after a time of not being able to gather.



St Nick's Pub Lunches

Join us after church for a pub lunch social once a month.
12 noon @ The Markeaton pub.

Future dates:

19th January, 16th February and 16th March

*Please speak to Christine Penny for more info.
All are welcome!*



Knit & Natter @ St Nick's

Meetings are held in the Church Hall on the 1st, 3rd, and where there is a 5th Wednesday of the month, 2-3:30pm.

Membership fee £5 each quarter, then £1 per session.

Contact Sandra on 557114

Come and join us for tea, biscuits, and chat.

Please get in touch if you'd like to organise a Baptism at St Nick's or St Paul's, or would like to get married or celebrate a special anniversary with the renewal of wedding vows.

Polite notice to St Nick's congregation, hall hirers and visitors.

Please could everyone be mindful when parking on the roads surrounding St Nick's and be considerate to residents. In particular ensure we are not parking across driveways and allow residents space to reverse in and out of their drives.

Thank you all as always for your support and kindness.

Newsletter Information - Deadline!

Please be aware that the deadline for any news you'd like to be included in the next Newsletter is the 20th of the month before.

Children's and Youth Leader: Rachel Kennedy

Email: stnickschildrensworker@gmail.com

Mobile : 07472 664287

Office Email: stnicksallestree@outlook.com

Websites: www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Paul-Quarndon
www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Nicholas-Allestree.

www.stnicksallestree.uk

Office Hours: Monday 9.00-3.00 Tuesday 9.00-3.00 Wednesday 9.00-11.00
and Friday 9.00-3.00



Handy Contacts for both churches:

Church Office Emma Patterson **Contact:** 01332 550431.

St Nick's

Church Warden: Paul Taylor **Contact:** 01332 556020

Safeguarding Lead: Miriam Chappell **Contact:** psostnicks@outlook.com

Telephone: 07448607129

Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) Phil Moncur and Bruce Innis

St Paul's

Church Warden: Mike Annable **Contact:** wardenstpauls@outlook.com

Safeguarding Lead: Mary Pitt

Contact: psostpauls@outlook.com

or Diocesan Safeguarding Team: 01332 388678

Church Hall Bookings: Val Annable **Contact:** hallstpauls@outlook.com



Upcoming Services — January

Priest in Charge: Reverend Sarah Watson and Associate Priest
Reverend Rachael Brooks. Curate: Reverend Cathie Watson

| Dates/Services | Readings |
|---|---|
| <p>Sunday 5th January St Nicks: 10am Informal Worship St Pauls: 10am Informal Holy Communion</p> | <p>Isaiah 60:1-6 Matthew 2:1-12</p> |
| <p>Sunday 12th January St Nicks: 10am Together @ the Table Joint Communion</p> | <p>Psalm 29 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22</p> |
| <p>Sunday 19th January St Nicks: 10am Morning Praise St Pauls: 4pm Christingle</p> | <p>Isaiah 62:1-5 John 2:1-11</p> |
| <p>Sunday 26th January St Nicks: 10am Bible Study 3pm Holy Communion St Pauls: 10am Morning Praise</p> | <p>Psalm 19 Luke 4:14-21</p> |

