

# St. Peter's Church, Hersham



Designed by Ruth,  
Age 5



## 1st December 2024 Advent Sunday

### A very warm welcome to St. Peter's Church

- 8 am Holy Communion  
9 am Breakfast Praise in church. A short, fun and interactive service, for young families. Followed by refreshments.  
10:30 am Church Family Communion


## Pray with us

God of mission, fill us with your Holy Spirit to show and share our faith and love in our community, and help us to grow as a church family. Amen



**GLUTEN FREE WAFERS:** If you require a gluten free wafer for communion please let the sides people know when you arrive and inform the priest when you get to the altar rail.

**THIS WEEK:**

Mon 2	•	No first Monday coffee morning. Squires are not taking bookings in December they are only doing Christmas lunches.
Tues 3	12.30 pm	Lunchtime Life Group in the Church Hall
Wed 4	• 10 am	Vicar's day-off in lieu of Friday Walton and Hersham Foodbank in church
Thurs 5	10 am	Pre-School Praise: Come and join us in the Church Hall for action worship songs, a bible story and prayers, followed by refreshments and a chance for the adults to chat while the children play. All children of preschool age welcome – from newborns to 4 year olds!
	11 am	You are welcome to church for our monthly Thursday Morning Communion service held on the first Thursday of each month. Coffee and biscuits will be enjoyed after the service should you wish to stay and catch up with friends.
	7.30 pm	Christmas Choir rehearsal
Fri 6	• 10.30 am	Parish Office closed Come along to Hersham Centre for the Community as St. Peter's and the Treble Clef Choir will be joining forces to deliver an intergenerational Christingle and carols event.
	5.30 pm	Children's Christmas Choir rehearsal
	Between 10am and 12 noon	We will be preparing the <b>CHRISTINGLES</b> for our service on Sunday 8 December at 4pm (see page 3) and we would love you to help us. This activity is great fun made all the more enticing by the offer of mince pies and carols. Do come along.

## **Week 1: HOPE**

During Advent instead of a question for Breakfast Praise and to go in the newssheet, we're giving you our advent challenges. Here is this week's challenge and some suggestions of how you might like to fulfil it. Do come up with your own ideas and then chat over coffee about what you did.

### **How can you bring Hope to someone who finds Christmas difficult?**

- Invite someone who is lonely round for a catch up/ call them/ send a card.
- Invite someone to our Christmas Services.
- Share the online advent calendar [Advent Calendar | The Church of England](#)



### **THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS CARD:**

We've done things a little differently this year and produced Christmas cards for you to give to your neighbours and friends inviting them to come to our Christmas services. The cards are available after the services today Sunday 1st December for you to take away and give to your neighbours and friends inviting them to come along to our Christmas celebrations. There will be plenty so take as many as you need. Thank you to all the children who submitted their designs. Our Wednesday morning line dancers chose the winning design from Poppy age 5. All the entries are displayed in church and two will be used for the front sheet of our Christmas service sheets: Nine lessons and carols and the Nativity on Vauxmead. We will also use them on social media when publicising our weekly services.

## NEXT SUNDAY: 8th DECEMBER: THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 8 am Holy Communion
- 9 am Breakfast Praise (see page one)
- 10.15 am Our term-time, God and Friends (GAF) group for primary school aged children meet in the Church Hall to get to know God and each other while having fun! Games, craft, time to reflect on how our Christian faith affects our lives.
- 10:30 am Parish Communion
- 4 pm Christingle: A joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope. Each person takes a Christingle and the candles are lit to create a warm, magical glow symbolising the light of Christ.



## NOTICES

We're taking part in



**Christmas  
Jumper  
Day** 

St Peter's Church Pre-School Praise is taking part in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 12 December (the last Pre-School Praise of this term). By adding a bit of sparkle to our outfits / pulling on our Christmassy knits and donating, we'll be supporting children in the UK and around the world to keep safe, healthy, and learning. If

you'd like to support them here is the QR code to Pre-School Praise's fundraising page.



## NOTICES

### ST. PETER'S CHURCH 2025 CALENDARS:

These lovely calendars would make a useful Christmas gift, or you might like one for yourself to keep a note of all your important dates. John Cramp will be selling them in church on Sunday 1st December after the 10:30am service for £5. Sarah will also be selling them from the Parish Office, but numbers are limited.



St. Peter's Church, Hersham

[www.stpetershershams.com](http://www.stpetershershams.com) Parish Office: 01932 253452

**WOMEN'S BREAKFAST:** We shall be meeting between 9am and 11am (ish) in St Peter's Church Hall on Saturday 14 December. The Women's Breakfasts offer an opportunity for women to meet for a couple of hours of coffee, conversation and a croissant or two (or other, perhaps healthier, food options). They are a time for sharing our news, asking questions (big and small), making friends or just sitting quietly, away from the bustle of a usual Saturday morning. Feel free to bring a friend.



**YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR OUR  
CHRISTMAS SERVICES:**



**SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER:**  
**CAROL SERVICE** at 6.30pm:  
Our traditional candle-lit service of nine lessons and carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

**CHRISTMAS EVE:**

**Our Nativity** at 12 noon on Vauxmead Field (opposite St Peter's Church) with live donkey and sheep. We will go ahead outside come rain, or shine, so please bring appropriate warm clothing.

**The Crib Service** at 5pm in church: A lovely start to Christmas for young and old. As we sing Christmas carols, the children will help us tell the story of the first Christmas, using our beautiful Crib figures. Children (or adults) may come dressed in a nativity costume if they wish.



**Midnight Mass** join us at 11.15pm to share the first Holy Communion of Christmas

**CHRISTMAS DAY:**

**Family Communion** at 10.30am: An intergenerational Christmas Communion Service

Our Christmas charity collection this year will go to **THE SHOOTING STAR CHILDREN'S HOSPICES**. Their community fundraiser has said "We believe every life-limited or dying child and their family should have the opportunity to make every moment count and get the support they need. We help families make every moment count by supporting them from diagnosis to end of life with a range of nursing, practical, emotional, and medical care. Our support is free of charge to families and includes a range of therapies and support groups for the whole family, specialist nursing care and respite, symptom management, end of life care and bereavement support. (All donations collected on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will go to this charity).



Carols for Choir & Audience  
A Christmas Concert  
of Music and Readings by

The Ian Engelmann Singers  
Musical Director: John Tudhope  
Organist: Duncan Faulkner

Friday 20 December 2024  
at 7:45 pm in  
St Peter's Church, Burwood Road  
Hersham, Surrey, KT12 4AA

Admission free  
A collection will be taken, and a contribution  
made to the Sam Beare Hospice Charity.

Mulled wine and mince pies  
will be served after the concert.

## Bell-ringing

Recently St Peters bells have not been rung anything like as much as they used to be for Sunday services and when there is ringing it may only be four of the eight bells. This is because for one reason or another there are very few ringers left. We really need some new ringers or the bells may fall silent. Most people can learn to ring bells in the traditional way practiced at St Peter's and about 5,000 other Churches in the UK. Children from age 12 can easily be taught; there are as many female as male ringers.

Anyone interested in learning to ring could come up the tower on a Sunday morning or telephone David Mealor on 07484 225951

What's involved? The first stage is learning to handle a bell (think of it as a bit like learning to stay on a bike safely). These initial lessons are hands-on, with your tutor closely supervising.

When you can handle the bell safely, you need further exercises to learn how to control it, to make it ring faster or slower (think of it as like learning to cycle in a straight line, and turn corners when required).

Thus far, you have been ringing a bell on its own. The next step is learning to synchronise the timing of your bell with others (think of it as cycling in formation, six abreast). This is what it is all about, and when you can do it reasonably well you will be a full member of the band and can visit other towers to ring.

From now on, most of your training will be in general practices with the rest of the band. They, as well as you, will have things they want to achieve, so the time in practices is shared out, with each piece of ringing (a 'touch') intended to benefit different people. A lot of a ringer's time is spent ringing things to help a fellow ringer. At first, you are mainly a beneficiary, but as you progress, you can increasingly ring things that help other people.