

NEXT SUNDAY - 14th January 2018

10am Open Door with children's and young people's groups
The service includes an act of (re)-commitment for 2018

THIS WEEK

Tues	9.15am	Staff (non-clergy) prayers
	9.30am	Clergy at Bishop of Edmonton's Clergy Well-being training day
	7.30pm	Connect group with Vera
	7.30pm	Connect group with Mavis
Thurs	9am	Nicholas leads Collective Worship at St Mary's Primary School
Fri	9.30am	St Paul's Toddler group
	4.45pm	<i>Adventure Time</i> cell group for those in Years 7-9

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Lord, You make all things new. You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our spirits to be born again. Thank you for this new year, for all the potential it holds. Come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that in our time, many will see the wonders of God and live forever to praise Your glorious name. Amen.

WISDOM that WORKS: a DAY in PROVERBS

The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity's next Bible Day is on Tues 23rd January (10.30am - 4pm). It will look at how Proverbs makes it clear that wisdom doesn't begin in human autonomy, but in relationship with God, where wisdom is then worked out in different spheres of life – at the city gates and in the market squares, in our homes and workplaces – wherever God has called us. Refreshments and a light lunch is included in £20 fee. Venue is St Peter's Church, Vere Street, (Bond Street tube). Book at www.licc.org.uk

CONTACTS:

Vicar: Revd Nicholas Pye
(Days off Wednesday and Saturday)

Associate Vicar: Revd Mavis Crispin
(part-time, working usually on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday)

Children's and Families' Community Worker: Ruth Cowlshaw (part-time, working usually Tues, Fri and Sun mornings) 8349 3792

Administrator and Centre Manager:
Irene Mburu 8349 3792; office@stpaulsfinchley.org.uk
Office hours Mon - Fri, 9am - 1pm

Intern: Davi Guimaraes 8349 3792; (Days off Mon & Sat)

Churchwardens:
Maggie Barnes
Karen Fox

Website: www.stpaulsfinchley.org.uk

Welcome to



7 JANUARY 2018

We extend a **warm welcome** to all who have come to worship. If you are a newcomer, we would encourage you to introduce yourself to the service leader or a member of our welcome team. To help us view **giving** as integral to the Christian life, we usually take an offering during our worship. If you are a visitor, do feel able to pass the offering basket on without contributing.

10am Open Door with children and young people's groups
and All Age Holy Communion

Bible reading: Matthew 2:1-12 (page 966)

Theme: The Magi - the nature of true worship

Preacher: Revd Nicholas Pye

Prayer for today (Epiphany) *Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Please speak to the clergy if you'd like **prayer** for something or someone. There are **toilets** (including an accessible one with baby changing facilities) in the St Paul's Centre as well as in the foyer of the historic church.

BIBLE VERSE FOR 2018

We have chosen John 3:16 as a theme for 2018:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not die but have eternal life”.

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THIS WEEK'S PRAYER TOPICS

- The Lord to increase our love for him as the greatest treasure of our hearts, our trust in his promises, our passion for Jesus and our faith in his power to provide for our needs.
- Ian Stewartson, our treasurer, assisted by Karen Fox, as they prepare our 2017 accounts.
- Ruth Cowlshaw and her team as they run our toddler group: for their ministry of welcome, serving and caring for toddlers and their parents/carers and witnessing to the Christian faith.
- the staff of the NHS, their health and wellbeing as they serve sacrificially at this peak time.
- wise decision-making for those who hold office as public servants, including Mike Freer, our MP, Andrew Dismore, our GLA member, Ross Houston, Kath McGuirk and Jim Tierney, our ward councillors, Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London and Theresa May, Prime Minister.

THANK YOU from the STAFF TEAM

We want to thank everyone within the St Paul's community for Christmas cards, presents and good wishes. We are grateful for people's kindness and generosity and pray that we may continue to serve you faithfully and fruitfully in 2018. Davi, Irene, Mavis, Nicholas and Ruth.

SAFETY of CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE on SUNDAYS

While children and young people are in their groups they're the responsibility of the group leaders. Once the service in the historic church has ended, parents/carers resume responsibility for the safety and welfare of their children on church premises and in the vicarage garden. Parents of children in *Splash!* and *Xsteam* should collect them from their group straight after the service. Older children and young people can find their parents on their own.

DEADLINE for CONTRIBUTING to our 2017 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

If you wish to contribute to our appeal but have yet to do so, please ensure we receive your gift (e.g. via cheque payable to St Paul's Finchley PCC or internet banking) by next Sunday. The money will go to Tearfund (www.tearfund.org) to support their work in changing the lives of women in the Central African Republic and elsewhere who have suffered unimaginably due to conflict and poverty. Every pound you give will be doubled by the UK government.

ADMISSION to RECEPTION CLASSES for SEPTEMBER 2018

The closing date for admissions to Year R in Sept 2018 (for children born between 1/9/13 and 31/8/14) is 15th January via www.eadmissions.org.uk If you are applying for a place at St Mary's, our church school, you also need to fill in a Supplementary Information Form and return it to the school. A clergy reference is required if you are applying for a Foundation place and can only be signed where parent(s) have been worshipping at a church at least twice a month for a minimum of 18 months. See www.stmarysfinchley.co.uk/admissions-information/ for details.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO DIED in the FIRST WORLD WAR

We mark the 100th anniversary of the death of the people listed on our war memorials:

Lieutenant Colin **WRONG** (28/12/17) Royal Munster Fusiliers 6th Battalion, aged 21. Colin was born in British Guiana and had a brother. He enlisted as a law student. His commanding officer initially refused him a commission, due to his 'slight colonial accent'. He married Marjorie Snell in 1915. He served in Salonika and on 2/6/17 won the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry, in assisting in dragging a severely wounded man back a distance of 1,500 yards, under heavy fire. He moved to Egypt in Sept 1917 and was killed in action in the Palestine campaign. He is buried in the War Cemetery, Jerusalem. His wife remarried and lived at 14 Park Avenue, Finchley.

THIS MONTH'S WORLD MISSION FOCUS: the STOKER FAMILY

Dave was a member of St Paul's until 2004 when he went to serve as a CMS UK mission partner with the Anglican Church of Peru. He married Kay, a teacher, in 2008 and they've two children - Joshua and Emily. In February 2013 they went to work as LatinLink mission partners with the Evangelical Church of Peru. They're based in Cusco where Dave is engaged in youth-work, training church leaders and teaching on the use of technology in Christian mission and Kay is working with children and families, especially in developing bereavement care. We've pledged to support them through prayer and by giving them at least £2,000 a year. For more information, please contact Mavis Crispin.

REFLECTING FURTHER on TODAY'S TEXT - Matthew 2:1-12

The nation of Israel waited for centuries for God's anointed King to be born. Jesus' birth, however, was not greeted with royal gladness by the nation and its leaders. Instead, there was intrigue and conflict. It was left to the Magi, Persian priests who have the ability to interpret stars or dreams or to practise magic, to welcome the newborn King. There is no indication that they were kings or that there were three of them.

1. What do we know about the Magi from verses 1-2? How are they different from the shepherds Luke mentions? What is the significance of the "good news" coming to both groups?
2. Read verses 3-8. Why is Herod troubled by the birth of Jesus? How does he react?
3. The religious leaders seemed indifferent to the Magi's news. They knew the Scriptures, regarding the Messiah's birth, but did nothing in response. How are the Magi different? What are the differences between knowledge, intellectual assent, and saving faith in Jesus?
4. How has knowing Jesus involved you in a search or journey?
5. The Magi not only found Jesus, but they worshipped him and witnessed about his birth. How has your search for the Lord resulted in worshipping him and telling others about him?
6. What three gifts are you called to give in worship at this time? What would best reflect your heart? And what would God most want you to give?
7. The responses of the Magi, the religious leaders and Herod are typical of the ways people respond to Jesus today. What factors might cause people to respond in such different ways?
8. Why do you think Matthew essentially began his Gospel with the Magi and concluded with the Great Commission (Mt 28:16-20)? What significance would these events have held for a mainly Jewish audience in the first century? What significance should they hold for us today?
9. Praying the Text - *Lord, may we be like the Magi: give us the wisdom to seek you, light to guide us to you, courage to search until we find you, grace to worship you and generosity to lay our gifts before you, our King and our God. Amen.*

IF YOU GO into HOSPITAL PLEASE

- Let Mavis Crispin know (or, in her absence, Nicholas Pye).
- Contact the Chaplaincy Team before you enter hospital – details on NHS Trust websites.
- On admission make sure your Christian faith is noted in the paperwork and ask for a referral to a Christian member of the chaplaincy team stressing its importance for you.
- During your stay make sure you feedback to nursing and medical staff how much you have appreciated chaplaincy care.
- After your stay write a letter of thanks to the Chaplaincy Team.