

PARISH OF GREAT YARMOUTH

GREAT YARMOUTH MINSTER + ST PAUL'S + ST MARY'S

Sunday 22nd December 2024 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Service Today:

10.30 Parish Sung Eucharist at The Minster

18.00 Minster Carols at The Minster

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Reflection

There seem to be many competing ideas these days as to what Christmas is *all about*. Advertisers are at pains to tell us that it is all about whatever it is they are trying to sell. And the many songs written about the festival assure us it is about 'feasting', 'magic', 'snow', 'mistletoe and wine', 'sleigh bells', 'Santa Claus', 'Gold rings'..... among many other things! All very lovely, but not exactly getting to the heart of the matter. So, it's worth us reminding ourselves what Christmas *is* all about! And in some ways, it is quite simple. At its core, it is about one thing: the extraordinary fact that God chose to dwell among us in his Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh - to know our experience of life from the inside out and to pay any price to heal and save us. Christmas is therefore far from being some briefly uplifting moment of jollity, but rather a profound and transformational mingling of the divine with our physical lives. It is something to be marked with great solemnity and a deep joy! I wish you all a truly blessed and peace-filled Christmas. May you encounter anew the wonder of our Lord Jesus Christ as a vulnerable child, lying in a feeding trough, ready to join us in every colour and contour of our human lives. Revd. Richard

This Week's Diary

Minster open daily 10am-12pm until Tuesday 24th December, reopening Saturday 4th January 2025

| Date | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Mon 23 rd | 10.00 | Christingle Construction | Minster |
| | 10.00 | Craft Group | St. Mary's |
| | 14.00 | Place of Welcome | St. Paul's |
| Tues 24 th | 16.00 | Crib Service / Christingle | Minster |
| | 23.00 | Midnight Mass | Minster |
| Wed 25 th | 9.30 | Family Communion | St. Paul's |
| | 10.00 | Family Communion | St. Mary's |
| | 10.30 | Family Communion | Minster |
| Thurs 26 th | 10.00 | BCP Eucharist for St. Stephen | St. Mary's |
| Sat 28 th | 10.00 | Vestry Hour | Minster |
| Sun 29 th | | First Sunday of Christmas | |
| | 10.30 | Sung Parish Eucharist | St. Paul's |
| Tues 31 st | 12.00 | Lunchtime Eucharist | Minster |
| Thurs 2 nd Jan 2025 | 10.00 | BCP Eucharist | St. Mary's |
| Sat 4 th Jan | 10.00 | Vestry Hour | Minster |
| | 10.00 | Inclusive Church Coffee Morning | Minster |
| Sun 5 th Jan | 9.30 | Epiphany Eucharist | St. Paul's |
| | 10.30 | Sung Eucharist | Minster |
| | 11.00 | Eucharist | St. Mary's |
| | 18.00 | Evensong | Minster |

NOTICES

Christingle Construction – can you spare a couple of hours to help put together the Christingle oranges? If so, please come along to the Vestry on Monday 23rd December at 10am, tea & biscuits provided. Please speak to Barbara Freeman if you can.

Radio Norfolk will be broadcasting The Civic Carol Service on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day at noon, Boxing Day at 1pm. In the coming weeks the PCC will be launching the **Parish Giving Scheme**. This will manage regular church giving in an efficient way which reduces work for the church. Do look out for publicity & consider what you can give to support the work of your church.

Pam Spychal's Icy Dips in Advent Challenge – Pam will swim or dip in the North Sea for at least 2 minutes, every day in Advent, to sponsor her and find out more please go to <https://hopeintoaction.enthuse.com/pf/pam-spychal> If you would like to sponsor Pam please select the Norwich branch.

Parish Magazine: The January magazine is out now, if you have any articles for the magazine please contact Pat Stringer, email: patstringer1840@gmail.com

PARISH PRAYER LIST. Pray for those who are sick or in need, all who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit or in need of God's loving care: Michael & Margaret, Miriam, Kevin, Peter, Michael, Sue, Henry.

We remember before God the recently departed: Gordon Sutton, Jean Kitchener, Stella Pearson. Pray for the recruitment of a new team vicar, being advertised next week