

Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



Home, Hope, Hands

November 2024

From our Vicar, Revd Hannah Smith

This time of year divides opinions. A number of people have said to me recently, 'Autumn is my favourite time of year, I love the colours.' But also a similar number of people have said to me: 'I find this time of year hard, I struggle with the darkness and I feel low.'

We are physical beings and we are affected by the world around us and the changing seasons. For those of us who have to get up whilst it is still dark, it can be difficult to get out of bed in this season, yet for some of us, it is a joy to see the sunny Autumn days and to kick through the leaves.



Our struggle with darkness is one of the reasons we celebrate Jesus' birthday in the middle of the darkest part of the year. We don't really know the date on which he was born but some clever person once thought that it was good to celebrate light coming into the world at the very darkest moment of the year. And although it is easy to roll our eyes as Christmas decorations are sold in October, it is understandable that as darkness grows, we are eagle-eyed, looking out for the light coming in the midst of the dark places.

Can I encourage you to be on the lookout in this season for light? Our world can feel very dark when we read the news – with American elections just round the corner as I write this, with war and environmental disasters everywhere you look – let alone the everyday struggles that some of us face with health, mental health, family and financial struggles.

Yet, in the midst of the most solid darkness, Jesus, as a baby, in all his light appears bringing hope and meaning to a world that is so often lost. Reminding us that God loves each one of us and is desperate to bring his love and light close to us.

Perhaps when you are feeling at the least hopeful in the coming months, you can imagine the light of Jesus close to you – perhaps even imagine yourself in Bethlehem all those years ago gathered in a stable and someone handing you the baby Jesus, the light of all the world, to hold in your arms?

Blessings on all our journeys in the darkness,

Love and prayers,

Hannah

Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



Looking Ahead to Christmas

Christmas publicity will be produced soon but here is advance notice of the special Christmas services in December at St Helen's and St Paul's. These are in addition to the usual Sunday worship services:

Sunday 8th December - Walton Community Carols at St. Paul's 11am

Wednesday 11th – Toddler's Christmas at PCF
Wednesday 11th – Spring Cake and Carols at 3pm

Sunday 15th - Pop Up Nativity 11am at St. Helen's
Traditional Carols 4pm at St. Helen's



Saturday 21st – PCF Christmas 11:30am-1:30pm – Santa and Carols

Sunday 22nd – no 11am service at St. Helen's
Contemporary Carols 7pm at St. Helen's

Monday 23rd – Christingle 4pm at St. Paul's

Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve – Christingle 4pm at St. Helen's
Midnight Mass 11:15pm at St. Helen's

Christmas Day – 10am Family Communion service at St. Helen's
11am Communion Service at St. Paul's

Sunday 29th December – Joint Parish Communion Service 9:30am at St. Helen's
(No 11am service at either St Helen's or St Pauls on this day)

Shield Youth Group, Autumn Term

Shield dates: Nov 3rd & 17th, Dec 8th
6-7.30pm in the Emmaus Room
Rachel and Andy Chapman

Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



Women's Fellowship

Many thanks to all who donated food items for our harvest display in the church entrance, afterwards, the perishables went down to the Spring Cafe for use there and the rest to the 'food banks' locally.

And thank you again, to all who supported our Home Produce Sale which we held last month which raised £144 for the Children's Air Ambulance.

Our next meeting on the 4th November is our AGM, being led by Revd. Hannah Smith, followed by cuppa & cake!

Coming up, finishing this year, we have;
DECEMBER; Speaker from the Children's Air Ambulance

2025

JANUARY; Revd. Lizzy Brothwood

FEBRUARY; Speaker (Ella) from 'Open Country' support services (Wakefield)

We would love to see you at any of our meetings which take place in the Emmaus rooms, starting at 10am (until around 12noon) and always include time for a cuppa & cake!

Gill Heap



Christians Aware Event at St Paul's

Christians Aware is expecting a visitor from Kenya on Friday, November 8th. Samuel Mwangi is here at the moment for his post-graduate work.

We are inviting you to meet Samuel on Friday, November 8th, at 7. 00 pm in the Barnabas Room at St Paul's Church.

Samuel will tell us about his research on alleviating poverty in his area of Kenya. There will be an opportunity to talk informally and to share a drink and cake. We will plan to close the evening at 9. 00 pm.

We do hope you will decide to join us.

Also - Our Christmas cards will be on sale.

Barbara Butler



Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



Christmas Hampers

Once again, the Christians Against Poverty Centre at St Helens will be putting together Christmas hampers for their clients. This is an important part of our witness, to be helping those who've found themselves in financial difficulties. We are suggesting that people could donate:

- Packet of biscuits
- Family size bag of crisps
- Box of chocolates/selection box
- Tin of carrots
- Tin of peas
- Stuffing mix
- Gravy granules
- Packet of pasta
- Savoury biscuits
- Tin of soup
- Tinned fish
- Non-alcoholic drink
- Teabags
- Tinned fruit
- Jar of jam or marmalade
- Bag of sugar
- Pasta sauce
- Christmas pudding
- Mince pies
- Bread sticks

Our SHIELD group have kindly offered to decorate and pack the hampers on November 17th at their session that Sunday. Therefore, if you are able to donate, please could you bring donations to both St Helens and St Paul's by that date. This allows us to ensure we cover any shortfalls and can organise deliveries in good time for Christmas.

Thanks in advance
Andy Owen (CAP Volunteer)



These photos show the Harvest collection of 42 bags of food which was split between Sandal Castle School and St. Catherine's Food Bank.



Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



African Connection says Thank You

On Behalf of African Connection a big thank you to all who came to the great PAELLA evening in October.

With Jesus Garcia creating his world famous dish, 53 guests enjoyed the company and food provided. A host of volunteers created puddings, helped set up the venue, washed up, served tea and coffee and cleared up at the end.

In all over £1,500 pounds was raised through those that came, a silent auction, tombola and gifts donated on the night.

Thank you is a short phrase, but within it so much is meant. Do not underestimate the value of your generosity to African Connection and the students we support in Siaya Kenya. Sixty new students will be able to start school again in January.

If you wish to continue to support our work either through regular donations via direct debits, running coffee mornings or one-off donations then please see or contact Viv Buckley for more information. If you would like to take a small part in helping run the charity you can speak to Viv about that also.

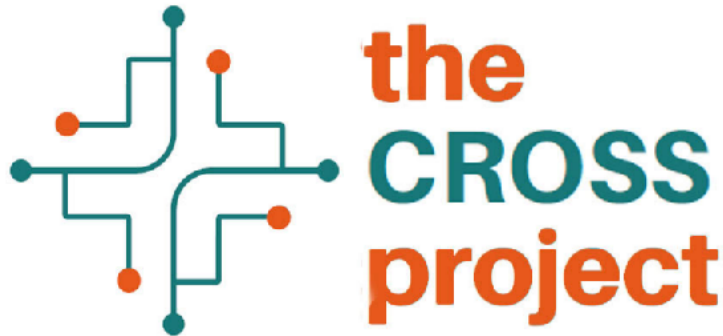
Thank You.

*Mark Buckley
on behalf of
African
Connection.*



Photo of a school in Siaya, Kenya, taken from the International Cities of Peace website

Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



Can you help us?

Do you have skills in finance or fundraising? Do you have a legal background or experience of safeguarding? Can you support our team in a pastoral way?

If you have skills and experience which could help a small, local charity then we need you.

The CROSS Project is an ecumenical charity which spreads the good news of the gospel in secondary schools across the Wakefield area. We are a small team that goes into local schools on a weekly basis, but we are supported by the skills and expertise of trustees.

Commitment:

- Attend a 90-minute trustee meeting 6 times a year, held in person or on zoom
- Prepare for meetings by reading reports
- Use expertise and skills to offer advice and support
- Take part in decision making
- Help shape and direct the vision and future of the charity
- Be able to offer 6 hours a term to support in your area of expertise
- Support fundraising opportunities and grant applications
- Actively promote The CROSS Project in own and other local churches

If you feel that this is a role you, or someone you know, would be able to support us with then please pray about it and then contact us.

Office@crossproject.co.uk or call the office on 01924 215588

Thank you

The CROSS Project

Beckie Briggs

CROSS Schools Worker

beckie.briggs@crossproject.co.uk

Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



Visiting St. Helen's or St Paul's Church

Parking. Please leave the lay by outside St Helen's for those who struggle to walk. Also, you may get a ticket if your car is outside the white lines which mark the lay-by. Be careful when parking at St Helen's or St Pauls, not to block residential drives, or even park too close to them. People need to be able to see both ways to leave their driveways safely.

Heating: St Helen's heating has recently been serviced and it is now much warmer. The church tends to be warmer at the front, so please bear this in mind when choosing where to sit.

Hannah

Regular Activities at St Helen's and St Paul's

Church Groups or Activities	
1 st Monday of each month 10.00 -12.00	Women's Fellowship. Emmaus Room. Contact Gill Heap. 01924 250103
3 rd Monday of each month 7.30pm – 9.30pm	Mother's Union. Barnabas Room, St Paul's
Wednesday 9.00am -12.00	Gardening Team. Contact Alex Hull 01924 256764
Church Cleaners 9.30am – 12.00 midday	Contact Vickie Lord. 01924 255938
Wednesday 7.00pm	Bellringers practice for Sunday Services. St Helen's. Contact Margot Cutt. 01924 255918
Thursday 7.00pm	Choir Practice. Usually, the Thursday before the 2 nd and 4 th Sundays. St Helen's Church. Contact John Arnold. 01924 372597
2 nd Thursday of each month 2.00 – 3.00pm	Contemplative Prayer Group. Barnabas Room, St Paul's. Contact Sue Davies. 07749 592858
Every 1 st and 3 rd Sunday. 6 -7:30pm in the Emmaus Rooms.	Shield Youth Group. Contact Rachel Chapman
Other Activities (charges may apply)	
Monday in term time 1.30 – 3.30pm	U3A Recorder Group. Emmaus Room, St Helen's. Contact David Johnson: 07484 230520
Monday in term time 7.00pm to 9.15pm	Wind Band. Contact Adele Jones: 07850 483727
Last Friday of the month at 5pm	Cllr Shaman Saleem surgery for local residents mailto:shabaansaleem@wakefield.gov.uk
Thursday eve	Soroptimists, Barnabas Room, St Paul's. Contact Linda Phillips 07709 282403
Various days and times	Pilates, Barnabas Room, St Paul's. Contact Gill Carr: 07968199169

Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



News from Catherine Lee - our CMS link missionary in Taiwan

**Return to old watering holes for
more than water; friends and
dreams are there to meet you.”
African proverb**

Thinking of that African proverb above, the church is often thought of as a spiritual watering hole, where friends gather and dreams are shared too. The theme of “Returning home, to our Galilee; returning to the place where we were first called” has become a focus for our year of outreach as the Taiwan Episcopal Church celebrates its 70th anniversary throughout 2024. At the church entrance, we even have special photo frames, saying simply, “I’m home”.

Although Taiwan, thankfully, was spared much of the pandemic angst, there is still angst related to the economic and social situation, the uncertainties of Taiwan’s long-term political future, climate change, air pollution, an aging population and declining birth rate, even the upcoming US presidential election. Extreme weather has taken its toll too - although Taiwan is used to such uncertainty; if it’s not typhoons, it’s earthquakes, and sulphur-belching fumaroles and hot springs in the Yangmingshan mountains above Taipei.

In other news, I have a new neighbour at St John’s Cathedral - our new deacon and curate, Rev Claire Chia-Lin Wang, who has just graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary, USA, and is in charge of the English ministry and youth work here at the cathedral. We’re working together on a few projects, including our Student English Bible Study, so please pray for us!

As we give thanks to God for his faithfulness and blessing to the Taiwan Episcopal Church over these past 70 years, we look to the future with fresh vision and enthusiasm and rely on you all for your support and prayers, as always. Thank you everyone!

Catherine Lee



Bishop and Mrs Chang

This article is an extract from Catherine’s latest letter which can be found at <https://churchmissionsociety.org/people-in-mission/catherine-lee-taiwan/>

Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



LUTHERAN CHORAL VESPERS

On Sunday 27th October I attended a Service at St Michael's, Headingley, Leeds.

St Michael's is closely associated with St Luke's Lutheran Church in Leeds.

The Lutheran Pastor Revd. Joseph Nelson (a member of the Prayer Book Society) held a Service of Choral Vespers which is, in some part, the equivalent of our Anglican Choral Evensong. The first item was the 'Service of Light' which is sung by the choir as they process -an expression of Christ being the Light of the World. Then two Psalms (as appointed

for the evening), followed by a hymn, a lesson from the Old Testament, the Magnificat, a recitation of a Shorter Litany, prayers, a collect, the Lord's Prayer, a hymn, the sermon by the Revd Joseph, a Bach Chorale by the choir, silent reflection and the final hymn. The blessing was given by the Lutheran Bishop (unrobed and in the congregation) in Polish.



In conversation, Joseph explained that Anglican Evening Prayer was an amended amalgam by Thomas Cranmer of the Monastic offices of Vespers and Compline whereas the Lutherans still kept the separate offices of Vespers and Compline. The confessional aspects of Anglican Evening Prayer were not present in this service because they are included in the Lutheran Compline. He also said that this Vespers Service was not a translation of the Roman service but owed a lot to Orthodox Vespers because of the nearness geographically to the 'Orthodox world' on the eastern edge of the Baltic.

The Bishop, who is Polish, said that Lutherans were now a minuscule minority in Roman Catholic Poland but before the war they comprised over 5% of the population. After the war, 800,000 Lutherans of ethnic German descent had had to flee Poland to settle in Germany. He himself was not ethnically German but came from the centre of Poland. The various national Lutheran churches, 80 million world wide, are in Communion with the Church of England and other Anglican churches. Outside the Anglophone world, the church is called the 'Evangelical' church but the term 'Evangelical' is associated with a non-liturgical type of Christianity in the English speaking world, hence the use of the description 'Lutheran'.

Mike Keeton-Prayer Book Society- Leeds Diocese.

Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



Keep fit classes for older people at St Paul's Church and Walton Village Hall

[Move it or Lose it classes](#) use a selection of exercises to build your strength and balance. They are a great way to improve your fitness levels so you can continue to do the things you love.

By attending regular classes, you can increase your physical activity and meet new people. Our classes are for people who want to stay flexible and improve their strength and balance to reduce their risk of falls. Our unique programme features chair-based exercises and standing exercises so everyone is welcome. They're great fun and can improve your energy levels too.

Regular classes will start on Friday 8th November 1830 - 1930. at Walton Village Hall and Wednesday 13th November 1000-1100 at St Paul's Church in Walton. For each place, the first class is free, and subsequent classes are £5 each. For further information contact

ivory.green-lott@moveitorloseit.co.uk

07725983850

moveitorloseit.co.uk

(Ivory is one of our library volunteers)

Libby Hall

Wakefield Hospice Fundraising Event

The Sandal Fundraising Group for Wakefield Hospice will hold their Christmas Coffee Morning and Sale on 15th November 2024 from

10am to 12 midday at Sandal Rugby Club. £2 admission on the door includes a hot drink and a mince pie. There are lots of stalls, so come along and buy and support this valuable cause.

Brenda Abbott



Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter

Portobello Christmas Appeal



🎄 Last year's Christmas Appeal was a beautiful success!

We had the joy of gifting Aldi vouchers to families, allowing them to choose what they needed most—whether that was a delicious Christmas dinner or essentials to see them through the season. The gratitude and smiles we received as we handed out these vouchers were priceless, reminding us of the true spirit of Christmas 🌟❤️.



PORTOBELLO
COMMUNITY
CENTRE

This year, we're eager to bring that same joy to families and individuals who could use some extra support through the Christmas holidays. 📺 If you'd like to contribute, donations can be made by placing an envelope labelled "Portobello Christmas Appeal" in the collection at any St. Helen's or St. Paul's service, or by bank transfer to Portobello Community Forum, sort code 08-92-99, account number 65409662 marked Portobello Christmas Appeal. 🌟 If you're a taxpayer, please include your name and contact details for a Gift Aid form so we can make your generosity go even further. Every donation makes a difference—thank you so much for your kindness and support! ✨

Sarah Cutts

Portobello Community Centre Regular Activities

Sewcial Crafting Group – 10am to 1pm. Crafting enthusiasts of all skill levels come together to bring their own projects and share ideas in a welcoming and inclusive community. To find out more, please call Sarah on 07496 021214 or Wendy on 07757 322001. £2 for adults / £1 for children who can sit and sew or craft. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Gelli Printing – 4pm to 6pm. For beginners, professionals, and curious cats. Start the week with creativity, by exploring your skills in gelli printing. Play with design and image to create unique works of art. Each session begins with a hearty meal. So, book in advance to ensure you get your place. Family friendly workshop. Food included. £2 for adults / £1 for children. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

TUESDAY

Craft and Photography Group – 12.30pm to 2.30pm. Bring your own crafts and learn from others. £2 per session. Adults only.

Alcoholics Anonymous – 7.15pm to 8.45pm. Get help with your drinking problem at this friendly & supportive group. Call Gareth on 07540 881731 or just come along.

Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



Activities at Portobello Community Centre continued

WEDNESDAY

Baby and Toddler Group – 9.15am to 11am. Group for pre-school children and their parents/carers. Term time only. £1 adults / 50p babies and toddlers.

THURSDAY

Portobello Drop In – 11am to 1pm. Come along for a chat and an activity. Term time only. Donations welcome.

Chair Based Exercise – 1.30pm to 2.30pm. Exercise to help with falls prevention, balance and stability. £2 per session or pay what you can afford.

Kung Fu – 7pm to 9pm. Want to get fit & learn new skills? This is the total package for mind, body & soul. 7pm to 8pm for beginners / 8pm to 9pm for more experienced people. £2 adult / £1 child (10+ years)

FRIDAY

Sewcial Knitters and Modellers – 10am to 1pm. Bring along any craft you want. We have knitters, modellers, sewers and crafters. To find out more, please call Wendy on 07757 322001. £2 for adults and £1 for children able to sit and craft and must be accompanied by an adult.

SATURDAY

Trinity Modelmakers Group meet **every 2nd Saturday** of the month – 10am to 1pm. All types of modellers and skill levels welcome. We are affiliated to Models for Heroes, are an inclusive group and welcome people with mental health issues. To find out more, please call Neil on 07957933736. £2 for adults and £1 for children able to sit and craft and must be accompanied by an adult.

Zumba – 6pm to 7pm. Zumba is a dance programme inspired by Latin rhythms but will take you round the World whilst having fun! Suitable for all abilities. £2 adults and £1 for children 14+. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Yoga – 7pm to 8pm. Hatha Yoga is a wonderful practice which combines strength, flexibility, mobility, balance and relaxation. £2 adults and £1 for children 11+. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

SUNDAY

Strong Tower Christian Centre – 10am to 12.30pm. Worship and praise every Sunday.



PORTOBELLO
COMMUNITY
CENTRE

Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



News from The Spring



As we move into Autumn, we feel blessed by the changing seasons and the promises it holds for us as we move towards the start of Advent.

SHOUT OUT FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are also still on the look out for extra volunteers to help us behind the scenes in Café Wash Up – so if you feel called to serve in this way please do get in contact and I can talk you through the opportunities that we have – we do also have an emergency call out list for folk who are happy to help but don't feel able to take on a regular commitment .

Regular Events

Knit & Knatter – held in the Spring Café every Thursday from 2pm-4pm – come and join Liz and the gang and enjoy a couple of hours of fellowship with like-minded folk – who knows you may learn a new skill and be exhibiting at the Craft Fayre in 2024



Yoga Classes with Margaret Clegg

Wednesday 7.30 – 9pm

If you are interested in joining this class, please call Margaret on 01924 370673 & Mobile 07787175432 and she will be happy to talk you through any questions you may have – all levels catered for from beginners

to the more advanced

Slimming World with Vicky

Every Tuesday 5pm and 6.30pm – a warm welcome extended to all whether your new, existing or returning – contact Vicky on 07966 202826 if you want any further information.



Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



News from The Spring

Forthcoming Events



**The Spring Annual Advent Craft Fayre –
Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th November 10am –
4pm – we will be closing the Shop & Café for this
weekend as we host our Advent Craft Weekend**



— and you are all invited to enjoy Free Entry to this event as we celebrate the artistry & skill of some of our local Artisan Producers – florists, bakers, jewellers, crafters, painters, printers and collectors from around our region selling a variety of homespun items and collectibles. There will be refreshments available to purchase on the day and free car parking will be available in our carpark at the rear of the building.

Advent Lunches @ The Spring Café

Following an unprecedented response our pre-booked tables have now all been booked – however we will be offering Lunches on the day for those who wish to walk in – We of course will continue to run our normal menu alongside the Advent Lunch – Please note though that if you are joining us for Breakfast they will stop at 11am from 3rd December not the usual 11.30 and due to levels of business we are unable to accept bookings for Afternoon Tea throughout December.

If you would like to help us look after our guests & serve our lunches we would love to hear from you – there are 2 stints available 11.30 – 1.30 and 1.30 – 3.30, Tuesday – Saturday.

Christmas Day Lunch in the Community – we are very much looking forward to providing a Christmas Day Lunch for those folk who need one – please do pray for us to bless as many people as we are able and encourage those around you that you know to request one. There is no charge attached to it, just donations for those who wish to make one, and the lunches will be freshly made on Christmas Eve, ready for either collection or delivery that afternoon between 1pm and 3pm. If you would like to help prep or deliver the meals, please do get in touch with me by phone or in person at The Spring.

Cath Moxham

Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



Events at Walton Community Library

WINE EVENING FRI NOV 15TH @ 7PM



Tickets £10 each from Walton Library
6 Almond Avenue, WF2 6UA
Mon-Fri 2 to 5pm Tues/Thurs/Sat 10 till 1pm

CALENDARS ON SALE!



Still only

£5 each!!

On sale at the library and other
village locations.

All profits will help to keep our library open
@Charles Waterton House, Almond Avenue, off The Grove WF2 6UA
Mon to Fri 2-5pm plus Tues/Thurs/Sat 10-1pm

A WALTON COMMUNITY
LIBRARY TALK



THE WARS OF THE ROSES AND THE BATTLE OF WAKEFIELD

A talk by Kevin Wilson



Lancaster Rose



York Rose



Tudor Rose



Thursday
NOVEMBER 21st
@7pm £3pp

Walton Community Library
Almond Avenue (off The Grove) WF2 6UA

Walton Community Library
invites you to a

FESTIVE WREATH WORKSHOP

Thurs. Dec **5th** 6.30 PM

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW AT THE LIBRARY!
ONLY £3.50 EACH!

includes refreshments and all materials
(Please bring some scissors!)

@Charles Waterton House
Almond Avenue
WF2 6UA

open Mon to Fri 2-5pm
Tues/Thurs/Sats 10-1pm

Sandal Magna Parish Newsletter



Sunday Worship at St Helen's & St Paul's Nov/Dec

Sunday 3rd November	9.30am St Helen's (Holy Communion) 11.00am St Helen's (Holy Communion, with Kid's Church) 11.00am St Paul's (Morning Prayer) 4.00pm St Helen's (Memorial Service)
Sunday 10th November Remembrance	9.30am St Helen's (Morning Prayer) 11.00am St Helen's (Morning Prayer, All Together) 10.45am Walton War Memorial followed by 11.00am Walton Methodist Church
Sunday 17th November	9.30am St Helen's (Morning Prayer) 11.00am St Helen's (Morning Prayer, with Kid's Church) 11.00am St Paul's (Holy Communion)
Sunday 24th November	9.30am St Helen's (Holy Communion) 11.00am St Helen's (All Together) 11.00am St Paul's (Morning Prayer) 4.00pm The Spring (Cafe Church)
Sunday 1st December Advent 1	9.30am St Helen's (Holy Communion) 11.00am St Helen's (Holy Communion, with Kid's Church) 11.00am St Paul's (Morning Prayer)
Sunday 8th December Advent 2	9.30am St Helen's (Morning Prayer) 11.00am St Helen's (Morning Prayer All Together) 11.00am St Paul's (Morning Prayer)
Sunday 15th December Advent 3	9.30am St Helen's (Morning Prayer) 11.00 am St Helen's (Pop Up Nativity) 11.00am St Paul's (Holy Communion)
Sunday 22nd December Advent 4	9.30am St Helen's (Holy Communion) 11.00am St Paul's (Morning Prayer)
Special services for Christmas are listed separately.	
Sunday 29th December	9.30am St Helen's (Holy Communion) No services at 11am at St Helen's or St Paul's

