

St Peter and Paul
The Parish Church of
St. Osyth

**In the Priory Benefice of
St. Osyth, Great Bentley, Weeley and Little Clacton**

***“SERVING GOD THROUGH
LOVE, WORSHIP AND WITNESS”***

Registered Charity Number: 1215560

**14th December 2025
Third Sunday of Advent**

**There will be a 11am Sunday Service.
Refreshments will be served in the Church room after the Service.**



The Bible Readings

**James 5. 7-10
Matthew 11. 2-11**

CHURCH CONTACTS

General enquiries, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals please contact
Rev'd. Sharon Guest 01255 235700 Email: sharonguest07@btinternet.com
Church Warden and Safeguarding Officer: Mr Tony Page, Tel: 07730956414,
Email: churchwarden@stosythparishchurch.co.uk

Church Warden: Mrs Sunny Bissenden,
Email: churchwarden1@stosythparishchurch.co.uk

Pastoral Care: Mrs Dianne Pile, Tel: 01255 820843

Administration: Mrs Emma Charnock, Email: info@stosythparishchurch.co.uk

PCC Secretary: Ms Belinda Liddle, Email: pccsecretary@stosythparishchurch.co.uk

Today's Gospel

Matthew 11. 2-11

Messengers from John the Baptist

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

Jesus Praises John the Baptist

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

- † Give thanks and praise to God for this season of celebrating Jesus coming into the world to save us and give us joy in Him.
- † Pray for all those for whom Christmas will be difficult; the poor and the hungry, the sick and those separated by death or distance from loved ones; parents who have lost sons or daughters; couples who are no longer together; children who are unhappy, confused or in trouble; those who are alone. Hold in your prayers the homeless and those providing shelters and hostels; for all who work so hard to feed, clothe and offer hospitality to many during this season.
- † Continue to pray for all affected by adverse weather or natural disasters.
- † Continue to pray for world peace and for those whose lives have been torn apart by conflict.
- † Pray for our Benefice and for the worldwide Christian Church remembering those Christians persecuted or imprisoned for their faith.
- † Pray for those in need of healing and long-term prayer support including: George, Ray, Maureen, David, Nina Hatchett, Dominee, Jane Eade, Tiny Harding and Joy.
- † Pray for all who have recently passed away and those who mourn them.
- † Pray for our parish, especially the staff and pupils of St. Osyth School and Pre School, the residents and visitors of Five Stacks and Vyntoner House, our and local businesses and for the many social groups.
- † Pray for Rev'd. Sharon, for all that she is doing, both seen and unseen, across the Priory benefice.
- † Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance to foster deeper faith, love, and support for one another within our church community.

Please let Chris Pile, email pile.chris@gmail.com, know the name of anyone who you would like to be added or anyone who can now be taken off the prayers.

Thank you.

*** NOTICES ***

Thank You

We just want to thank everyone who came to our father, Mark Roberts' funeral last week. We were overwhelmed by how many people were there, it was very moving.

We also want to thank Sharon for a lovely warm service, Tony, Emma and Paul for getting the camera set up in time so we could live stream it across to Australia for Sally, and for anyone else who wanted to watch. Also massive thanks to our wonderful Church family for organising everything from the Church's point of view, for our lovely choir, and the fabulous ladies who helped with food, drink, tables, etc, and all that clearing up afterwards. We know how much work it all is and it was wonderful, for once, not to have to do much ourselves, so a very, very, big THANK YOU! I think we all did Dad proud! We miss him but he's now gone on to his next adventure, probably with a book in his pocket and a crossword and pen handy in case there's any queuing at the pearly gates.

Allison, Katie and Nicky

TO ALL WELCOMERS

Thank you all for doing a great job recording the numbers attending services so far this year. Obviously, December is a very busy month so I in advance I want to thank all those of you who will be on duty at the wide variety of services we have throughout this month and for keeping up our good record in providing accurate returns to the Diocese. Please keep using the purple book too.

Chris

CAR PARKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEANERY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 13TH DECEMBER 2025 7pm

AND

VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE 22ND DECEMBER 2025 7pm

St. Osyth Parish Council are kindly allowing us to use the parking spaces on Cowley Park recreation ground. Entrance is through the gates opposite 3 Mill Street, just after the traffic lights. Car parking is **only** allowed to the right and left of the gate and against the fence, there is enough parking for 60 cars. Please **do not** park on the football pitch.

Weather dependant the ground could be very wet and muddy. The Parish Council and St. Osyth Church are not responsible for any damages caused.



A LIVING CHRISTMAS 25

Music & arrangements by contemporary composers

With

THE DEANERY CHOIR

And Peter Clayton (Accompanist)

Saturday 13th December

7pm start

Lapwood-Hazrati-Walker-Forrest-Culloton

Bullard-Chilcott-Chase-Barton-Beamish

Retiring collection for Church funds

THE DEANERY CHOIR

After the concert at 7pm on Saturday 13th December we will be serving refreshments.

Please can I ask for donations of cakes and biscuits or savouries towards the refreshments. These need not be home made. Please list ingredients and allergens, especially Nuts.



Many thanks
Anne Witton
07803 161687

Carol Singing at Five Stacks Residential Home

On Wednesday 17th December at 11am Fiona and members of the Choir will be carol singing at Five Stacks Residential Home, Point Clear Road.

Please do come along, join in and spread some festive cheer!



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards are available on a table next to the card stand

Please put a donation towards the cost of the cards in the box on the side of the card stand.

Thanks

Anne



SCRATCH CHOIR

There will be a scratch choir again this year, a joint venture between St. Mary's, Great Bentley and St. Peter and St.

Paul's, St. Osyth.

All welcome, music reader and singer or not. We learn a couple of carols which we sing during the Nine Lessons services at each church. It's a lovely social event and a great way to get into the Christmas spirit.

Practice will be held on Saturday 20th December at 10am in St. Mary's Church Hall.

Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 21st December

4pm St. Osyth

6pm Great Bentley

For any enquiries
please contact

Fiona Bodmer

Email:

fibo12331@gmail.com



Salvation Army Village Carol Service

Monday 22nd December at 7pm

We are pleased to welcome back The Salvation Army for the annual Village Carol Service.

Could we ask you to bring a donation, if you can, to support the Salvation Army Food Bank.

The following items are urgently needed.

Tinned Fruit

Instant Mash

Tinned and Packet
Custard

Tinned sponge puddings

Small jar or packet

Longlife Milk

Instant Coffee

UHT Fruit Juice

Hot Chocolate powder

However, all food items are welcome.

Thank you



Christmas Gift Shopping List 2025

When writing out your we wonder if you might think about buying a gift for the church. There is a list below of the items that we use, gifting any of these would make life easier for us financially next year. These gifts range from a donation of your chosen amount towards flowers to £35 for our Easter Candle. And cover most of the consumables the Church uses during the year.

Once you have decided on your gift please put the money in either the Collection Bag at the Sunday Service or in Alf's Box on the table as you leave the Church. Alternatively give it to Tony or Sunny.

The following week you will see a tag on our 'Christmas Gift' Tree with your gift on it.

Thank You



A message from Tony Page, Church Warden.

Many of you will be aware that my daughter, Anna and her family, live in Hong Kong. Following the major fire in Hong Kong Anna has sent the message below. I mentioned this in Church last Sunday and so far, we have been able to donate £170.

If you would like to make a donation, please see the link below.

I'm sure many of my friends here have read about the news of the devastating fire that has happened at a housing estate in Hong Kong. For my UK friends it will be a sad reminder of the disaster at Grenfell tower a few years ago.

The church I go to is part of the Anglican /episcopalian organisation of churches in Hong Kong, and they have a relief fund which you can donate to which will benefit those affected. Information below.

[S.K.H Act of Love 1126 Fire Disaster Support Fund]

A fire at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po has resulted in significant damage, with multiple casualties and thousands of residents displaced from their homes.

The Welfare Council has activated the S.K.H Act of Love 1126 Fire Disaster Support Fund fundraising platform to provide timely assistance. All donations received (with no administrative fees deducted) will be used to offer cash grants or essential supplies to affected individuals and families, helping them cover urgent needs such as daily necessities, medical costs and temporary accommodation.

Donate at: <https://doantion.skhw.org.hk/hk/fund-donation/aolwfc>

VACANCY

Martin has decided it is time to step away from his role as Treasurer for St Osyth Church. We would like to Thank Martin for his support and time over the last 12 years.

This means that the Parochial Church Council is now looking for a new treasurer.

Could you fulfil this role and support us with maintaining our financial and banking as well as attending PCC meetings?

Further information available from Tony Page (Church Warden)

Email: churchwarden@stosythparishchurch.co.uk

Mobile no: 07730 956414

Update on South Aisle Roofing repairs

We hope this informs everyone of the difficulties that the Contractors have experienced in the last six weeks.

The works involved stripping out 4 courses of tiles to each side of the valley gutter to enable new carpentry works to be laid to the correct bay lengths and falls in order to comply with regulations.

Followed were the supply and fit new code 8 leadworks with associated flashings and retiling.

Since given the instruction to start the above works, we have been heavily impeded with severe inclement weather - persistent rain and wind incorporating 2 storms.

After stripping out the tiling and lead for working, we have covered back in with polythene membrane in order to keep out the rainwater.

This is a difficult task as we have 2 large roof elevations either side of the valley gutter picking up all the rainfall and heading to the gutter, which when not completed is at its weakest.

There have been several days when we have not attended site to uncover the valley gutter as the weather forecast was poor.

The sequence is to get as many new bays ready as possible for recovering in lead, then tile back in. These take some time to complete and cannot be done in bad weather.

Whilst writing the above, we have now completed all lead works to the bays and are retiling back in aiming for completion early next week.

Due to the weather we have experienced, we apologise for any inconvenience that has been caused by the works, as the duration has been extended much longer than originally anticipated.

Nigel Maguire

Maguire Roofing LTD

Specialist in Tiling, Slating, Re-roofing, Leadwork and Single Ply Membrane

Pew Notices & Diary

Notices – Emma Charnock info@stosythparishchurch.co.uk by latest Wednesday 5pm

Anything for the Church Diary – Emma Charnock info@stosythparishchurch.co.uk

Don't forget, you can always find out more by visiting the
CHURCH WEBSITE:

www.stosythparishchurch.co.uk


St. Osyth Parish Church

Diary for Week Beginning Sunday 14th December 2025 – 21st December 2025

Sunday Third Sunday of Advent	14th	11am	Holy Communion Service led by Rev'd. Guy Thorburn Sunday Club Refreshments will be served in the Church room after the Service
Monday	15 th	9.30am	St. Osyth Pre-School in Church performing their Nativity
		3.30pm	St. Osyth Primary School setting up for their Carol Services
Tuesday	16 th		St. Osyth C of E Primary School in Church all day rehearsing for KS2 Carol Service
		6pm	St. Osyth Primary School KS2 Carol Service
Wednesday	17 th	AM	St. Osyth C of E Primary School rehearsing for their KS1 Nativity
		PM	St. Osyth Primary School KS1 Nativity
		3.30pm	St. Osyth Primary School collecting staging equipment
Thursday	18 th	10am	Holy Communion Service led by Rev'd. Sharon Guest
Friday	19 th	9am-10am	Handbell Practice
Saturday	20 th	10am-11.30am	Pop-In
Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent	21st	11am	Holy Communion Service led by Rev'd. Laurie Bond Sunday Club Refreshments will be served in the Church room after the Service
		4pm	Nine Lessons and Carols

UPCOMING SERVICES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Service led by</u>
Sunday 28 th December	10am United Priory Benefice Service held at St. Mary's Church, Great Bentley. Led by Rev'd. Sharon Guest
Sunday 4 th January 2026	There will be no 8am Service this month
	10am United Priory Benefice Service held at St. Andrews Church, Weeley



Christmas Services Throughout December in St. Osyth Parish

Church Everyone is welcome to come along to any of the following services being held in our Parish Church over the festive period.

Saturday 13th December

7pm Deanery Choir Christmas Celebration

Monday 15th December

10am St. Osyth Pre-School Nativity

Tuesday 16th December

6pm St. Osyth C of E Primary School KS2 Carol Service

Wednesday 17th December

St. Osyth C of E Primary School KS1 Nativity

Sunday 21st December

4pm Nine lessons and Carols

Monday 22nd December

7pm Salvation Army Village Carol Service

Wednesday 24th December

4pm Crib/Christingle Service

Wednesday 24th December

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Thursday 25th December

10am Christmas Day Service