

**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**

**21<sup>st</sup> December 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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



**The Bible Readings**

**Romans 1. 1-7.  
Matthew 1. 18-end.**

**CHURCH CONTACTS**

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

**Church Warden:** Mrs Sunny Bissenden,  
Email: [churchwarden1@stosythparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:churchwarden1@stosythparishchurch.co.uk)

**Pastoral Care:** Mrs Dianne Pile, Tel: 01255 820843

**Administration:** Mrs Emma Charnock, Email: [info@stosythparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:info@stosythparishchurch.co.uk)

**PCC Secretary:** Ms Belinda Liddle, Email: [pccsecretary@stosythparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:pccsecretary@stosythparishchurch.co.uk)

## Today's Gospel Matthew 1. 18-end.

### The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

- † 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, Joy and John.
- † 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](mailto: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.

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## \*\*\* NOTICES \*\*\*



*Rev'd. Sharon, Tony, Sunny, Emma and Belinda would like to  
wish everyone  
a very Merry Christmas  
and  
a Happy and Healthy New Year.*



To all those who undertook the various tasks involved in creating a Christmas extravaganza at our beautiful Church.

★ For the flower displays, lights and candles

Brenda and her team consisting of Sue White, Sue Butters, Allison, Ivy, Joy, Libby, Pat, Chris, Vera and Sonia.

★ For the Christmas Tree

Ordering, delivering, securing and decorating

Sonia, Stuart, Peter, Robert, Jim, Derek, Jennifer and Sunny.

★ Anne Witton and the Refreshments team who provided the refreshments for the Deanery Choir Living Christmas Celebration.

We have had a busy week in Church this week:

On Monday morning the Pre-School performed their Nativity.

On Tuesday evening, St. Osyth School KS2 had their Christmas Carol Concert.

Wednesday afternoon, KS1 performed their Nativity.

The Church looked wonderful and was packed on all occasions.

A **BRILLIANT** effort from everyone involved!

### 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 VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE 22<sup>ND</sup> 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.



### **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 20<sup>th</sup> December at 10am in St. Mary's Church Hall.

### **Nine Lessons and Carols**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December

4pm St. Osyth

6pm Great Bentley

For any enquiries  
please contact  
Fiona Bodmer  
Email:  
fibo12331@gmail.com



### **Salvation Army Village Carol Service**

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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
Longlife Milk	Small jar or packet Instant Coffee
UHT Fruit Juice	Hot Chocolate powder

However, all food items are welcome.

*Thank you*



This is a popular service, and we understand that parking in the village is limited. Please see the Parking notice above.

## 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**



### *Services Throughout Christmas Week 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.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

4pm Nine lessons and Carols

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

7pm Salvation Army Village Carol Service

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

4pm Crib/Christingle Service

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

11.30pm Midnight Mass

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

10am Christmas Day Service

### **Pew Notices & Diary**

**Notices** – Emma Charnock [info@stosythparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:info@stosythparishchurch.co.uk) by latest Wednesday 5pm

**Anything for the Church Diary** – Emma Charnock [info@stosythparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:info@stosythparishchurch.co.uk)

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

[www.stosythparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.stosythparishchurch.co.uk)



## St. Osyth Parish Church

### Diary for Week Beginning Sunday 21st December 2025 – 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025

<b>Sunday</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of</b> <b>Advent</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Holy Communion Service led by Rev'd. Laurie Bond</b>  <b>Sunday Club</b>  <b>Refreshments will be served in the Church room after the Service</b>  <b>4pm</b> <b>Nine Lessons and Carols, led by Tony Page</b>
Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	7pm	Salvation Army Village Christmas Carol Service including Handbells
Tuesday	23 <sup>rd</sup>		Church <b><u>CLOSED</u></b> for cleaning
Wednesday	24 <sup>th</sup>	4pm	Christingle and Crib Service
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass Service
Thursday	25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	United Family Christmas Day Service led by Rev'd. Sharon Guest
Friday	26 <sup>th</sup>		
Saturday	27 <sup>th</sup>		No Pop-In this week
<b>Sunday</b> <b>First Sunday of</b> <b>Christmas</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Priory Benefice United Service held at St. Mary's Church, Great Bentley. Led by Rev'd. Sharon Guest</b>

### UPCOMING SERVICES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Service led by</u>
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2026	There will be no 10am Holy Communion Thursday Service.
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	There will be no 8am Service this month
	10am United Priory Benefice Service held at St. Andrews Church, Weeley
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	11am Holy Communion Service led by Rev'd. Paul Greenland