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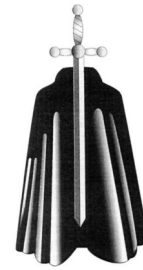
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A space for notes



**St Martin's
Low Marple**

Notices and Prayers for St Martin's and St Paul's

December 2023



St Martin's www.stmartins-lowmarple.co.uk

St Paul's *coming soon!*

Let us give thanks

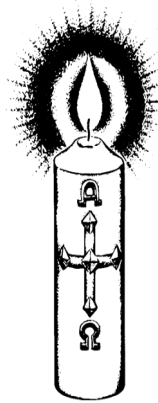
And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,
and we beheld his glory.

(John 1.14)

Prayer list

In our prayers please remember the sick who have
asked for our prayers:

Ruby	Peter	Clare
Andrew	Jude	Steph
David	Roger	Hillary
Gary	Michael	Gordon
Freddie & Jasmine	Kathleen & Arthur	Elaine
Madeleine		



Please pray:

For Rosie, Theodore, and Harry, coming for baptism.

For all who find Christmas a difficult time.

For members of the whole Church of England after the general synod's vote to move forward with the 'prayers of love and faith' - prayers of blessing for those in same-sex relationships.

For our link dioceses - Aru Boga and Melanesia, and especially for Bishop William, Bishop of Boga, and his visit to Chester Diocese in mid-November.

For all who are discerning God's call on their lives, and especially for the ongoing discernment to find the new archdeacon of Macclesfield.

Notices

This is the first of our new look Notices and Prayers sheets. The format has been changed to give a bit more space so that services and events at St Paul's can also be advertised. The format is (always!) a work in progress - please do give any comments or feedback to Timothy about how these sheets might be improved!

Thank you so much to everyone who has helped this year with the churchyard clear-ups.

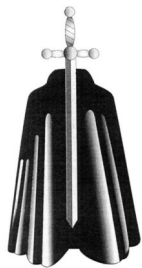
They've finished for the year now, but they'll be back from March - usually on the third Saturday of the month, from 10 am - 12 noon.

Details of our Christmas services are in the centre pages of this booklet. To allow Timothy to be at midnight mass at both churches this year, St Paul's are having a 'Bethlehem midnight mass', using Bethlehem's time difference to have the service at 9:30 pm but it still be midnight(!)

This year's Christmas Tree festival is nearly here! Saturday 2nd December is the main day, with a 'quiet opening' on Friday evening. Please do come along if you're able to (if you haven't already signed up to help with things on the day!)

A date for the diary - Saturday 6th January. Joint Epiphany social with St Paul's, with barn dancing, at St Martin's, 2-6 pm, in the hall.

December services at



**St Martin's
Low Marple**

Sunday 3rd *First Sunday of Advent*

11:15 am - Parish Mass + jnr church

6:30 pm - **Advent Service of Light**

Sunday 10th *Second Sunday of Advent*

11:15 am - Parish Mass + jnr church

4 pm - **Crib service**

Sunday 17th *Third Sunday of Advent*

11:15 am - Family Mass

6:30 pm - **Carols by Candlelight**

Sunday 24th *Christmas Eve*

11:15 am - Parish Mass

4 pm - **Christingle**

11:30 pm - **Midnight Mass**

Monday 25th *Christmas Day*

11:15 am - Parish Mass

Sunday 31st *First Sunday of Christmas*

8 am - Holy Communion

11:15 am - Parish Mass

December services at



Sunday 3rd *First Sunday of Advent*

9:30 am - Holy Communion

Sunday 10th *Second Sunday of Advent*

9:30 am - Holy Communion

Sunday 17th *Third Sunday of Advent*

9:30 am - Family Communion

5:30 pm - **Carol Service**

Sunday 24th *Christmas Eve*

9:30 am - Holy Communion

9:30 pm - **Bethlehem Midnight Mass**

Monday 25th *Christmas Day*

9:30 am - Holy Communion

Sunday 31st *First Sunday of Christmas*

9:30 am - Holy Communion

Every Thursday and Friday: Morning Prayer

at 9:30 am, at St Thomas', High Lane. **All Welcome!**

Dates for your diary

November

Saturday 25th - St Paul's Christmas Fair, 11 am - 2 pm

Monday 27th - Advent book group (session 1) - 7 pm, in St Martin's

Wednesday 29th - Board game and coffee morning, 10 am - 12 noon, *hall*

December

Friday 1st - Advent book group (session 1) - 11 am, in St Paul's

Friday 1st - Christmas tree festival - sensory-friendly opening night

Saturday 2nd - Christmas tree festival main day, 11 am - 5 pm

Sunday 3rd - Christmas tree festival opening, 1-3 pm

Sunday 3rd - Fairtrade stall after the parish mass

Monday 4th - Advent book group (session 2) - 7 pm, in St Martin's

Wednesday 6th - Board game and coffee morning, 10 am - 12 noon, *hall*

Wednesday 6th - 'Foundations' safeguarding training, 6:45 pm, St Thomas'

Friday 8th - Advent book group (session 2) - 11 am, in St Paul's

Saturday 9th - Monthly walk - 9:30 am at All Saints' - talk to Sylvia for more

Monday 11th - Advent book group (session 3) - 7 pm, in St Martin's

Wednesday 13th - Board game and coffee morning, 10 am - 12 noon, *hall*

Thursday 14th - Brass cleaning, *in church*

Friday 15th - Advent book group (session 3) - 11 am, in St Paul's

Monday 18th - Advent book group (session 4) - 7 pm, in St Martin's

Wednesday 20th - Board game and coffee morning, 10 am - 12 noon, *hall*

Wednesday 20th - Christingle preparation, from 2 pm, *hall*

Friday 22nd - Advent book group (session 4) - 11 am, in St Paul's

January

Saturday 6th - Joint 'twelfth night revels' social event - barn dance, games and bring & share, 2-6 pm, in St Martin's hall.

Peace, Unity and Love

As I write this, I do so on the same day that Chester Diocesan Synod had their most recent meeting. At that meeting there was a special guest, Bishop William, the Bishop of Boga. Visiting from one of our link dioceses, he is in this diocese for a week. He spoke to the synod meeting, and at the end was asked by Bishop Mark how we could pray for him and the Diocese of Aru Boga.

Bishop William's answer was that prayers could be for peace, unity and love. That request was for him, and his diocese, but it seems to me, perhaps especially this Christmastime, that it's a prayer that we might pray not just for the diocese of Boga, but for ourselves, and for the whole world.

We have a world where the climate crisis is becoming ever more urgent. A world which seems to have more and more countries at war each month at the moment. We have a world where those of different faiths are often in conflict. Where Christians have disagreed, and continue to disagree, to the point that we have many different denominations. And a Church of England which has people threatening will split over the issue of same-sex relationships.

Yet, in amidst all of this pain, disarray and vulnerability, we celebrate this month the birth of the Prince of Peace. Immanuel, *God with us*. When, in the world or in our own lives, things seem to be ever more desperate, we can be assured that peace, unity and love can all be found - illuminated by the light of the world.

*Word made flesh, life of the world, in your incarnation you embraced our poverty: by your Spirit may we share in your riches.
Amen.*