

Hope and Certainty

Two things have collided for me this week. Firstly, listening to and watching the complex and depressingly endless discussions around Brexit, and secondly, a podcast which was discussing the seven deadly sins.

Brexit, regardless of your politics, brings a sense of risk and the potential of major changes ahead - the fact that known certainties and patterns will shift. For those of us who have only known membership of the EU, that which seemed permanent is proving not to be.

This is true for so much of life in which we invest in and rely on. Indeed you could argue that this is the core of all sins. To invest in and rely upon that which may be good, but not God, which is by any other name, idolatry.

You take "wanting to do well", for instance, using your talents and trying to please others, but without God's help, can result in self-reliance and pride. Or, as is so often the case at Christmas time, we take the fun of

celebration and make it the end point and a moment of pride or greed.



So what should we do?

We can determine to place our hope and certainty in the one and only God, who is unchanging in an ever-changing world. We can celebrate Him.

Our God isn't remote - He came in vulnerability and compassion, born into the mess as we shall soon remember.

As Brexit and other uncertainties abound, and with the temptation to make things and achievement our god, we need the antidote of a kneeling and worshipping community.

So the best gift we can give our friends and family this Christmas - an invitation to experience and meet the one and only God, who alone provides hope and certainty.

Please do pray and invite others to the many opportunities we have this Christmas time, to share the good news.

Martin Wainwright

You are welcome at any of our activities this coming week at St Paul's

This Sunday 9 December

10am Way2Go Central
Speaker: Martin Wainwright
11:40am Communion Service - *Achievement*
Speaker: David Kellett
1pm Church lunch
6:30@StPauls with FUEL
Waiting... with God: Mary
Speaker: Ali Male

Monday 9:15am Prayer Meeting (Upper Lounge)
9:45am Toddlers
2pm Wrigglers
8pm PCC Meeting

Tuesday 9:45am Toddlers
11am Spartans (Club Room)

Wednesday 11am Mid Week Focus Christmas Lunch (The Heathside)

Thursday 9:30am Prayer & Pastries
10am Refresh (Cheyham)

Friday 10am Little Church
4:30pm Mini Flipz
5:45pm Flipz
7pm Fuel Christmas Party

Sunday 16 December

10am *A song of hope*
Speaker: Ken Hobbs
6:30pm Contemporary Carols
Guest Speaker: Bob Wallington (Soul Survivor, Watford)

Please pray for:

- those we know and love who are weighed down by illness, grief, worry or injury; Brian West recovering from back surgery; all grieving the loss of Alison Hind, especially daughters, Sophie and Megan, at her thanksgiving service this Thursday.
- real breakthrough in the fight to reduce climate change, as Christians seek to care wisely for God's creation.
- good response to last week's presentation about Hope4Malawi and their secondary school building project.

Prayer requests, including for extended prayer, to Sally Thomas sallyt@saintpauls.co.uk / 0208 224 7360 or via the Welcome Area prayer box. Join us praying on Monday mornings in the Lounge (upstairs) 9:15-9:45am.

Reaching Out to Train Travellers

On **Monday 10 December**, we are handing out Christmas publicity and chocolate, at Ewell East station, to travellers returning home between 5:30 and 7:30pm. If you'd like to join us, for a half-hour slot, please contact Sally Thomas sallyt@saintpauls.co.uk.

Christmas Cards at St Paul's

For those who wish to give cards in the usual manner, Christmas card boxes will be available from **9 December** opposite the lift. Please put your cards **behind** the appropriate letter. Alternatively, there will be a large card for people to sign and donations are invited for Angel Tree, a Prison Fellowship initiative, giving presents to children who have a mum or dad in prison.

Alison Hind

Alison Hind's funeral will take place on **Thursday 13 December 3:20pm** at North East Surrey Crematorium. This will be followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's at **4:30pm**, with refreshments after. All welcome and please wear bright colours.

Church Office

Please note that the church office will be closed over the Christmas holidays from mid-day Monday 24 December and will re-open on Wednesday 2 January.

NEWS - please note the deadline for notices in NEWS for 16/23/31 Dec is Tuesday 11 Dec.

The Hub

The Hub will close for Christmas on Friday 21 December at 1pm and will re-open on Monday 7 January.

Alone on Christmas Day?

Churches Together in Ewell is hosting a free Christmas dinner with festive activities for all who would otherwise be on their own, at Stoneleigh Baptist Church from 12:30-4:15pm. Transport available. To book call 020 8397 7307 christmas.dinner@dsl.pipex.com

Can you help on Christmas Day?

Drivers are needed, in particular, to bring guests to the Churches Together Christmas meal (see details above), as well as table hosts and help with washing up. Contact Janet Hattam 020 8397 7307 janet.hattam3@gmail.com

Caféchurch - Carols at Costa

Thursday 13 December 7:30pm at Costa Coffee, Cheadam. Join us with friends to sing your favourite carols, hear a short talk and enjoy Costa's hospitality. [facebook.com/cheamcafechurch](https://www.facebook.com/cheamcafechurch)

Congratulations

We are delighted to announce the engagement of our Children's Pastor, Naomi Simms, to Josh Carne. Please pray for them as they plan their wedding in 2019 and their future together.

Christmas Events

Pick up a leaflet in the Welcome Area with all the details about our Christmas Services and invite your family & friends to join us. *Please also take a bundle to distribute to all our neighbours in the Parish.*



CHRISTMAS @ St Paul's
HOWELL HILL

Contemporary Carols
Sunday 16 December 6:30pm

All Age Family Service
Sunday 23 December 10am

Traditional Carols
Sunday 23 December 6pm

Crib and Christingle
Christmas Eve
Monday 24 December 4pm

Late Night Communion
Christmas Eve
Monday 24 December 11pm

Christmas Celebration
Christmas Day
Tuesday 25 December 10am

New Year's Praise
Tuesday 1 January 6pm

saintpauls.co.uk/christmas

Giving to St Paul's

God's work here is funded by our church family and we encourage planned giving. Information on how to give regularly is available in the Welcome Area and online at saintpauls.co.uk/giving. There is a plate by the door for any who may wish to give today. Charity No 1128212