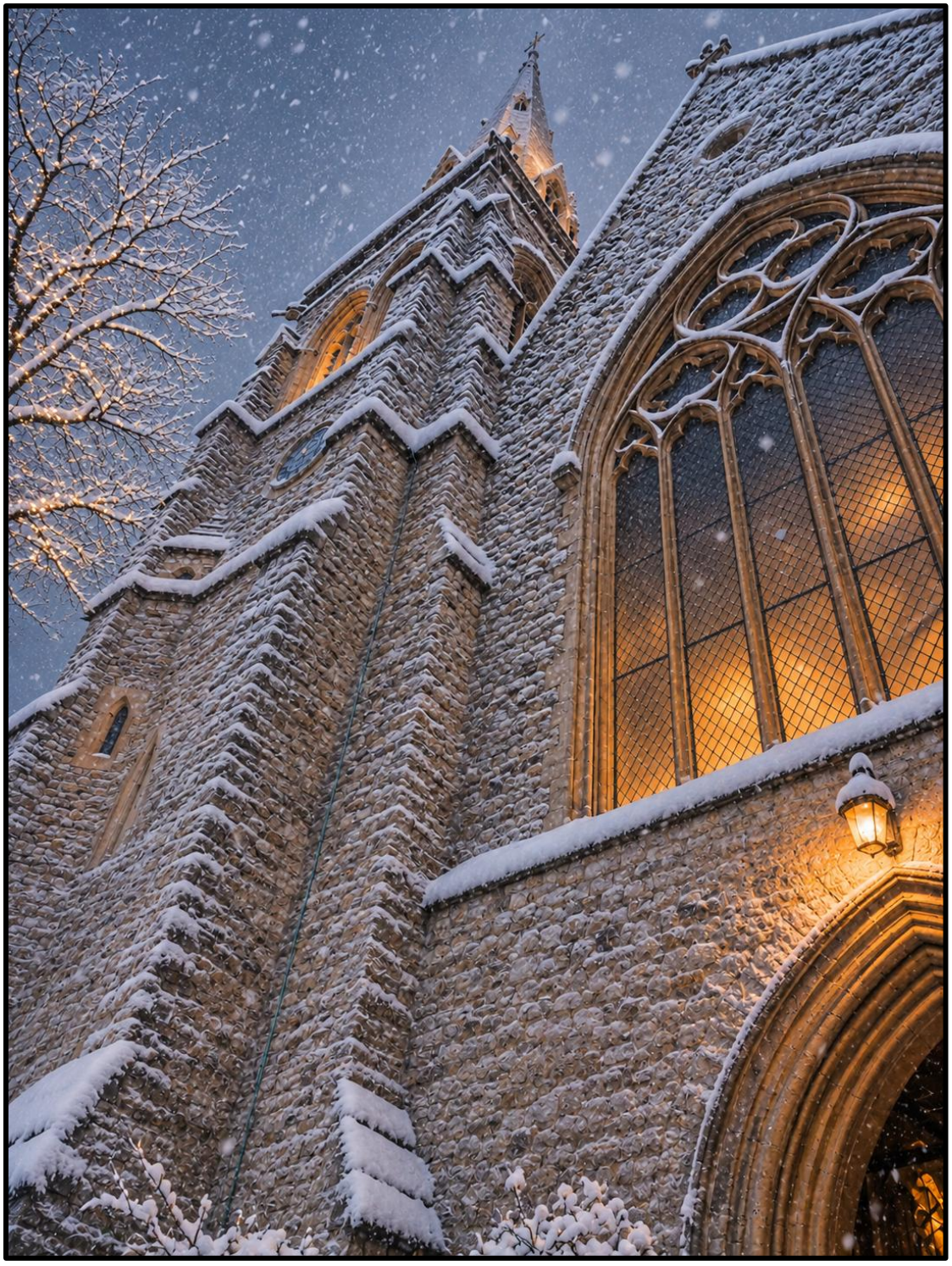
St Saviour's, Pimlico



WINTER EVENTS 2026/2027

Welcome to St Saviour's, Pimlico

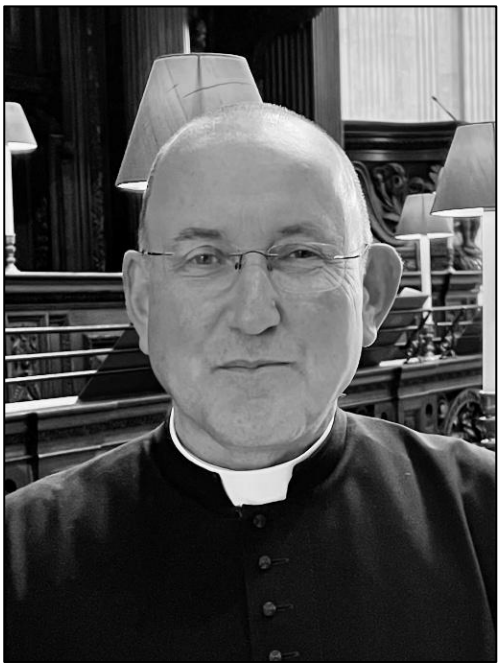
Despite all the cold, the darkness, and the relentless Yuletide anthems, this is still a most wonderful time of the year. Hope has not been abandoned, and with renewed energy we start again.

Advent is an exciting time for Christians - a chance to start afresh. Although for many it launches a frenzy of shopping, card-writing and parties, we do well to remember that it is not only to the first coming of Jesus that Advent points us, but to his reappearance at the end of time. For this is what the church has always proclaimed - that Jesus will return.

Such has been the hope of Jesus' followers throughout history, believing that God will be our judge. We should live our lives conscious that neither are we as individuals at the centre of our world, capable of justifying all our actions, nor are we destined to be forever alone.

The same God who has formed us from the dust of the earth and breathed life into our nostrils desires us to be with him in heaven for all eternity, and calls us to that place of true joy. Awaiting this coming again, this final destination, we journey not as detached strangers, but as pilgrims, co-workers and friends.

Please read on to see how we can get more involved in the life of our community. As we grow closer to God and to each other, please know that you are most welcome at St Saviour's, as we move forward together in hope.



Fr Matthew Catterick

Vicar

St Saviour's, Pimlico

What's On This Winter

As we go through the darkest time of the year, we look forward to welcoming you to St Saviour's for a winter of worship, wonder, fellowship, and fun.

Advent is a time of anticipation and preparation - an opportunity to pause, reflect on the hope brought by Christ, and prepare for the joy of Christmas. From our Advent Study Course and musical programme to our special Christmas services, there are plenty of opportunities to come together and join in our community.

No sooner is Christmas upon us, but this year we look forward to an especially early Lent – details of which you will find in this booklet.

Whether you are a regular member of our congregation, a neighbour or visiting for the first time, you will always find a warm welcome.

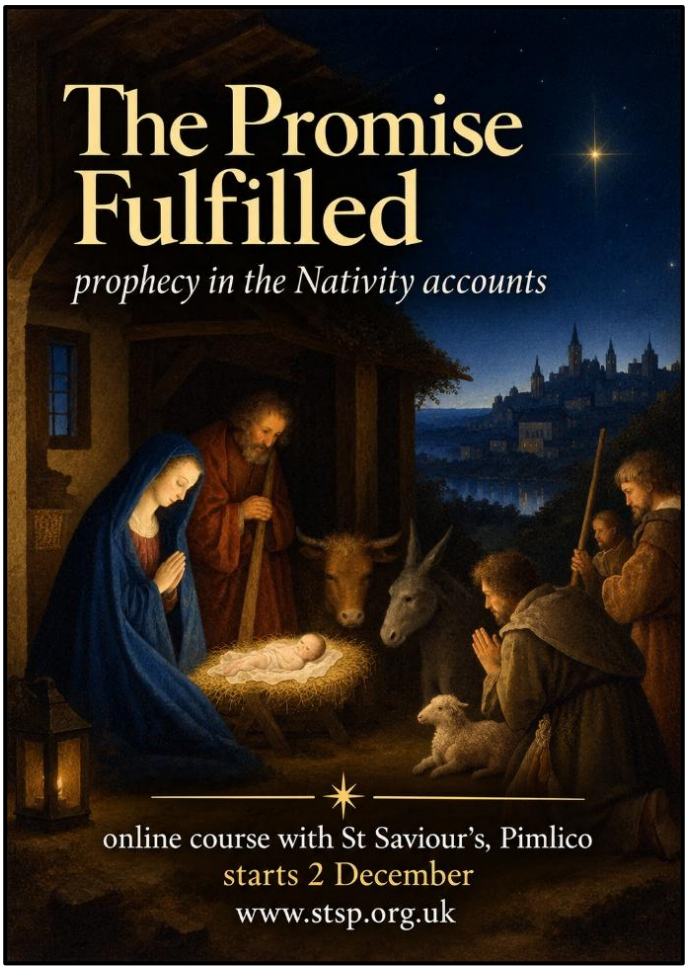
Wishing you a peaceful Advent, a joyful Christmas and blessings for the New Year.



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Advent Study Course



The story of Christmas does not begin in Bethlehem. Long before the birth of Jesus, the Hebrew Scriptures told of God's promises to his people – the promise of salvation, a coming King, justice, peace and hope for all.

These ancient texts have provided the foundations for our understanding of the Nativity, revealing how the events surrounding Jesus' birth are rooted in centuries of faith and expectation.

Over four weeks, we will explore how the Gospel writers draw upon these texts to tell the story of Christ's coming, and how the promises made throughout the Old Testament find their fulfilment in Jesus.

Through biblical reflection and works of art, we will discover the richness of the Christmas story and its place within the much larger story of our salvation.

Sessions take place on four Wednesday evenings at 8:00 pm from 2 December. No prior knowledge is assumed and, should you wish to do so, you are welcome to turn off your camera and just listen. If you are interested in joining us, please email us via office@stsp.org.uk.

2 December	**The Promise of a Saviour** - Creation, covenant and hope *Jan Brueghel the Elder, Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (1615)*
9 December	**The Prophets Prepare the Way** - Justice, peace and the coming King *Piero della Francesca, The Nativity (c. 1470–1475)*
16 December	**The Annunciation and the Visitation** - Mary, the house of David, and the God who remembers his promises *Sandro Botticelli, The Cestello Annunciation (c. 1489–1490)*
23 December	**The Word Made Flesh: The Light of the Nations** - Bethlehem, the Magi and the light drawing the nations to Christ *Evelyn De Morgan, The Adoration of the Magi (1897)*

New Choral Scholars & Music at St Saviour's

The Choir of St Saviour's consists of four choral scholars (SATB) and a number of highly valued volunteers. Choral Scholarships last for one academic year (starting in the autumn) and are aimed at talented undergraduate or recent graduate students at conservatoires or universities, or young professionals looking to gain early career experience of music in a liturgical setting. This year, our choral scholars are Olivia Virgo (Soprano), Venetia Iga (Alto), Leo French (Tenor) and Timothy Wong (Bass). Anyone who has some singing experience and is interested in joining the choir on a voluntary and flexible basis is warmly invited to contact the Director of Music, Yvette Murphy, either by email or after an act of worship.

Concert Programme

Do join us for Fridays at 1:15pm for our weekly *Pimlico Lunchtime Concert Series*. Concerts last approximately 45 minutes and are typically given by emerging soloists and chamber groups. Concerts are free to attend, but donations to help cover costs is encouraged – suggested amount £5. Concerts in 2026 will run until Friday 11 December, before returning in the new year. We hope to see you there.

Special Events

Throughout the year, the choir holds events such as *Carols & Cocktails*, a *Come & Sing* day where we explore a larger choral work, *Hymns & Pimm's* and smart concert performances, to which all are welcome. Do watch out for dates as they are released. Recent successes have also included our inaugural Composition Competition, which produced a number of new settings of the *Agnus Dei* to add to our repertoire.

For more information please contact Yvette Murphy, the Director of Music at music@stsp.org.uk



Young People at St Saviour's

Children are an important part of our life here, and it is good to see growth in our activities for young people.

Sowing Seeds

Songs, worship and Bible storytelling for families with children aged 0–6 on Sundays at 10:30 am in the Pimlico Room. Children and a parent or carer return to Mass in time for the Peace.

Growing Disciples

Bible study, games and storytelling for children aged 7-11 on Sundays at 10:30 am in the Church office. Children return to Mass in time for the Peace.

Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.



Restoration Work at St Saviour's

St Saviour's is 162 years old, and caring for a historic building of this age is an ongoing task. Our restoration work is not simply about keeping the church safe and in good repair: it is about preserving the character, craftsmanship and history entrusted to us, so that future generations can continue to worship and gather here.

Sound System



The church sounds system has been thoroughly upgraded, allowing us to hold services that everyone can hear now! New speakers, painted to blend in with the stonework, are hugely more efficient and project the sound more uniformly across the building, as well as a new mixing deck which is fully digital and easy to control – no more crackling microphones! The hearing loop is now fully functional and can be used if you use a hearing aid.

War Memorial

Our Calvary Cross War Memorial has recently undergone a major programme of conservation and restoration, with generous assistance from Westminster City Council and War Memorials Trust. Names of the fallen have also been painted in black so that they can be read more easily.

Pimlico Room

Our main meeting room has been fully refurbished, creating a bright, calm and welcoming space for community groups and other activities. The newly refitted room is now available for a range of uses, as well as church activities.

Looking to the Future

Restoration is a long-term commitment. As custodians of this remarkable building, we want to undertake future projects of restoring the pews (so they are less wobbly!) and redeveloping the church hall to include some accommodation.

If you would like to contribute to our restoration programme, speak to the Parish Office or consider making a donation via the QR code on the back page.

Finance — Supporting Our Church

The Parochial Church Council asks that all members of the congregation think carefully and prayerfully about their financial giving to St Saviour's. Our over-reliance on rental income is not a long-term strategy for providing stable, diversified income streams for the Church. This reliance will never allow us to move back to paying our Common Fund (the amount we give to the diocese, before paying any of our own bills) in full. For 2027 the benchmark for this is £105,090.

Solid Christian financial stewardship through plate collections, electronic planned giving, annual pledges should cover at least 40% of our costs into the future, double what it currently covers.

Some questions to ask yourself:

- Is my giving to the Church generous, and proportionate to my income?
- Is it planned, which helps us set budgets, as opposed to *ad hoc*?
- Is it a priority in my personal budgeting?
- Am I relying on other people's generosity?

What does generous giving mean?

There is no set answer – it depends on our circumstances. Some people give a set percentage of their disposable income – traditional tithing is 10%; the Church of England encourages its members to adopt a target of giving 5% of their after-tax income to and through the Church. Another approach is to give at least as much as is spent on leisure activities – e.g. the cost of theatre/opera tickets,or eating out.

For more information please contact Steven Dickson, the Treasurer at treasurer@stsp.org.uk



Advent Readings and Carols

Sunday 29 November – *First Sunday of Advent*

8:00 am	**Said Mass**
10:30 am	**Sung Mass *with children's activities***
5:00 pm	**Advent Readings and Carols *followed by mulled wine***

With friends from Churches Together in Westminster

Advent Carol Services have become a cherished tradition in the life of the Church, offering a beautiful way to mark the beginning of the season of preparation for Christmas. Through Bible readings, hymns and choral music, the service traces the story of God's promises to his people, from the ancient prophecies of the Old Testament to the coming of Christ.

Drawing on the rich tradition of Anglican worship, our Advent carol service follows a pattern of readings and music which gradually unfolds the themes of expectation, hope and redemption. The familiar Advent hymns and carols invite us to reflect on the deeper meaning of the season, reminding us that Advent is not simply a countdown to Christmas, but a time to prepare spiritually for the coming of Christ.

We warmly invite you to join us at St Saviour's for this special service, as we begin our journey through Advent together.



Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 20 December – *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:00 am **Said Mass**
10:30 am **Sung Mass**
5:00 pm **Nine Lessons and Carols *followed by mulled wine***

A week before, on Gaudete Sunday, 13 December, children will be invited to make Christingles during the 10:30 am Sung Mass.



The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is one of the most beloved traditions of the Christian Christmas season. First held at Truro Cathedral in 1880, the service was devised by Bishop Edward White Benson as a way of telling the story of humanity's fall, the promise of a Messiah and the birth of Jesus through a sequence of biblical readings and carols.

The service was later adapted by King's College, Cambridge, where it has been celebrated on Christmas Eve since 1918 and has become known around the world. The service's distinctive pattern of readings, prayers and music takes us from the opening chapters of Genesis, through the words of the prophets, to the familiar story of the Nativity in the Gospels.

At St Saviour's, our celebration brings this much-loved tradition into the heart of our own parish community. Through readings and beautiful Christmas music, we journey together through the story of salvation, reflecting on the promises of God and their fulfilment in the birth of Christ. With opportunities to join in familiar carols, the service offers a moment of stillness and reflection amid the excitement of the Christmas season.

There are a total of nine Bible readings during this service – and new voices are always welcome. If you are interested in reading, or being an altar server, or helping to welcome our guests and serving refreshments, then please let us know.

Children's Crib Service

4:00 pm Christmas Eve

The tradition of the Christmas crib is traced back to St Francis of Assisi, who in 1223 created a life-sized Nativity scene in the Italian village of Greccio, using real people and animals.

His intention was to help people experience the story of Jesus' birth more vividly, bringing to life the humble surroundings in which Christ came into the world.



Over the centuries, Nativity scenes became a familiar feature of Christmas celebrations, particularly in churches and homes across Europe. Crib services developed from this tradition, offering a simple and engaging way for children and families to take part in the telling of the Christmas story.

Today, they remain a much-loved part of Christmas Eve, bringing together storytelling, carols and the joy of celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Our Children's Crib Service is a joyful and relaxed celebration of Christmas, especially suited to younger children and their families. Through the familiar story of the Nativity, we bring the first Christmas to life in a way that children can enjoy, understand and take part in.

With a welcoming atmosphere, the service is a wonderful opportunity for little ones to experience the excitement and wonder of the Christmas story, sing familiar carols and celebrate the birth of Jesus. There is no need for children to sit perfectly still – all are encouraged to join in and enjoy the occasion.

Whether you are a regular member of our congregation or visiting St Saviour's for the first time, we would love you to join us for this special start to Christmas Eve. All families are warmly welcome!



Midnight Mass

11:00 pm **Christmas Eve**

The tradition of Midnight Mass dates back to the early centuries of Christianity, with the belief that Jesus was born at midnight. By the fifth century, a special Mass was celebrated in the Basilica of St Mary Major in Rome, in a chapel built to recall the cave of Christ's birth in Bethlehem. The practice gradually spread throughout the Christian Church, becoming one of the most cherished traditions of Christmas.

The timing of the service carries a particular significance. Celebrated in the stillness and darkness of the night, Midnight Mass reminds us that Christ came into the world as the light shining in the darkness. It is a celebration of the mystery of the Incarnation: God entering human history, born as a child in the humble surroundings of a stable. The traditional association of midnight with Christ's birth is symbolic rather than a historically established time of the Nativity.

Mass of the Nativity

10:30 am **Christmas Day**

The celebration of Christmas on 25 December dates back to at least the fourth century, when Christians in Rome were already marking the birth of Christ on this day. Over the centuries, Christmas Day Mass became a central part of the Church's annual worship, celebrating the extraordinary truth that God chose to enter the world not in power or splendour, but as a vulnerable child born in Bethlehem.

The Mass of the Nativity invites us to return to the story of that first Christmas: the journey to Bethlehem, the humble stable, and the birth of the Christ child. Yet it also looks beyond the manger to the deeper meaning of the Incarnation. In the words of St John's Gospel, 'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us' – a reminder that Christmas celebrates not simply the birth of a remarkable child, but God coming to live among his people.



Other Information

Growing in Faith

Following Jesus is a lifelong journey, and like any journey we need to be fed. As well as daily worship and Sunday sermons, at St Saviour's we have regular groups where we can learn from each other and grow in our faith. Please come and join us!

Online Learning Group

Throughout the year we run a series of study sessions aimed at building a sense of community and helping us grow in faith. No prior knowledge is required, and all are welcome to share ideas, or to remain silent, taking it all in. Please see the article at the start of this booklet giving details of this year's Advent Course, *Promise Fulfilled*.

Candlemas

Forty days after Christmas we recall how Jesus was taken by his parents to the Temple in Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. He was greeted by Anna and Simeon, who declared him "The Light to enlighten the Gentiles." We celebrate this beautiful festival with Candlemas – when candles are lit and carried in procession. We have Sung Mass at 7:00 pm, followed by drinks, and all welcome.

Shrove Tuesday

On Shrove Tuesday we prepare ourselves for the beginning of Lent by preparing the ashes for Ash Wednesday, and then having a pancake party. Ashes are made from last year's Palm Crosses, which are taken to the front of church, and then burnt and ground fine. It is a joyful annual celebration, beginning with Mass at 12:30 pm.



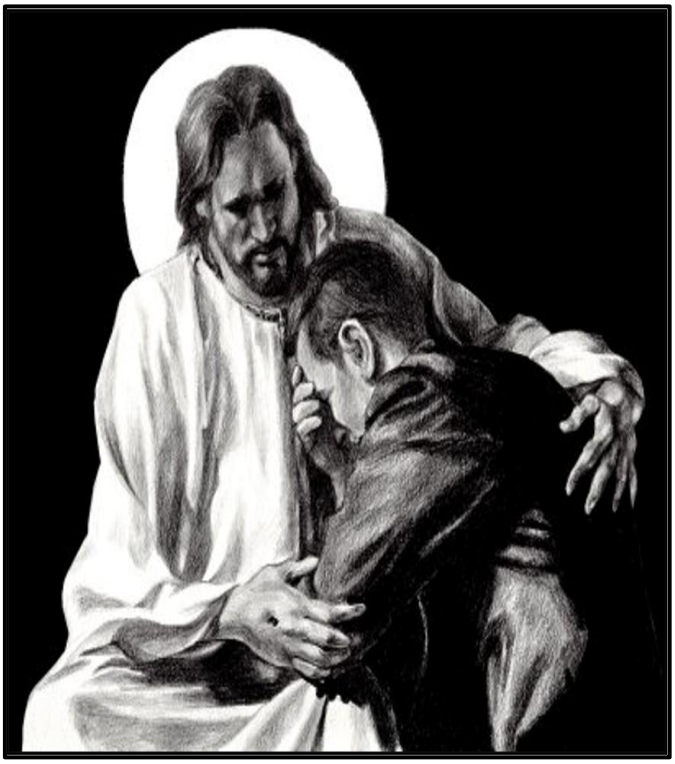
Ash Wednesday 2027

Lent, the season that leads up to Easter begins on Ash Wednesday, 10 February. This is a day of solemnity and penance and we have Said Mass at 12:30 pm and Sung Mass at 7:00 pm, at which there will be the blessing and imposition of ashes.

Lent Study Course

The build up to Easter always gives us a wonderful time to reflect on what matters to us most. As we move towards the most important festival of the year we will be meeting weekly from 17 February, online each Wednesday at 8:00 pm, with further details appearing soon. Save the date!

Confession



The seasons of Advent and Lent have a more penitential nature, meaning that we are called to examine our conscience and readily admit our shortcomings – otherwise we have no need of a Saviour. Whilst in the Church of England there is no obligation to do this formally with the help of a priest, we have always followed the teaching that to be at ease with our conscience 'all may, some should, none must.' If you would like to make your Confession, please enquire – you will have a warm, encouraging, and completely confidential response. Here is a guide:

Sin in my Life
The Gospels show how important is the forgiveness of our sins. The lives of saints prove that the person who grows in holiness has a stronger sense of sin, sorrow for sins, and a need for the Sacrament of Penance or Confession.

Remember
If you need help - especially if you have never made your Confession before - tell the priest and they will help you by "walking" you through the steps to do this well.

Before Confession
Be truly sorry for your sins. The essential act of Penance is contrition, a clear and decisive rejection of the sin committed, together with a resolution not to commit it again, out of the love one has for God and which is reborn with repentance. The resolution to avoid committing these sins in the future is a sure sign that your sorrow is genuine and authentic. This does not mean that a promise never to fall again into sin is necessary. A resolution to try to avoid the occasions of sin suffices for true repentance. God's grace in cooperation with the intention to rectify your life will give you the strength to resist and overcome temptation in the future.

Examination of Conscience
Before going to Confession you should make a review of sin and should express sorrow for sins and a firm resolution not to sin again. Throughout Advent and Lent there are sheets available in church providing further details, or these can be sent by request. If you would like to know more about Confession, please enquire.

Regular Services & Parish Directory

The Parish Office

Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The church is normally open to visitors throughout the day.

Parish Directory

Vicar	Fr Matthew Catterick	vicar@stsp.org.uk
Assistant Curate	Deacon Greg Cook	curate@stsp.org.uk
Churchwardens	Maria Gayle-Rogers	maria@stsp.org.uk
	Robin Clay	robin@stsp.org.uk
Office Manager	Molly Greenwood	office@stsp.org.uk
Director of Music	Yvette Murphy	music@stsp.org.uk
Treasurer	Steven Dickson	treasurer@stsp.org.uk
Safeguarding Officer	Melissa Holloway	safeguarding@stsp.org.uk
The Parish Office	Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm	

Sundays

8:00 am	Said Mass (BCP)
10:30 am	Sung Mass *with children's activities*
5:00 pm	Evening Prayer (form varies, first Sunday of each month)

Monday to Friday

12:30 pm	Said Mass
5:00 pm	Evening Prayer

The clergy are always available for confidential conversations, to take Holy Communion to the housebound, and if you wish, to make your Confession. Please speak them at the end of a service and they will be very happy to help.

If you would like to support
St Saviour's Buildings and Restoration Fund,
please scan the QR code below

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Registered Charity Number 1131373 • CCLI Number 1541220