

Your Monthly Update from Earley St Peter's – January 2025

Thought for the Month *from the Revd Kate Wakeman-Toogood*

I can't quite believe it's been a year since I arrived in the parish and it has flown by! Writing this reflection, I've enjoyed reflecting back over the past 12 months, and also have an exciting sense of anticipation for the year ahead. The PCC, Church Wardens and I will be developing the parish's new Mission Action Plan over the next few months and I have highlighted the key strands of parish life that I want to focus on, as well as the priorities that will run through all of these strands.

The four broad areas of focus for our planning are Prayer and Worship, Pastoral Care, Mission, and Children/Youth. There is inevitably some overlap and each of these categories has a number of subcategories, but all aspects of our church and parish life will fall under these headings. What is encouraging is how much we already do well and the commitment of so many people in our church community, both during the vacancy and since my arrival. It is also encouraging to see how many things have developed over the past year and how many seeds have been sown for future growth.

My main overall priority will be safeguarding and I want to take this opportunity to reaffirm my commitment to ensuring that safeguarding is at the heart of all aspects of parish life. It is understandable to feel unsettled and angry, or even cynical, when we think about the catastrophic failures of the wider church when it comes to safeguarding and believe me, at some stage over the last few months I have experienced those same feelings. It is easy to feel helpless, but what we can do here in our own parish is to remember who it is that we serve, and that is Christ. Yes, we are answerable to the hierarchy and structures of the Church of England, but ultimately we look to Christ for guidance and security at times when the church, and indeed the whole world, feels less secure. We can look to Christ for hope when situations in our world make us feel hopeless.

Alongside safeguarding, other threads which will run through all four areas of planning are environmental awareness and marketing/communications.

There are too many people and aspects of church life to mention individually in this reflection, but I do want to particularly thank the PCC, Church Wardens, and Mary our Parish Administrator for their continued support and I am grateful for the strong relationships I have built in my first year at Earley St Peter's.

I want to wish you all a Happy New Year from me and my family and I look forward to many more years ahead in the parish. *Kate*

Services and Events in January

We meet every weekday morning at 8.45am (Fridays at 8.30am) in the church for Morning Prayer. All welcome.

Sunday 5th January	8am	Holy Communion <i>Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6; Matthew 2.1-12</i>
	10am	Parish Communion for Epiphany (not a Bread & Wine service) <i>Reading: Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Worship <i>Readings: Isaiah 60.1-9; John 2.1-11</i>
Monday 6th January	9am	Church drop-in
Tuesday 7th January	9am	Church drop-in
	11am	Midweek Communion
	12pm	Board Games and Lunch
Wednesday 8th January	9am	Church drop-in
	10.15am	Tots and Teddies
Friday 10th January	9.30am	Church cleaning
Sunday 12th January	10am	Parish Communion <i>Readings: Isaiah 43.1-7; Acts 8.14-17; Luke 3.15-17, 21-22</i>
		Children's Church Inspiration Group
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong <i>Readings: Isaiah 55.1-11; Romans 6.1-11</i>
Monday 13th January	9am	Church drop-in
Tuesday 14th January	9am	Church drop-in
	11am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 15th January	9am	Church drop-in
	10.15am	Tots & Teddies
Sunday 19th January	10am	Parish Communion <i>Readings: Isaiah 62.1-5; 1 Corinthians 12.1-11; John 2.1-11</i>
		Children's Church
	6.30pm	Reflective Communion <i>Reading: John 1.29-42</i>
		Questions and Cake
Monday 20th January	9am	Church drop-in
	7.30pm	PCC
Tuesday 21st January	9am	Church drop-in
	11am	Holy Communion

Wednesday 22nd January	9am 10.15am	Church drop-in Tots & Teddies
Sunday 26th January	10am 6.30pm	Parish Communion with Song School <i>Readings: Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a; Luke 4.14-21</i> Children's Church Inspiration Group Choral Evensong <i>Readings: Numbers 9.15-23; 1 Corinthians 7.17-24</i>
Monday 27th January	9am	Church drop-in
Tuesday 28th January	9am 11am	Church drop-in Holy Communion
Wednesday 29th January	9am 10.15am	Church drop-in Tots & Teddies

Confirmation course: The Parish's Confirmation Service will be on Sunday 18th May 2025 at 10am. Confirmation classes will be run for adults and separately for young people, which are likely to be in the 6 - 7 weeks running up to the service. There will be details nearer to the time. If you or your child would like to be confirmed, please can you email Kate (vicar@earleystpeters.org.uk). Children can be confirmed from school year 6 upwards.

Pastoral support: Our pastoral team will be happy to hear if you, or anybody you know, would welcome a phone call or visit. Please contact the parish of office (0118 9668575) or Mary Brooke (0118 926 2153)

Food Bank donations: Thank you for all your support to our local food bank with donations of tins, cartons, dried goods with a long shelf life and also personal hygiene items. Please donate if you are able in the box at the back of church. Our continued support is still very much needed. More information here: www.woodleyfoodbank.org