



## **Hope afresh!**

Romans 5:1-8, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

*Maybe the most difficult thing is to hope!*

Hope is called the anchor of the soul – Hebrews 6:19

Hope begins in the dark...

You wait and watch and work: You don't give up...

### **1. Hope in Christ gets you through the waiting...**

Genesis 2:16,17, 3:15, 12:2-3 & Isaiah 7:14

Waiting is never easy...

### **2. Hope in Christ helps you go the distance...**

Numbers 24:17; Isaiah 60:3; Matthew 2:1-2, 28:19 & 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

There's travelling to be done in life with Jesus!

“Therefore we do not lose heart....

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

### **3. Hope in Christ does not disappoint...**

Matthew 1:22-23; Luke 2:5-7, 25-32, 36-38; Romans 5:5, 8:23-25 & 10:11

God in Christ showed us hope transformed into sacrificial love.

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## **GRAPEVINE for this week... Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019!**

**Today** Johnny is preaching at 0830 at St Paul's and also in our 1030 at St Peters, with our traditional Carols by Candlelight at St Paul's, at 1730 or 1930 tonight.

**Come early to secure a seat** with parking on School Lane, and a lit pathway for you! *Plan to bring friends and family to share in the remaining Christmas services.*

**Today between 12-3pm**, Festive drinks & canapes at The Old Vicarage, Swanley Village, with Vivian & Barbara hosting if you wish...

**Christmas Eve all-age Christingles on Tuesday 24th December 3:30pm at St Pauls**, and 5:30pm at St Peter's Hextable

**Midnight Communion at St Pauls Tuesday 24th December 11:30pm**

Christmas Day Communion at St Pauls Wednesday 25th December 8:30am

**Christmas Day Celebration at St Peters Wednesday 25th December 10:30am**

**All details of our remaining Christmas plans** are updated and on our church website with all other news in what's on. [www.stph.org.uk/post/christmas](http://www.stph.org.uk/post/christmas)

**Ian and Maggie** will lead the 29<sup>th</sup> December 0830 and 1030 congregations.

*There is no 6.30pm public worship at St Pauls on the 29<sup>th</sup>,*

*and no printed grapevine details until Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020.*

**Johnny & Julie** are on annual leave from 26<sup>th</sup> December till 4<sup>th</sup> January.

**On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January** Johnny will explore a key idea across our three congregations, at 0830, 1030 and 1830. Our Overflow congregation meets at 8pm.

**Early Morning Prayer** will next gather on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

**There will be no Quiet Space** at St Paul's on 24th and 31st December. This will restart on Tuesday 7th January. Thanks, Angela Willard

**Print materials** for the next sermon series in Philipians will launch on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January and will be on our website asap, and out to all leaders very soon!

**There'll be a church family update** in Johnny's next pastoral letter across our 12<sup>th</sup> January congregations, with a verbal update about the Annexe plans shared in our 1030 and 1830 congregations also.

**Book in for** either Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January for Open House at The Vicarage, 2-4pm on either day, sign-up with Sue at the Office please.

**Newcomers** cuppa, cake & conversation on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 4pm at The Vicarage for those who are newish to church life! Book in at the Office please.

**Accommodation needed:-** 2-3bed house, £1250pm if possible, let the office know.

**Book in yourself or others** if you'd like for the Active Listening Course now live, with Karen or Sue at the office at the end of February

[www.stph.org.uk/post/active-listening](http://www.stph.org.uk/post/active-listening)

**We continue to welcome your generosity in giving to God's work** in our community! Sort Code: 20-25-42 Acc: 80859710. *Please ask Chris or Sue at the office for a Gift Aid form which will add 20% to your offering with no further cost to you.*

WE ARE COMMITTED TO  
**LOVING GOD**  
GROWING FAMILY AND  
INCREASING HOPE!

