



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF PAPHOS



**St. Stephen's
Tala**



**Ayia Kyriaki
Kato Paphos**



**St. Luke's
Prodromi**

WEEKLY NEWS

Sunday 18th to 31st December 2022



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

WELCOME

Well, this is the last Weekly News for 2022 and yes Christmas music is playing away in the background as I write. Thank you to those of you who sent me items to include and thank you to all our readers. This is the Christmas edition and I'd just like to give everyone a reminder that God gave the most generous gift of all when he sent Jesus to us as a baby. So let us be generous to all whom we meet and share that gift. Happy reading.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Collect:

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Prayer for the weeks ahead for our Parish and Ourselves.

Heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the incredible gift of Your Word which testifies to your promises fulfilled and gives us examples of faithful men and women who trusted in you. Thank you for your Word and the encouragement it brings us. As we wait in our daily lives, help us to trust you as the One who gives all good things.

Help us to be patient especially as we await the second coming and help us to be your messengers for all those around us, especially during this season. Draw us into a faithful relationship with you that we may receive your promise of eternal life in your heavenly kingdom. In Jesus's name, we pray. Amen.

Psalm 91: 1-2, 11. *"You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways."*

Our Diocese:

See the downloadable Prayer Calendar here: <https://www.cypgulf.org/prayer-diary/>

Daily Readings

For readings and the daily service of morning prayer, evening prayer and compline, please download <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/daily-prayer-app-and-podcast>

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE (GOD SLOT)

"While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them." Luke 2:6-7

What a nightmare situation that these first-time parents faced. The Christmas story. To notice the very *ordinariness* of how God chooses to come; to be illegitimately and mysteriously born in a mucky stable for goodness sake, with a bunch of foreigners and 'riff-raff' for company. The very detail we *do* know from the gospel writers says something amazing; here's a message that's good, no GREAT, news for all people whose faces wouldn't naturally fit! We are invited, indeed strongly encouraged, to become God's children. Sons and daughters of a whole new order of things; witnesses to God's love for the world he made and has always passionately loved. In Jesus is the glory of real human living; the chance to have life as God always intended it to be. And we're all invited to join in. He promises to transform frail, grey lives and bring instead colour and vibrancy, hope and purpose. Much, much more than survival and merely making it through. Christ didn't even come to invite us to just attend church services on a Sunday or special festival days; but to share in his wider purposes to bring justice and peace, forgiveness and grace to a needy world. To enable us to take part in the adventure of living and share something of what he's like. No matter where we are in life, no matter what condition we find ourselves in, no matter how far we might have strayed away, or messed up, or how unfaithful we think we are. God pursues us with a love that can forgive, restore and transform us. So we celebrate a love that never stops bringing its light into the darkness. A child born for us to be our light.

Let us pray. *Heavenly Father, you gave us this world and a freedom of choice with how we live on it and in it. Help us as we go through this New Year, that is nearly upon us, using that freedom to help those who are worse off than ourselves, to do those things that will help our earth so that we can ensure that our children, their children and the children to come can enjoy what it has to offer. And as we face the political difficulties of the times ahead, help us to be caring, unselfish and generous with ourselves to all that we meet. Amen.*

I pray that you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God Bless

Revd Ken



JOKE SPOT

Little Johnny went to the Doctor complaining that his wife could barely hear. The Doctor suggested a test to find out the extent of the problem. "Stand far behind her and ask her a question, and then slowly move up and see how far away you are when she first responds." Little Johnny, excited to finally be working on a solution for the problem, runs home and sees his wife preparing supper. "Honey" Little Johnny asks standing around 20 feet away "what's for supper?" After receiving no response he tried it again 15 feet away, and again no response. Then again at 10 feet away and again no response. Finally he was 5 feet away "honey what's for supper?" She replies "For the fourth time it's lasagna!"

BIBLE STUDY

We are looking at starting up our Bible Study sessions again from Monday 9th January (10.30am to 12.00pm) on a weekly basis. If you are interested please let me know.

LENT COURSE

2nd March to 13th April 10.30am to 12.00pm. Location to be decided, depending on numbers. Please let me know if you are interested in attending.

NOTICES

HYMNS FOR JANUARY

There's still time. Do you have a favourite hymn? Well I'd like to fill January's services with hymns chosen by the congregation. So get emailing (or dropping a note) of your favourite hymns and we'll celebrate them in our services throughout January. Still need more please.

BE ON GUARD

There have been a number of burglaries recently, so please be careful. Make sure your house is secure.

EVENTS

18 th December	Carol Service at St Stephen's (11.00am)
18 th December	Lessons and Carols at Ayia Kyriaki (6.00pm)
20 th January	Bowling
21 st February	Beetle Drive
March	Nicosia Coach Trip
25 th March (TBC)	Barn Dance
22 nd April	Spring Fair
8 th May	Coronation Garden Party
3 rd or 10 th June	Mini Golf

SERVICES

Sunday 18th December – Advent 4

8.15am Sung Eucharist Ayia Kyriaki

11.00am Morning Worship St Luke's

11.00am Carol Service St Stephen's

6.00pm Lessons and Carols Ayia Kyriaki

Readings:

Isaiah 7: 10-16; Psalm 80: 1-8; Romans 1: 1-7; Matthew 1: 18-25



Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve

6.00pm Early Midnight Mass St Luke's with Archbishop Michael

11.00pm Midnight Mass St Stephen's

Readings:

Isaiah 9: 2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2: 11-14; Luke 2: 1-14

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day

8.15am Sung Eucharist with Incense

11.00am Holy Communion St Luke's

11.00am Holy Communion St Stephen's with Archbishop Michael

Readings:

Isaiah 52: 7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1: 1-4; John 1: 1-14

Sunday 1st January – 2nd Sunday of Christmas

8.15am Sung Eucharist Ayia Kyriaki

11.00am Morning Worship St Luke's

11.00am Holy Communion St Stephen's

No 6.00pm service at Ayia Kyriaki

Readings:

Isaiah 63: 7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2: 10-18; Matthew 2: 13-23

Mid-week Holy Eucharist every Wednesday at 9.00am at Ayia Kyriaki

Christmas Time

(Larry D Crawford)

Yes, Christmas is the time,
Where little boys and girls.
Will finally receive,
Long sought for special toys.

A time when moms,
Bake cakes and pies.
When folks will gather,
Of renewing family ties.

And ones who rarely smile,
Have grins upon their face.
Those who always hurry by,
Have greetings in there place,

They don't even comprehend,
They say, "tis the season,"
Go on their merry way,
And never know the reason.

I wonder why that is,
Why all that “peace on earth”
It started in a stable,
With a virgin giving birth.

It’s a love I can’t explain,
I will not even try.
That God would send his son,
Born – just to die.

But isn’t it ironical,
though Him no honor pay,
The world spends its millions
To celebrate His day!



CHRISTMAS QUIZ

(Answers on the website closer to Christmas)

Name That Christmas Carol or Song - Clues:

1. Bleached Yule
2. Castaneous-coloured Seed Vesicated in a Conflagration
3. Singular Yearning for the Twin Anterior Incisors
4. Righteous Darkness
5. Arrival Time 2400 hrs – WeatherCloudless
6. Loyal Followers Advance
7. Far Off in a Feeder
8. Array the Corridor
9. Bantam Male Percussionist
10. Monarchial Triad
11. Nocturnal Noiselessness



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(Don't forget Friday is my day off (most weeks©))

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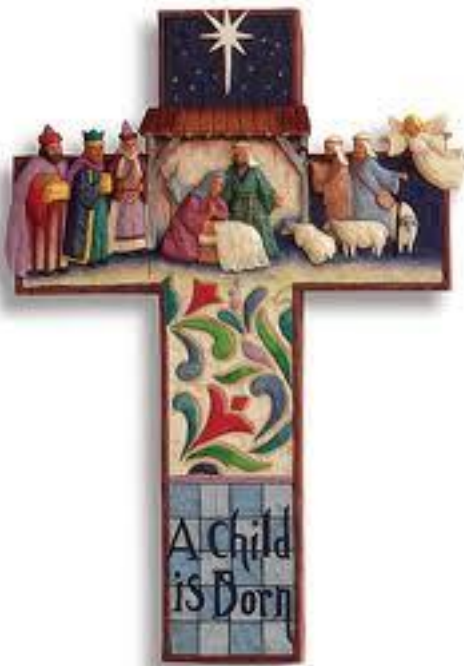
www.paphosanglicanchurch.org

www.facebook.com/Anglican Church of Paphos

Weddings:

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My wife said, "Here's thirty quid. Go get us a nice Nativity Scene, and the rest you can spend down the pub."

