

with St Mary's, Commonweal Road
Providing a spiritual home and resources for the local community

Sunday 17th August 2025
Trinity 9

Christ Church

**8am Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Canon Simon Stevenette & the
Revd. Nitin Shinde**

10am Informal Holy Communion – led by the Canon Simon Stevenette

Theme: 'Fixing our eyes on Jesus'

Children's Talk & Address – the Revd. Nitin Shinde

Readings: Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2; Luke 12: 49-56

Reader: Elizabeth Breakspear-Jones

Prayers: Nick Pannell

[Download an order of service so you can follow and join in](#)

6.30pm Evensong – led by the Revd. Norma McKemey

St Mary's

9am Holy Communion – led by Revd. David Day

[Download our monthly Service Poster for August](#)

Bible verse for 2025



Our Prayer for Growth

God of mission, who alone brings growth to your church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions and power to our witness.

Help all our Partnership churches to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment
to you and in service to our Swindon Community.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Our vision - To be Christ's Church in the community

Our mission: By proclaiming Christ through teaching and example:

- By welcoming and serving all through hospitality.
- By encouraging people to find God through worship, faith, and prayer.
- By providing a spiritual home and resources for the local community.
- By transforming Swindon and beyond with God's hope and compassion.

Our values: We will do this with humility, grace, and respect, listening prayerfully to God and our neighbours.

Christ Church with St Mary's Family Weekend at Home beginning on Friday 12th September 7pm with a dramatization called 'The Beloved Son' based on Henri Nouwen's spiritual journey and challenges by Alan Harrison. This has been highly reviewed. Tickets available here: <https://cccswindon.co.uk/events/72/details>
There will be further events throughout the weekend including talks by the Revd Robert Jordan on our theme, 'Growing in Jesus and Community', creative activities in the Community Centre or a walk on the Ridgeway on Saturday afternoon, and a fish and chip supper on Saturday evening. On Sunday 14th September we have a Celebration service at 10am in Christ Church followed by a congregational roast lunch in the Community Centre.

A brochure with full details is available in church this weekend – please pick one up and book your place to help us with catering – thank you.

Next week in and around Christ Church

Morning Prayer	9-9.30am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel 9-9.30am Wednesday & Friday virtual morning prayer Telephone: <u>08002605903</u> to join by phone Use this Passcode <u>694043607#</u>
Wednesday 20th August	10.30am Christ in Quiet 6.30pm Burial of Ashes of Dorothy Hodgson in Jubilee Memorial Garden 6.30pm* Evening Prayer * please note new start time 7pm Fellowship of Faith
Friday 22nd August	7pm Pilgrims of the Way at St Mary's
Saturday 23rd August	11.30am Burial of Ashes of Ann Colbourne in Jubilee Memorial Garden

Regular Groups – everyone welcome

'Treasure Together' Spiritual Reflection Group	Monday 12 noon in the Large Meeting Room
Fellowship of Faith	1 st and 3 rd Wednesday 7pm in Christ Church

Bible Encounter Group	2 nd and 4 th Wednesday 7pm in Christ Church
'Where Art Thou' Children's Art Group	Thursday 4pm Term Time only in the Garden Room
Iona Worship Group	Every 4 th Friday 11.30am at St Mary's NB no meeting in August
Pilgrims of the Way	2 nd and 3 rd Friday 7pm at St Mary's
Men's Breakfast	Every 1 st Saturday - Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 7.30am followed by breakfast in the Community Centre. To book breakfast please contact Mike Palmer Michael@christchurchswindon.co.uk
'Paws for Thought' Dog Walking Group	Every 1 st and 3 rd Saturday 10am starting from Christ Church

Sunday 24th August – Trinity 10

Christ Church

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

6.30pm Informal Evening Worship

St Mary's

9am Holy Communion



Christ Church Swindon Wins Eco Church Gold Award Christ Church Swindon has become the first church in Swindon to receive the prestigious A Rocha UK Eco Church Gold Award, becoming the 111th church nationwide and third in the Diocese of Bristol recognised for outstanding creation care. The award follows years of work by the church's Eco Team, led by Anne Grainger, who said: *"We are very happy to receive this award as it shows we are moving in the right direction; this is not the finish line but a milestone on our journey to help protect the earth for future generations, and to inspire others to do the same."* The Rt Revd Neil Warwick, Bishop of Swindon, praised the achievement as *"a wonderful example of how our church communities are responding to the cry of the earth."*

Volunteer painting day – On Friday 22nd August we plan to finish off the painting of the community centre. It was an excellent job to paint the main hall and meeting room. Whilst the iron is hot, we plan to paint the corridor, kitchen and toilets. We need your help at any point (even if just for a couple of hours) between 9am-5pm. I propose a bring and share lunch on both days (12-1pm), so if you are available, please can you also let me know what you would

be able to bring for the lunch. Please let me know if you can attend by emailing me: chris@christchurchswindon.co.uk – Many hands make light work! Thanks in advance. *Chris*

Evening Prayer is now at **6.30pm each Wednesday**. All welcome

Iona Worship Group will not meet in August. We look forward to seeing you again on **Friday 26th September**. Newcomers welcome.

The Friends of Christ Church

By joining The Friends of Christ Church, you can help us to maintain and improve the building and its environs for the future, just as past generations have done to make it what it is today. It offers the chance to get involved practically and socially and an opportunity to influence future developments at Christ Church with St Marys especially at our AGM.

Membership includes

- Receiving our annual newsletter
- Have free entry to our annual lecture
- Have access to educational tours plus other one-off activities
- Have the option to propose future projects
- Receive 10% off individual building/ hall hire
- Receive 10% off event tickets for Christ Church and Community Centre (not group bookings)
- Help preserve, maintain and improve the building and its environs for the future - new ideas always welcome

In addition, refreshments can be organised for deceased members' funerals if held on Christ Church site. (Costs passed to family).

Membership Fees:

Annual Single: £10

Annual Family: £20 – family membership includes 2 adults and dependents up to the age of 18.

Life: £125

If you are interested in joining The Friends, please email the Membership Secretary sec.focc@gmail.com or complete the application form available in the church and return to the Parish Office.


Two of our pans are bereft because their lids are missing! We have two 11" diameter stainless steel pans in the Community Centre whose lids are absent without leave. If anyone knows their whereabouts please contact the Parish Office. Pat will reward the finder with a pudding!


Arline Stovell We were sad to learn of Arline's death at home on 30th July. Arline did an amazing job coordinating the Ride and Stride for Christ Church and St Mary's for many years and was a friend to many, a stalwart supporter


of the Friends of Christ Church and an active member of our Mothers' Union. Our love and prayers go to Roy, Catherine, Andrew, Harriet, Madeline and Trystan at this time. Arline's funeral is on Monday 18th August 3pm at North Wiltshire Crematorium and all are welcome to attend. Family flowers only please but donations welcome for Prospect Hospice c/o Hillier Funeral Service.


On Your Marks for Ride + Stride – Sat 13 Sept!

Join the fun – cycle, walk, volunteer, or donate to help raise funds for **Christ Church** and the **Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust**.

 Last year: **£1,450 raised**, with **£825 back to Christ Church** – including a **£100 Brooke Cup bonus** for 3rd place.

 Star rider **Jacob Smith (age 11)** smashed our record with **46 churches in a day** – and he's aiming higher this year!

 Join the team or donate: justgiving.com/team/christ-church-community-centre-ride-and-stride-team-2025

 Volunteer at Christ Church on the day: Contact **Jennifer Miles** – jenniannemiles@gmail.com

See paragraph below for further details about volunteering

Ride and Stride – Volunteers Needed!


This year's Ride and Stride is happening on Saturday 13th September, from 10am to 6pm, in support of Wiltshire's historic churches — and we need some friendly faces to welcome participants at Christ Church and St Mary's.

Can you spare half an hour or more on the day to help? Even a short shift makes a big difference.

Free jelly babies for all volunteers!

If you can help, please contact:

Jennifer Miles

 07952 875994

 jenniannemiles@gmail.com

A request from Kingsdown Crematorium

Since March 2024 we have given away around a 1000 teddy bears to children who have attended Services at Kingsdown.

We have had such positive feedback from families, Funeral Directors and Celebrants so we would very much like to continue the scheme but we need more "Teddy" donations in order to be able achieve this.

As I'm sure your families have benefited from our "Comfort Bears" can I please ask that you pass the word round to all your staff, family, friends, neighbours etc. and ask if they have teddies to donate. Perhaps you may pass

a charity shop and they might have some good condition teddies in if you're feeling generous.

We do have plenty of soft toys that we keep in Reception and sometimes put out on the flower terrace, so we do specifically need just Teddy Bears on this occasion. Thank you.

Carol is happy to collect teddies in the parish office!

'Christ Church, Old Town, Swindon – Stained Glass' Have you got your copy of the amazing new book produced by Mike Snow and Janet French about the stained glass in Christ Church yet? Copies are selling fast but you can still purchase one from Janet for a minimum donation of £13. All profits will go to the Stained Glass Window Repair Fund – one of our windows is in urgent need of attention!

Our Latest Events Brochure is available in the churches or view it on the website here:

<https://www.christchurchswindon.co.uk/events/eventsnewsletter>

Stay up to date with upcoming events at Christ Church and the Community Centre by signing up to our new Events News email newsletter at:

<https://mailchi.mp/c741f2489c2f/events-at-christ-church-and-the-community-centre-swindon>

Date for your diary

Bishop Viv's retirement service will be at Bristol Cathedral on Saturday 30th August 3pm. All welcome

All Saints' Day Saturday 1st November 7.30pm in Christ Church – **'The Grief Opera' by Nigel Lineacre** Tickets are just £10 + 50p BF, and are on sale now at: <https://cccswindon.co.uk/events/74/details>

For your prayers

† Mike Shurmer, John Webb, Martin Hiscock, Ann Sharpe, Pauline Cain, Ali Potter, Pippa Starr, Gordon Hudd, Neville Gray, Adrian Marsh, Roger Gibson, Junior and Sybil as they care for their baby Asher born prematurely in the John Radcliffe Hospital and all those in need of God's healing, including those undergoing long term treatment of any kind

† For those who are lonely, anxious, and depressed; those living with long-term medical conditions or mental health issues and all who care for them, that they would all receive strength, support, and peace

† For the families and friends of Arline Stovell, Dorothy Hodgson, Ann Coleborne, Barbara Browne and all those mourning a loved one

† For peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land and Ukraine, and for those seeking justice and peace in Iran

† For our chosen charities to support this year - Willows Counselling Service, Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership, and for Swindon Youth for Christ and Swindon Street Pastors whom we supported by our Partnership Project last year

† For Will Stevenette and Nitin Shinde as they begin their new ministries as Deacons

† For James Davies-Spratt as he prepares for licensing as a Lay Minister on 11th October, and Maranda NG as she looks forward to her formation year, and for all those exploring Licensed Lay Ministry

† For those worshipping at the Taizé Community this week

† For our pastoral care for members of the congregation and wider Swindon community.



The Beloved Son
A New Play

Christ Church Swindon
Friday 12th September 7pm
Tickets £10 + 50p BF

www.cccswindon.co.uk/page/tickets
SCAN HERE

The Return of the Prodigal Son by Rembrandt

From the creators of the acclaimed Mr Darwin's Tree and Fire from Heaven comes a remarkable new play *The Beloved Son*.

Written and directed by Murray Watts
Performed by Andrew Harrison

Henri Nouwen (1932 - 1996) was a Dutch Catholic priest, psychologist and professor who reached the heights of academic success at Yale and Harvard, before abandoning everything to join the community of L'Arche Daybreak in Toronto. He became part of a life-sharing movement, seeking to make known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities, exploring their unique talents and creating a welcoming home of friendship and belonging.

To some, Henri Nouwen put his brilliant career into reverse, risking the loss of reputation, to others his life was a prophetic challenge to church and society. *The Beloved Son* is a moving solo performance exploring hope and longing, family dynamics, sexual and emotional crisis and the profound insights of a man who became one of the greatest spiritual writers of the Twentieth Century.

OUR CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar	<u>Revd Canon Simon Stevenette</u> simon@christchurchswindon.co.uk	Tel. 529166
Staff Team	<u>Staff Team</u> staffteam@christchurchswindon.co.uk	
Parish Administrator / Clerk	Carol Simmons parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk	Tel. 522832
Christ Church Assistant	Steve Cox communications@christchurchswindon.co.uk	
Gifts /Donations	<u>Stephen Grosvenor</u> Gift Aid stephen@christchurchswindon.co.uk <u>Paul Ng</u> treasurer@christchurchswindon.co.uk Different ways to support us: https://linktr.ee/supportchristchurchswindon	Stephen Tel. 07885 217077
Community Centre @ Christ Church	Chris - 07582 305760 Jenny - 07312 083949 email - ccoperations@christchurchswindon.co.uk	Tel. 617237

To keep in touch, visit us at: <https://linktr.ee/christchurchswindon> or
<https://linktr.ee/communitycentrechristchurch>

To find out what we are doing to reduce our impact on the environment and improve biodiversity on site, visit:
<https://linktr.ee/christchurchswindonecohob>



THE GRIEF OPERA



LOVE GOES ON

A profound grief journey from loss to love, through
the medium of jazz, classical, and world music
As featured on the BBC and ITV

"The most moving show you will see this year"

Saturday 1st November, 7pm
Christ Church Swindon, SN1 3HB
Tickets only £10 + 50p booking fee

Scan the QR Code for tickets or visit:
cccswindon.co.uk/page/tickets



follow at
[@the.grief.opera](https://twitter.com/the.grief.opera)