

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

Sunday 31st August 2025
Trinity 11

Christ Church

8am Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Norma McKemey

10am Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Canon Simon Stevenette

Children's Talk: The Revd. Norma McKemey

Theme: 'What's the difference between Jesus and a kaleidoscope?'

Sermon: The Revd. Norma McKemey

Theme: 'Hospitality to Friend and Stranger'

Readings: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14: 1, 7-14

Reader: Ade Aremu

Prayers: Jennifer Miles

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

6.30pm Songs of Praise – led by Ailsa Palmer & James Davies-Spratt

St Mary's

9am Holy Communion – led by Revd. Norma McKemey & the Revd. Nitin Shinde

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

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 – or online [HERE](#) please pick one up and book your place to help us with catering – thank you.

Pastoral News

We were very sorry to learn last week of the sudden death of Peter Owen following a fall at home. We thank God for Peter's life and Christian witness at Christ Church, as a Head teacher and across the Swindon community. We assure Joyce, Sally and the family of our love, support and prayers.

All are welcome to celebrate Peter's life at his funeral in Christ Church on Tuesday 23rd September 1.30pm

We thank God that Junior and Sybil have now returned home with baby Asher following months in hospital. Nicola and I had a moving visit to their home on Wednesday. All being well they will come to St Mary's as a family today. Please hold them in your prayers.

Thank you gratefully Simon

The Revd Nitin Shinde

We are grateful to have Nitin with us as a newly ordained Deacon recognising his primary vocation is as a Social Worker. Please remember Nitin and his Fostering Team at SBC as they spend this Wednesday morning in Christ church for their staff meeting and lunch to hear more about Nitin's ministry. Please pray for and increase in Foster parents and those who serve children in this vital ministry within our Swindon Borough.

Swindon Deanery Clergy Residential

Please remember our Swindon Deanery as many of the clergy will be at Charney Manor for their clergy residential lead by the Revd Michelle Taylor who is the Diocesan Priority Communities Trainer. The theme will be Balance.

It was a privilege to attend Bishop Viv's Retirement service yesterday at Bristol Cathedral. Please pray for Bishop Neil as he takes on the additional role of Acting Bishop of Bristol and for the appointment of a new Bishop of Bristol and a new Archbishop of Canterbury.

Next week in and around Christ Church

Morning Prayer	9-9.30am Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel 7.30am Saturday Morning Prayer & men's Breakfast 9-9.30am Wednesday & Friday virtual morning prayer Telephone: <u>08002605903</u> to join by phone Use this Passcode <u>694043607#</u>
Monday 1st September	7.30pm Staff Team Meeting in the Large Meeting Room
Wednesday 3rd September	10.30am Christ in Quiet <i>11.30am – 1.30pm private lunch booking in Christ Church</i> 6.30pm Evening Prayer 7pm Fellowship of Faith
Friday 5th September	8pm Swindon Old Town Comedy Club in the Community Centre (doors open 7.30pm)
Saturday 6th September	7.30am Morning Prayer & Men's Breakfast

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@christchurchwindon.co.uk
'Paws for Thought' Dog Walking Group	Every 1 st and 3 rd Saturday 10am starting from Christ Church

Sunday 7th September – Trinity 12

Christ Church

8am 1662 Holy Communion

10am All Age Worship with Adult Baptism

6.30pm Holy Communion

St Mary's

9am Holy Communion

Athelstan Pilgrim Way – new route launch Saturday 6th September – Braydon Brook & Upper Thames Churches The next Pilgrimage Walk begins at 11.30am on Saturday 6th September, leaving from the Leigh Chancel (SN6 6QY) and going to St Sampson's Church on Cricklade. There will be a talk in St Sampson's at 2.30pm, given by Martin Palmer. Tickets for this are £10.50 for adults (children free) and are available from Cricklade Town Hall or online at www.athelstanpilgrimway.org

The walk continues on Sunday 7th September at 2pm, from All Saints, Crudwell (SN16 9ER) to Holy Cross, Hankerton (SN16 9LF). This will be followed by Cream tea and Evening Prayer. Both routes are for walkers or cyclists.

The Dwelling Place will be at the Old Town Food Festival from 12 noon to 5pm today Sunday 31st August. Please pray for them in their outreach.

Ride + Stride – Saturday 13th September 2025

This year, Christ Church is once again taking part in Wiltshire Ride + Stride, a county-wide sponsored event to raise money for the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust — with half of everything raised coming back to Christ Church and St. Mary's itself.

There are three great ways you can get involved:



Ride or Stride – Visit as many participating churches as you can on the day (on foot, bike, or even scooter!) and help raise sponsorship. Join our team via

our JustGiving page:

👉 Christ Church Community Centre Ride & Stride Team 2025:

<http://www.justgiving.com/team/christ-church-community-centre-ride-and-stride-team-2025?invite=true>

🤝 **Volunteer** – Help us welcome participants to Christ Church and St Mary's during the day. Even half an hour makes a big difference! To volunteer, please contact Jennifer Miles:

✉ jenniannemiles@gmail.com | ☎ 07952 875994

💰 **Donate** – Support our team directly through our JustGiving page. Every pound raised goes towards keeping Wiltshire's churches open and thriving — and half of it comes back to Christ Church.

👉 Donate here: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/christ-church-community-centre-ride-and-stride-team-2025>

Last year, our amazing team raised £1,450, with £825 going to Christ Church (plus a £100 bonus for coming 3rd in the Brooke Cup 🏆). Special mention goes to 11-year-old Jacob Smith, who cycled 58.5 miles and visited 46 churches in a single day, setting a new Christ Church record! He's hoping to beat it this year. Let's support him and everyone else taking part! Whether you cycle, walk, greet, or give — your support will make a real difference.

Partnership News



<https://www.sotpc.org.uk>

New Bible Study Group for Young Women fortnightly on Thursdays starting 18th September at Mackenzie's, Wood Street. Join us as we grow together in faith, friendship and understanding.

Focus:

- Exploring the Senses 👁️ 👂 👃 👅 👐
- Mental Health & Wellbeing 🧠 ❤️ 🙏
- Neurodivergence 🧩 🌈 🧠
- Developing Strength and Resilience 🦵 🌱 🛡️
- Women of the Bible 👩 📖 ✨

More information from Revd Rach Collins rach.collins@methodist.org.uk

Our NEW September - October Events Brochure is available online now. View it 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

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, , Marwyn Fennings, Junior and Sybil as they care for their baby Asher 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 Paul and Sarah-Jane Flounders who were married in Christ Church on 6th September 2024

† For Marc who was baptised in Christ Church on Tuesday 26th August, and for Alex who will be baptised during our All Age Worship on 7th September

† For the families and friends of Peter Owen 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 Paul and Yvonne Andrews as Street Pastors as they produce a promotional film on their work this weekend

† 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.ccccswindon.co.uk/
page/tickets](http://www.ccccswindon.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.

Join us as we grow together in faith,
friendship, and understanding.

Sisters in Scripture

Young Womens Bible Study

Focus:

Exploring the Senses
Mental Health & Wellbeing
Neurodivergence
Developing Strength & Resilience
Women of the Bible



When & Where:

Fortnightly on Thursdays
Starting September 18th
7:00 PM at McKenzies, Wood Street



More info from Revd Rach Collins:
rach.collins@methodist.org.uk

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/christchurchswindonecohuh>



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
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