



Providing a spiritual home and resources for the local community

If you need to contact us, in the first instance please contact the Parish Office on 01793 522832 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm) or email parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk

Sunday 21st September 2025
Trinity 14

Fairtrade Fortnight & Launch of Stewardship Campaign

Christ Church

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

10am Informal Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Canon Simon Stevenette & the Revd. Nitin Shinde

Theme: 'Celebrating St Matthew Tax collector/Apostle/Evangelist'

Readings: 2 Corinthians 4:1-6; Matthew 9: 9-13

Children's Talk: 'Giving and Receiving'

Sermon: 'Growing in Generosity'

Reader: Anthony Slack

Prayers: Daniel Pitt

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

12 noon Holy Baptism – the Revd. Norma McKemey

We welcome the family and friends of Bonnie Alice Bradley

6.30pm Choral Evensong – led by the Revd. Canon Simon Stevenette

Sermon: The Revd. Nitin Shinde

See paragraph below for more information

St Mary's

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

[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

Churches Called to Pray for Peace in the Middle East on Sunday

Sunday 21 September

Churches Together, along with a number of aid charities, has this week called for collective prayer for peace in the Middle East this coming Sunday. Churches are being asked to hold a minute's silence in their services and pray this prayer written by Archbishop Hosam of Jerusalem:

A Prayer for the Holy Land for 21 September

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world:

In your mercy, provide for all those in Gaza and beyond who suffer from hunger and starvation, that they may be given both physical bread to nourish their bodies and heavenly bread to sustain their souls.

By the power of your Spirit, bring a speedy end to this cruel war, the release of all captives, care for the sick and wounded, comfort for those who have lost loved-ones, and the opening of a pathway for a just and lasting peace here in the very homeland where your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ministered during his earthly life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Organisations including Christian Aid, Tearfund, Cafod and the Church of England have said jointly "We are witnessing the devastating escalation of violence in Gaza and the West Bank. The cries of Palestinian church leaders for peace and solidarity have echoed across the global Church, urging us to respond with clarity, compassion, and conviction. "As Christian agencies rooted in faith and justice, we believe the gravity of this moment demands **a visible, united Christian witness**—one that speaks to our shared commitment to peace, reconciliation, and the dignity of all people."

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>
Monday 22nd September	1.30pm Burial Board meeting in the Vestry
Tuesday 23rd September	1.30pm Funeral of Peter Owen in Christ Church
Wednesday 24th September	10.30am Christ in Quiet 1.30pm Funeral of Mairwen Fennings in Christ Church 6.30pm Evening Prayer 7pm Bible Encounter Group
Friday 26th September	11.30am Iona Worship Group at St Mary's 7pm Brunel Brass with Spotlight Choir concert in Christ Church
Saturday 27th September	11am onwards 65 th wedding anniversary celebrations at Tony & Jenny Selwood's home – <i>see paragraph below</i> 8pm (doors open 7.15pm) for REM by Stipe tribute concert in Christ Church
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
'Sisters in Scripture' Young Women's Bible Study	Fortnightly on Thursdays 7pm at Mackenzies Bar, Wood Street. Next meeting 2nd October
Iona Worship Group	Every 4 th Friday 11.30am at St Mary's
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 28th September – Trinity 14	
Christ Church	
8am Holy Communion	
10am Holy Communion	
12 noon Holy Baptism	
6.30pm Informal Evening Worship	

St Mary's

9am Holy Communion

✨ **Ride + Stride 2025 Update – Records Broken!** ✨

What an incredible day Saturday for the Christ Church team! 🙌

🔥 **Jacob (age 12)** and **Chris** smashed their own record – visiting **50 churches** (up from 46 last year) and cycling an amazing **67 miles!**

👟 **Carol** walked an incredible **23 miles** (that's nearly a marathon!) while visiting **26 churches**. She shared that she did it this year as a **tribute to Arline Stovell**, who faithfully championed Ride + Stride for many years before her recent passing – even though it left her with injured feet.

🚴 **Steve** took on his longest ever solo ride – covering **65 miles** and visiting **23 churches** across the Marlborough Deanery, starting at Wroughton and looping through Avebury, Marlborough, Chilton Foliat, Aldbourne, Chiseldon and back to Christ Church.

💛 A **huge thank you** also goes to all the volunteers who welcomed riders and striders at Christ Church and St Mary's throughout the day, and to **Jennifer Miles**, who has so wonderfully taken on the mantle of **Event Organiser** from Arline. We are so grateful for the care, commitment and community spirit shown.

📺 There's still time to support the team and donate here:

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

Together we've cycled, walked, welcomed, remembered and celebrated – and helped preserve Wiltshire's churches for generations to come. 🙏

Growing in Generosity

Dear Friends, Nicola and I are so thankful for all you give towards the life and ministry of Christ Church with St Mary's. Over the years we have seen God's love transform lives, and our vision remains to be Christ's presence in our community.

As we launch our annual stewardship campaign, we encourage you to read our Growing in Generosity booklet. Please take a moment to review your financial giving—perhaps increasing a pledge or starting for the first time through the Parish Giving Scheme. Your support enables us to continue our mission locally and contribute to the wider work of our Deanery and Diocese. The booklet is available here:

<https://www.christchurchswindon.co.uk/blog/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Growing-in-Generosity-2025.pdf>

With our love and prayers,
Simon and Nicola

Choral Evensong in Christ Church this Sunday 21st September 6.30pm The choir will be singing music by Bruckner, Sumsion and Howells. Tim will conduct and Richard Sutcliffe will play the organ. The service will be led by Simon and Nitin will preach. All welcome.

Advance Notice – the choir are also singing evensong at Worcester Cathedral on Tuesday 28th October and would love to have friends there to support them.



We're proud to announce: Christ Church Swindon is now a Fairtrade Place of Worship!

This means that, as a congregation, we've committed to doing justice in our buying, caring for creation, and standing in solidarity with farmers and workers around the world.

From this moment forward:

- We'll be using Fairtrade products (tea, coffee, sugar and more wherever possible) in our gatherings and events.
- We'll be sharing information so everyone knows what Fairtrade is and how our purchases make a difference.
- We'll integrate Fairtrade into more of church life — worship, events, teaching — especially during Fairtrade Fortnight (22 September – 05 October 2025)

Why does this matter? Because Fairtrade helps ensure farmers are paid fairly, working conditions are better, and communities gain access to essential services like education and healthcare. It's one practical way we can live out our faith, caring for our neighbours near and far.

Thank you to everyone who has championed this — especially those who worked behind the scenes. We look forward to seeing how this grows in our life together. 🙏

Funeral of Peter Owen Peter's funeral will be in Christ Church on Tuesday 23rd September at 1.30pm. Please remember Joyce, Sally and the family in your prayers.

The Children's Society Fundraiser, Saturday 13th

A MASSIVE THANK YOU to all who helped set up, man tables, serve refreshments, bake and donate cakes, contributed items to sell, came along to support the event, helped clear up at the end and kindly donated even if unable to attend! Together we raised just over £400!!! A tremendous kick start to my London marathon fundraising for the charity. What a perfect example of team work at its best. You are absolute legends. God bless you all. *Verity x*

LLM Licensing Service James Davies-Spratt will be licensed as our new Lay Minister in Bristol Cathedral on **Saturday 11th October 10.30am**. Please hold James and Alex in your prayers in this important new phase as they serve God together. We hope a good number of people from Christ Church, St Mary's and the wider Partnership will attend the service to support James and we are looking into whether it is viable to offer a coach, leaving from Christ Church at 8.30am and returning mid-afternoon. If you would like to go, please let the Parish Office know ASAP and also please state if you would like to go on the coach if it is available. **For those going by car, please be aware that the M4 will be closed in both directions between Junction 18 (Bath) and 19 (Bristol M32) that weekend** so more time will be needed for the journey.

Sunday Club Shoebox Appeal We have begun to collect items for the children to pack into shoeboxes later in October, on behalf of the charity Link to Hope. This is a small charity, who will be delivering the shoeboxes to families and the elderly in Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria. We would be grateful of any donation, from an empty shoebox, a single item or completed box. Items needed include, toiletries, playing cards, adult socks, safety razors, shampoo etc. **Last date for donations is Sunday 26th October**. Please leave donations at the Parish Office (8.30am to 4.30pm Monday – Friday) or pass to Sue. For further details, please visit www.linktohope.co.uk or see Sue at coffee on Sundays. You can also email Sue@christchurchswindon.co.uk.

From Tony and Jenny Selwood - date for your diary – 27th September 2025
'On 1st October this year **Tony and Jenny Selwood** will be celebrating our 65th wedding anniversary. We were not allowed to see anyone for our 60th because of Covid, and we may not make it to our 70th so we would very much like to celebrate this year on the nearest Saturday. Which is September 27th. We invite everybody to come and have a sparkly drink and a nibble with us on that day at 35 Haydon View Road, Swindon SN25 3AT, any time from 11am onwards. We really would love to see you to remember the last 65 years. We were married in Christ Church by Canon Thomas and it has been our home for many years'.
The Christ Church floodlights will shine bright for Tony and Jenny on 1st October. We send them our warmest congratulations.

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>

Concert at Bath Road: Early Notice

October 10th at 7.30pm "Cabaret" A concert by the Swindon Community Concert Band and local talent. Proceeds to the Swindon Hardship Fund.

Dates for your diary

Autumn Fayre Saturday 4th October 11am to 3pm at Christ Church. Food & drink, craft market, glitter tattoos, bouncy castle. Free entry. For more information contact wellnessingrace@outlook.com

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, Kathy Vincent, Manda Shinde, 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 the families and friends of Peter Owen, Mairwen Fennings, Sheila Davies, Joseph McShane, Naomi Webb, Padmini Dethe and all those mourning a loved one

† For John & Jemma Spruce who were married in Christ Church a year ago (on 21st September 2024)

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

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



THE GRIEF OPERA



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:
ccccswindon.co.uk/page/tickets**



follow at
@the.grief.opera

