



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](mailto:parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk)

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – Advent Sunday**



### **Christ Church**

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

**10am Partnership Advent Service at Bath Road Methodist Church**

*If you can't join us in person, you can watch live via Bath Road's YouTube channel here:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PeSX-cWj4A>

**NB No 10am service in Christ Church**

**12 noon Holy Baptism – the Revd. Norma McKemey**

*We welcome the family & friends of Bonnie-Rose Mary Harrold*

**6.30pm Partnership Advent Carol Service - led by the Revd. Daphne Hardwick & David Cain**

*Can't be with us? No problem, you can join us via our YouTube channel here:*

<https://www.youtube.com/live/a7dDar3kTV8?si=5FKyoABPDT11kBIR>

### **St Mary's**

**9am Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Daphne Hardwick**

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

**Bible verse for 2026 – launching today**

***Please collect a card from church today and feel free to pass one on to anyone you know who would like one***



## 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

### Next week in and around Christ Church

<b>Morning Prayer</b>	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>
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b>	2pm funeral of Mary Parnell in Christ Church 7.30pm Staff Team Meeting in the Large Meeting Room
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	10.30am Christ in Quiet 6.30pm Evening Prayer 7pm Fellowship of Faith Christmas <i>Celebration</i> (see paragraph below for more information)
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	9.30am Lainesmead School Carol Service rehearsal in Christ Church
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>	6pm and 8.30pm The Christmas Orchestra in Christ Church
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>	6pm Swindon Choral Society Traditional Christmas Carols with Wroughton Silver Band in Christ Church

### Regular Groups – everyone welcome

<b>Partnership Messy Church</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday 3-4.30pm at Bath Road Methodist Church
<b>'Treasure Together' Spiritual Reflection Group</b>	NO MEETINGS IN DECEMBER – we will be back on Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
<b>Fellowship of Faith</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 7pm in Christ Church
<b>Bible Encounter Group</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7pm in Christ Church
<b>'Where Art Thou' Children's Art Group</b>	Thursday 4pm <b>Term Time only</b> in the Garden Room
<b>'Sisters in Scripture' Young Women's Bible Study</b>	Fortnightly on Thursdays 7pm at Mackenzies Bar, Wood Street

<b>Iona Worship Group</b>	Every 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday 11.30am at St Mary's
<b>Pilgrims of the Way</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday 7pm at St Mary's
<b>Men's Breakfast</b>	Every 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday - Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 7.30am followed by breakfast in the Community Centre. <b>To book breakfast please contact Mike Palmer</b> <a href="mailto:michael@christchurchswindon.co.uk">michael@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a>

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December - **Advent 1**

#### Christ Church

**8am 1662 Holy Communion**

**10am All Age Worship & Baptism Welcome**

**4pm Holy Communion**

#### St Mary's

**9am Holy Communion**

**Update on Simon** Simon is making very good progress since his operation a week last Thursday. He was able to eat for the first time last night! He is talking a bit now too and they are beginning daily Physio. He continues to be treated in Intensive Care as he is still very weak but we are thankful that he is on the road to recovery. We remain hugely grateful to God and the excellent medical expertise at the Brompton! It's been literally life-saving! Thank you for your continuing support and prayers.  
*every blessing, Nicola*

**Prayer for Healing** A reminder that during our 10am Sunday Holy Communion services we have people who would be very pleased to pray for you or for someone else or for a particular situation. They sit during Holy Communion at the back of the church near the kitchenette. We also have the prayer board at the back of the church and our monthly healing service on a Sunday evening

**Fellowship of Faith Christmas Celebration** Everyone is invited to join us on Wednesday December 3rd from 7pm for a homely Christmas Celebration. We encourage everyone to bring a snack to share- something festive if you would like. We look forward to seeing you!

**The Friends of Christ Church** organised another successful Christmas Market last Saturday, opened by the Mayor and Father Christmas. There was plenty of footfall despite the rainy weather and 37 local charities and organisations had stalls. So far proceeds exceed £3500 including £312 raised from The Friends'

funds - thanks to Angela Ruck, Frances Poel and others for donating prizes. Thank you to the organisers, especially Chris Smith, Caroline Pitt, Daniel Pitt, Francis Maples, Steve Austin and Christine Senior, the volunteers in the kitchen, car park, stewarding, selling raffle tickets and the very important setting up and clearing up. We also thank the bell ringers for opening the tower for tours and the choir for singing. Thank you to all those who came along to support the event. The date for next year is **Saturday 21st November!**

**We're preparing for our Christmas Eve Crib Service** and need your help to bring the nativity to life! If you have good-quality nativity costumes, stripy or white pillowcases or sheets, lace, gold cord, or furry material for sheep and cattle costumes, please consider donating them. Anything you can contribute can be brought to the Parish Office. Your generosity will help us create beautiful costumes for our children and make this special service truly memorable. *Many thanks, Daphne*

### **Your Morning To Sing – Choir Taster Morning**

Come and join us at Christ Church, Old Town, Swindon, on **Saturday 13th December, 9.30–11.30 am** for a free Choir Taster Morning. Step into the choir stalls beneath the magnificent East Window and experience the joy of singing carols and simple songs in parts, accompanied by our beautiful pipe organ. No experience is needed — just enthusiasm and curiosity! All ages are welcome, and light refreshments will be provided. For more information, email Tim at [musicdirector@christchurchswindon.co.uk](mailto:musicdirector@christchurchswindon.co.uk) or call him on **07387 290323**.

### **Fill a Hamper, Fill a Heart**

At EOTAS Fernbrook, Swindon, we're getting organised early because we've got some very special hampers to prepare, and we need your help.

Our school supports some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children in our community. Many of our students face challenges linked to autism, ADHD, and trauma, and for some, school is the safest and most supportive part of their day.

Every year, our staff donate items themselves to create Christmas hampers for our families. However, that often means not every child across our organisation gets the chance to receive one. This year, we're going big and

reaching out to our amazing local community to help make sure no one goes hungry or unseen over the holidays.

We are now collecting donations to help us fill our hampers, and we would be so grateful for any contributions, big or small.

We are looking for (but not limited to):

- Canned goods and long-lasting foods (beans, pasta, rice, cereals)
- Sweet and savoury snacks, hot chocolate, instant drinks
- Hygiene products (deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, body wash)
- Winter warmers (gloves, scarves, hats)
- Small toys, stocking fillers, and Christmas treats
- School supplies (stationery, pens, notebooks, art items)
- The actual boxes to build the hampers

If you have something a bit different in mind, please feel free to ask. We welcome creativity and community spirit.

If you can help, please contact Mae Bailey [mae.bailey@eotas.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:mae.bailey@eotas.swindon.sch.uk) or Megan Richards [megan.richards@eotas.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:megan.richards@eotas.swindon.sch.uk) Every contribution brings us one step closer to giving these children the Christmas they deserve.

### 🌟**Don't Be Alone This Christmas – Join Us for Christmas Day Dinner**🌟🌲

Christmas can be a joyful time, but for many it can also feel isolating. At Christ Church, we believe no one should have to spend Christmas Day alone. That's why we are delighted to invite anyone who would appreciate some company to our Christmas Day Dinner at the Christ Church Community Centre.

**On 25th December**, from **12 noon to 3:30pm**, guests will be welcomed into a warm, festive atmosphere to enjoy a **delicious three-course Christmas meal**. The afternoon will also include Christmas carols, conversation, plenty of laughter, and the chance to watch **The King's Speech** together. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, share the joy of the season, and experience community at its best.

Whether you're feeling isolated or simply prefer to spend the day in company, **you are warmly invited**.

**We are also looking for a few more volunteers** to help the day run smoothly. We need **two additional helpers in the kitchen** and **several drivers** who can collect guests and take them home afterwards. If you are able to offer a little of your time on Christmas Day, it would make a real difference.

**To reserve your place**, please call **01793 267500** or email [chris@christchurchswindon.co.uk](mailto:chris@christchurchswindon.co.uk). The suggested donation is **£10**, but everyone is welcome regardless of ability to contribute.

This event is supported by **DSNY Wealth Planning**, whose generosity helps us ensure that Christmas Day is a time of connection and joy for all.

If you or someone you know would benefit from a warm meal and a friendly atmosphere this Christmas, please join us. You will be made very welcome

**‘Orange the World’** Christ Church has been bathed in orange floodlights from 25<sup>th</sup> November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) and this will continue until 10<sup>th</sup> December (Human Rights Day), with the exception of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December when the floodlights are in memory of Michael Ringham, whose first anniversary of death is on that day.

Further information about ‘Orange the World’ can be found here <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/unite/orange-the-world>

### **Recycle Your Old Glasses and Printer Cartridges at the Community Centre**

As well as a collection box for old glasses we now have a collection box for you to recycle your ink cartridges. Collection boxes can be found in the community centre lobby outside the main hall.

### **Upcoming Events at Christ Church and the Community Centre**

Our latest Events brochure is available online now. View it here:

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

Never miss any of our great events by signing up to our Events Newsletter email at: <https://mailchi.mp/c741f2489c2f/events-at-christ-church-and-the-community-centre-swindon>



## Partnership News

[www.sotpc.org.uk](http://www.sotpc.org.uk)

### Partnership secretary vacancy

The Old Town Partnership is looking for a minute taker secretary as the current one, Andrew Enow, wishes to stand down after 3 years of service. The role is to:

- take and circulate to the 3 Churches the minutes of the Focus Group, which meets about 6 times a year, and the twice -yearly Council meetings;
- prepare with the Chair and circulate agendas for those meetings;
- carry out any secretarial actions as a result of those meetings.

Anyone interested, please contact either the ministers, Anne Farrow

[farrow684@btinternet.com](mailto:farrow684@btinternet.com) or George Kennedy

[kennedygeorge62@gmail.com](mailto:kennedygeorge62@gmail.com)

### For your prayers

† Mike Shurmer, John Webb, Martin Hiscock, Ann Sharpe, Ali Potter, Neville Gray, Manda Shinde, Simon Stevenette, Barbara Sheppard, Joel Sales, Kaf Smith, Gordon Hudd, John Cross, Elizabeth Hogg 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 Paul Simpson-McGregor, Mary Parnell, Stella Howarth 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 pastoral care for members of the congregation and wider Swindon community.



**Christmas is coming - A taster of some services  
in the next couple of weeks**

**Christingle Service  
in Christ Church**

**Sunday 14th December 4pm**

*'Come Share the Light with us'*

The Children's Society

**Carol Service**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
2.30pm**

St Mary's Church  
Commonweal Road  
Swindon SN1 4LB

Led by  
the Revds.  
David Day  
&  
Moira Slack

**ALL WELCOME**

Organist:  
the Revd.  
Geoffrey Glead

Mayor of Swindon is delighted to invite you to a

**CHRISTMAS  
CAROL  
CELEBRATION**

Wednesday, 17th December  
4 p.m.  
SBC Civic Chamber  
Euclid St, SN1 2JH

Join us for Tea and Mince Pies  
Christmas Jumpers Welcome

**Organ  
Recital**

Tim Eyles,  
Director  
of Music

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 1pm  
in Christ Church**

Music by Bach, Pachelbel,  
Buxtehude, Peeters and others  
and featuring Widor's "Toccata"

Relax and unwind with some beautiful  
Advent and Christmas music

**RETIRING COLLECTION TO SUPPORT  
THE WORK OF CHRIST CHURCH**

**A Traditional Service  
of Lessons & Carols**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 6.30pm  
in Christ Church**

led by the Revd. Norma McKemey

Address: Beth Trendell,  
Swindon Borough Council Fostering Team

Organist: Tim Eyles  
Conductor: Katrine Reimers  
followed by refreshments

**Crib Service**

**Christmas Eve 4pm  
in Christ Church**

Join us as we bring  
the Nativity Story to life!

You are welcome to come dressed as a character  
from the Nativity Story



## OUR CONTACT DETAILS

Staff Team	For pastoral enquiries please contact the Parish Office in the first instance Staff Team: <a href="mailto:staffteam@christchurchswindon.co.uk">staffteam@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a>	
Parish Administrator / Clerk	Carol Simmons: <a href="mailto:parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk">parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a>	Tel. 522832
Christ Church Comms and Fundraising	Steve Cox: <a href="mailto:communications@christchurchswindon.co.uk">communications@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a>	
Gifts /Donations	Stephen Grosvenor, Gift Aid Secretary: <a href="mailto:stephen@christchurchswindon.co.uk">stephen@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a> Paul Ng, Treasurer: <a href="mailto:treasurer@christchurchswindon.co.uk">treasurer@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a> Different ways to support us: <a href="https://linktr.ee/supportchristchurchswindon">https://linktr.ee/supportchristchurchswindon</a>	Stephen Tel. 07885 217077
Community Centre @ Christ Church	Chris - 07582 305760 Jenny - 07312 083949 email - <a href="mailto:ccoperations@christchurchswindon.co.uk">ccoperations@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a>	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/christchurchswindonecohub>