



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 December 2025 – Advent 4



Christ Church

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

10am Informal Holy Communion – led by the Revd. David Day

Sermon: The Revd. Norma McKemey

Theme: 'Immanuel – God with us whenever and whatever'

Readings: Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1: 18-25

Reader: Anthea Thackstone

Prayers: Liz Day

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

6.30pm * Service of Lessons & Carols – led by the Revd. Norma McKemey

Address: Beth Trendell, Advanced Social Worker, Swindon Borough Council
Fostering Recruitment, Assessment and Permanence Team

* please note later start time

St Mary's

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

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

Bible verse for 2026

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

Today we will light our fourth Advent Candle, which represents Mary.
Please join in with the Response below:

Leader: We light this candle for all God-bearers, saying "yes" to God's
challenge, accepting the pain and joy of an unknown future.

Response: God, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope.

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: 08002605903 to join by phone
Use this Passcode 694043607#

**Monday 22nd
December**



6.30pm Swindon Town Football Club Service

Watch live if you can't be with us:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/dzSUDCX3qi4?si=cmrLe50v8A7UtPI9>

7.30pm 'Blue Christmas' at St Mary's



**Tuesday 23rd
December**



1.30pm wedding of Stuart Vaughan & Lucy Eyles

**Wednesday 24th
December –
Christmas Eve**

10.30am Christ in Quiet

4pm Crib Service

No Bible Encounter Group this evening

11pm Midnight Mass

Join us via YouTube if you are unable to be here in person

<https://www.youtube.com/live/aY6YI77d8LQ?si=pyGC-jqIZ9chmS2p>



**Thursday 25th
December –
Christmas Day**



8am Holy Communion
10am Family Christmas Holy Communion
Celebrate with us from home if you can't be here in person:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/ExxixPRy1VY?si=haVesFaJ0eDJGCOM>

12 noon – 'Not Alone at Christmas' in the Community Centre

**Saturday 27th
December**

6.30pm and 8.30pm Candlelight Concerts in Christ Church



Regular Groups – everyone welcome

Partnership Messy Church 1st Sunday 3-4.30pm at Bath Road Methodist Church

'Treasure Together' Spiritual Reflection Group NO MEETINGS IN DECEMBER – we will be back on Monday 5th January 2026

Fellowship of Faith 1st and 3rd Wednesday 7pm in Christ Church

Bible Encounter Group 2nd and 4th Wednesday 7pm in Christ Church
NO MEETING ON 24TH DECEMBER

'Where Art Thou' Children's Art Group Thursday 4pm **Term Time only** in the Garden Room

Iona Worship Group Every 4th Friday 11.30am at St Mary's - no meeting in December

Pilgrims of the Way 2nd and 3rd Friday 7pm at St Mary's

Men's Breakfast Every 1st 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

Sunday 28th December – Christmas 1

Christ Church

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

6pm Informal Evening Worship

St Mary's

9am Holy Communion

Message from Simon I am really enjoying being back at home, taking walks around the garden, sleeping well and resting a lot.
Thank you so much for everyone's kindness sending cards, messages, and gifts. Nicola and I and our whole family are definitely counting our blessings.

We are drawn to the stable scene, thanking Jesus, Lord, Emmanuel who has come among us as a baby in all vulnerability into a fragile world. He meets us where we are, in whatever circumstances and draws us to himself.
We pray that you too will meet him there and all have a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.
O come Emmanuel.
With our love and prayers, Simon and Nicola.

Our traditional service of Lessons & Carols is this Sunday 21st December 6.30pm in Christ Church. Tim will play the organ and we are delighted that Katrine Reimers is returning to conduct the choir again this year. A lot of hard work has gone into preparing the service so please come along, enjoy the beautiful readings and music and help start your Christmas season off on the right note! This year the address will be given by Beth Trendell, Advanced Social Worker, Swindon Borough Council Fostering Recruitment, Assessment and Permanence Team, and all of the readers have a connection with Swindon Borough Council. If you would like to find out more about Fostering, there is a display at the back of the church. Mulled wine, fruit punch and mince pies will be available after the service. All welcome.

If you are unable to join us in person you can watch via our YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/live/xdU8VsHj8WI?si=HtKGLfG6Pjk5FHnO>

Christingle Service – thank you to everyone who made donations at the service for the Children's Society. We have paid in **£107.78**. Special thanks also to all those who made this special service happen.

The Parish Office will be closed from 12 noon on Christmas Eve, re-opening on Monday 5th January. The next News Sheet will be a double edition, covering Sundays 28th December and 4th January. If you need to put anything in the News Sheet, please ensure it is with Carol by 5pm on Monday 22nd December – thank you for your understanding.

For urgent pastoral needs while the office is closed, please speak with a minister at any service.

Canon Alastair Stevenson's Requiem Mass will be at St Mark's Church, Swindon on Monday 29th December at 12.30pm, followed by a celebration of his life at Kingsdown Crematorium at 2.15pm. All who knew him are welcome

at either or both services. Please continue to hold Margaret and the family in your prayers.

Martin Hiscock's funeral is on Monday 5th January 2026 at 2pm in Christ Church. Please pray for Wendy and for Martin's family and friends at this time.

Christmas can be a joyful time, but it can also feel isolating. At Christ Church, we don't want anyone to spend Christmas Day alone, so we are hosting a **Christmas Day Dinner** at the Christ Church Community Centre on **25th December, 12 noon–3:30pm**, with a delicious three-course meal, carols, laughter and The King's Speech. **There are now only 6 spaces remaining**, so please book soon.

We also **URGENTLY need volunteer drivers** to help collect guests to bring them to the site and take them home afterwards. If you can help with one way or the other please get in touch with Chris – 01793 267500

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

New Year's Day Partnership Ramble, Thursday 1 January 2026

All are welcome to join the traditional New Year's Day ramble – usual arrangements. Meet at Christ Church car park in time to start walking at 2.00 p.m. We walk via Newport Street, Signal Way, west along the old railway track as far as Beavan's Bridge over the canal, and back. 4 1/2 miles total, easy pace. Please wear warm clothing and suitable footwear (trainers are fine). We toast the New Year on the bridge. Return to Christ Church, by 4.30 pm,

where all are invited for tea and mince pies in the Community Centre @ Christ Church. *Walk leader is Daniel Pitt – home 521732, mobile – 07834 704350*

For your prayers

† Mike Shurmer, John Webb, Ann Sharpe, Ali Potter, Neville Gray, Manda Shinde, Simon Stevenette, Barbara Sheppard, Joel Sales, Kaf Smith, Gordon Hudd, John Cross, Elizabeth Hogg, Emilia Shaw and all those in need of God's healing, including those undergoing long term treatment of any kind.

† Stuart & Lucy who will be married in Christ Church on Tuesday, and their son Pippin who will be baptised

† 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 Martin Hiscock, Alastair Stevenson, Roger Salter 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.

OUR CONTACT DETAILS

Staff Team	For pastoral enquiries please contact the Parish Office in the first instance Staff Team: staffteam@christchurchswindon.co.uk	
Parish Administrator / Clerk	Carol Simmons: parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk	Tel. 522832
Christ Church Comms and Fundraising	Steve Cox: communications@christchurchswindon.co.uk	
Gifts /Donations	Stephen Grosvenor, Gift Aid Secretary: stephen@christchurchswindon.co.uk Paul Ng, Treasurer: 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 - ccooperations@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/christchurchswindonecohub>

A Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols

**Sunday 21st 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



**Christ Church
Swindon**

Scan to donate



**This Christmas, please give generously to support
Christ Church's building and ministry, ensuring we can
serve our community now and for generations to come.**

Swindon Town Football Club

Carol Service



Monday 22nd
December
6.30pm @






Christ Church Swindon

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

COME ALL YE WHO ARE WEARY

22ND DEC
7:30PM
AT ST MARYS
COMMONWEAL RD


followed by refreshments

Christ Church Swindon

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*

*'O come, let us
adore Him...'*



Midnight Mass in Christ Church

Christmas Eve 11pm

ALL WELCOME



Christmas Day Services in Christ Church

8am Holy Communion

10am Christmas Family
Service with Holy Communion

*'Yea, Lord, we greet
Thee, born this
happy morning'*





Christ Church Swindon

Watchnight Service in Christ Church

New Year's Eve 11pm

Join us as we welcome the
New Year together



*...go out into the darkness,
and put your hand into
the hand of God...*

James Booth