

**Calendar for 21st December to
4th January 2025**

Sunday 21st December – Advent 4

8.00am Said Eucharist (BCP) – **St Peter and St Paul**
Readings: Isaiah 7.10-16 (Pg. 584); Romans 1.1-7 (Pg. 143); Matthew 1.18-end (Pg.1). (All Page Nos. refer to the Pew Bible.)
10.00am Sung Parish Eucharist – **St Peter and St Paul and live online**
6.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols – **St Peter and St Paul**

Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

3.00pm Christingle Service – **St Mary's Church, Ballinger**
4.00pm Crib Service – **St Peter and St Paul**
9.00pm Christmas Eve Eucharist – **St Mary's Church, Ballinger.**
 This will be a service of Holy Communion with well-known Carols.
11.00pm Midnight Mass – **St Peter and St Paul**

Thursday 25th December – Christmas Day

8.00am Said Eucharist – **St Peter and St Paul**
10.00am Sung Family Eucharist – **St Peter and St Paul**

Sunday 28th December – Christmas 1

8.00am Said Eucharist (BCP) – **St Peter and St Paul**
Readings: Jeremiah 31.15-17 (Pg. 672); 1 Corinthians 1.26-29 (Pg. 157); Matthew 2.13-18 (Pg. 2).
10.00am Said Parish Eucharist – **St Peter and St Paul and live online**

No Evening Service – Low Sunday

Sunday 4th January – The Feast of the Epiphany

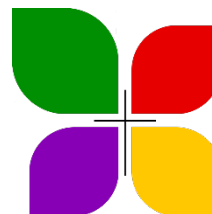
8.00am Said Eucharist (BCP) – **St Peter and St Paul**
Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6 (Pg. 632); Ephesians 3.1-12 (Pg. 183); Matthew 2.1-12 (Pg. 1).
9.30am Said Eucharist with hymns – **St Mary's Church, Ballinger**
10.00am Sung Parish Eucharist – **St Peter and St Paul and live online**
6.00pm Evening Prayer – **St Peter and St Paul**



The Chiltern Foodbank is currently looking for donations of...
 Instant Coffee; Kitchen Roll; Squash; Tinned Macaroni Cheese;
 Tinned Ravioli; Washing Powder.
All items must be within BBE date, please.
chiltern.foodbank.org.uk

STAFF AVAILABILITY:

*Rev. Malcolm Chalmers 07584 680 160 vicar@missendenchurch.org.uk
 Licensed Lay Minister: Patricia Neale 01494 863 348 tricianeale8@gmail.com
 Parish Office: 01494 862 352 office@missendenchurch.org.uk
 For any safeguarding concern: Alan Mustoe 07725 909 733*



St Peter and St Paul, Great Missenden
St Mary's Church, Ballinger
Little Hampden

**Helping one another to Know, to
Serve and to Share God's love**

Sunday 21st December – The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday 28th December – The First Sunday of Christmas
Sunday 4th January – The Feast of the Epiphany

Please include in our prayers:

- for all members of our Parish Family to be blessed with a merry Christmas and a happy New Year;
- for peace throughout the world, especially in the Holy Land this Christmas;
- for the sick, both at home and in hospital over the Festive Season;
- for our Archbishop elect of Canterbury, the Rt Revd Dame Sarah Mullally.

Scriptural Quote for Sunday 21st December

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us'.
 Matthew 1.23

Scriptural Quote for Sunday 28th December

Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.
 Jeremiah 31.15

Scriptural Quote for Sunday 4th January

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
 Isaiah 60.1-6

Please note, you can subscribe to the online version of the Newssheet by contacting the Church Office by email: office@missendenchurch.org.uk

Collect for Advent 4

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect words – © Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000)

Collect for Christmas 1

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect words – © Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000)

Collect for Epiphany

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect words – © Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000)

The Vicar writes... (for Sunday 21st December)

'Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way': we're getting nearer to Christmas. Matthew doesn't show much interest in the birth; he is more interested in the conception (the baby is God's) and the naming (the baby is to be called Jesus because he saves people). Joseph acts honourably and faithfully: he does as the angel commands him and never takes centre stage. The baby is given a title as well as a name: he is 'Emmanuel, God with us'. We get to know right at the start that wherever Jesus is, God is with us and we are assured of forgiveness.

(Based on Matthew 1.18-24.)

The Vicar writes... (for Sunday 28th December)

The threat that stalks the Holy Family and the massacre of the Innocents stand as haunting reminders of the lust for revenge to which the world is subject, this fallen world into which the Messiah came to be a sign of contradiction. Over the cradle, the cross looms – but so do love and self-sacrificing humility. In juxtaposition with the chilling destruction of young life and Herod's bloodthirsty rage is the quiet, humble, and swift obedience of Joseph. Hearing the message of God through an angel, this upright man acts quickly and unhesitatingly to rescue the saviour of the world.

(Based on Matthew 2.13-18.)

The Vicar writes... (for Sunday 4th January)

In the later Old Testament writings there is a turning of the eyes to the outside world, and a growing sense of the place of other nations in God's purposes and Israel's benevolent role towards them. Saint Paul sees Christ as God's gift for all, Jews and Gentiles alike, and both on the same footing. The visit of the Magi in Jesus' infancy foreshadows beautifully the future boundless scope of his sway over the hearts and minds of humanity. It is hard to be truly universal in spirit and in welcome – pray for openness of heart.

(Based on Matthew 2.1-12)

News and Events

Christmas Giving. Each year, our Christmas giving is shared with those in need, and this year we are supporting Missenden Walled Garden, Embrace the Middle East and the charity that supports our own Parish of Great Missenden with Ballinger and Little Hampden.

Coffee 'n' Share will be taking a break over the festive period before re-commencing on 7th January at Abbeyfield.

The Church will be Closed on Thursday 8th and Friday 9th January as we have a cleaning company coming to dust down the walls.

We have received a Thank You from everyone at Wycombe Women's Aid for our Christmas donations and for inviting them to participate in the Christmas Tree Festival. The letter is on the noticeboard at the back of church.