

ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH FULFORD

Parish Magazine

December 2025 – January 2026



**We look forward to
welcoming you all to our
Advent and Christmas Services**

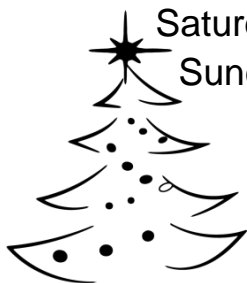
7 th	December	9:30 am	Holy Communion
		4:00 pm	<i>Carol Service at Christ Church, Hilderstone</i>
14 th	December	9:30 am	Holy Communion
		6:30 pm	Christmas Carol Service
21 st	December	9:30 am	BCP Holy Communion (<i>said</i>)
		5:00 pm	<i>'Blue Christmas' at Christ Church, Hilderstone</i>
24 th	December	4:00 pm	<i>Crib Service at Christ Church, Hilderstone</i>
		9:45 pm	<i>Midnight Mass at Christ Church, Hilderstone</i>
		11:45 pm	Christmas Eve Midnight Mass
28 th	December	10:30 am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion with Revd Preb Gerald Gardiner

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Saturday 13th December 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunday 14th December 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Refreshments available all day



**Wishing Everyone A Happy Christmas
and a Joyful New Year 2026**



The Vicar Writes...

Where has the year gone, I wonder! As I look out of my study window at the frost laden fields before me, indicating the beginning of winter, I can hardly believe we are just four weeks away from Christmas. And yet, here we are, the last week in November.

Looking back over the last year, I reflect on the wonders of our four temperate seasons and the beauty of each as it enfolds. Following a rather wet and stormy winter, the spring and summer months were some of the warmest and sunniest the UK has known – and one of the driest – leading to a high level of sugar production in the leaves of our trees, providing us with a vibrant display of autumn colours. Now, as winter approaches, we have come full circle as temperatures again drop and snow is forecast.

Without these changing seasons, however, we cannot appreciate the full beauty and wonder of each. A bit like the church liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Ordinary Time, leading us through the cycles of celebration and reflection centered on the life of Jesus.

This year, Advent begins on Sunday, 30th November (Advent Sunday) marking the start of the church liturgical year. The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin 'adventus', meaning arrival and it concludes on Christmas Eve with a Midnight Mass as we celebrate the Nativity of Jesus – the incarnation of God.

Advent itself is a time of waiting and a time for reflection, renewal and hope and yet, all too often, it slips by unnoticed as we all become caught up in the frenzy of shopping. No wonder we are all exhausted by the time we sit down on Christmas Day for lunch!

Perhaps this year, therefore, we might all consider resting a while, giving ourselves chance to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas; why we have it and why it is so important. Afterall, the birth of Christ is the most amazing thing to have happened to humankind for, without Him, there would be no Christmas.

Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest.
Amen.

Happy Christmas, when it comes!

Christmas Hamper Draw: 12th December 2025

There is still time to buy your ticket for the annual Christmas draw and have a chance to win one of two large Christmas food hampers, or one of the many other prizes, whilst supporting St. Nicholas' Church.

The draw will take place on 12th December at The Black Lake Inn (after 8pm).

Christmas Tree Festival:

Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th December

Everyone is invited to our second Christmas Tree Festival which will be held over the weekend of Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th December, culminating in our Christmas Carol Service with Fulford Community Choir.

St. Nicholas' Church which will be open from 11:00_{am} until 4:00_{pm} on both days.

Christmas Carol Service:

Sunday 14th December 6:30 pm

We hope you will be able to join us as we look forward to celebrating Christmas with traditional carols and readings along with the chance to listen to a few more unusual songs when we are joined by Fulford Community Choir.

Coffee & Natter: 4th December 10:30_{am} - 12:30_{pm}

Our new 'Coffee & Natter' morning will be held in the Church annex on: Thursday 4th December, 10:30_{am} - 12:30_{pm}
(January, no coffee & natter)

Thursday 5th February 2026, 10:30_{am} - 12:30_{pm}

Enquires: Marjorie Green 01782 475113

PEW SHEET

We now produce a weekly Pew Sheet. If you are unable to get to church and would like a copy emailed, please contact:
julielongson@gmail.com

January 2026 Services

4 th	<i>January</i>	9:30 am	Epiphany Holy Communion
11 th	<i>January</i>	9:30 am	Plough Sunday Service
18 th	<i>January</i>	9:30 am	BCP Holy Communion (<i>said</i>)
25 th	<i>January</i>	9:30 am	Holy Communion
1 st	<i>February</i>	9:30 am	Holy Communion for Candlemas

Plough Sunday: Sunday 11th January

This is an ancient tradition where agricultural communities mark going back to work after Christmas. On Plough Sunday we will be thinking about and praying for those who work on the land and who produce food in this and other communities.

In line with the old tradition we will be blessing a plough and the seed as our farmers prepare for the year ahead.



Enquiries, Prayers and Home Communion



All enquires about weddings and baptisms or any other matters, in the first instance please contact the Vicar or Churchwarden.



Likewise, if you know of anyone who is ill or bereaved and would like to be prayed for or, if you or anyone you know would like a visit or Home Communion, please contact us.

Associate Vicar

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