



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 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – Advent 3



### Christ Church

8am Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Norma McKemey  
Sermon: Genny Williams

10am Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Daphne Hardwick  
Theme: 'Joy'

Children's Talk 'The Birth of John the Baptist' – Genny Williams  
Sermon: Genny Williams

Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Reader: Anne Grainger

Prayers: Anthony Slack

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

4pm Christingle Service – led by the Team

### St Mary's

2.30pm Carol Service – led by the Revds. David Day and Moira Slack

No morning service at St Mary's this week

[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 third Advent Candle, which represents John the Baptist.  
Please join in with the Response below:

Leader: We light this candle for all God's messengers,  
preparing the way for change,  
signs pointing to a new age to come.

**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](tel:08002605903) to join by phone

Use this Passcode [694043607#](https://www.bbc.com/1/programmes/694043607)

#### Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am Lethbridge Primary School Christmas Service (Cohort 1 of 2)

12 noon Commonweal School rehearsal for Christmas Service

6pm Commonweal School Christmas Service

#### Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am Lethbridge Primary School Christmas Service (Cohort 2 of 2)

#### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

10.30am Christ in Quiet

1.30pm Memorial Service in Christ Church for Stella Howarth,  
followed by burial of ashes in the Jubilee Memorial Garden

6.30pm Evening Prayer

7pm Fellowship of Faith

#### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am Lawn Manor Academy rehearsal for Christmas Service

1.30pm Lawn Manor Academy Christmas Service

#### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

1pm Advent Organ Recital by Tim Eyles

7.30pm Swindon Male Voice Choir Christmas Concert with  
Wroughton Silver Band & JTP Trust Concert Choir

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday 20th December</b> | 7pm Pilgrims of the Way at St Mary's<br>7.30pm Kelly Foundation Elton John Tribute Concert (doors open 6.30pm) |
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### 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 Bible Encounter Group</b>      | 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 7pm in Christ Church<br>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>Iona Worship Group</b>                             | Every 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday 11.30am at St Mary's - no meeting in December  |
| <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><br><a href="mailto:michael@christchurchswindon.co.uk">michael@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a> |

### Sunday 21st December - **Advent 4**

#### Christ Church

**8am Holy Communion**

**10am Informal Holy Communion**

**\* 6.30pm Service of Lessons & Carols**

**\*Please note later start time**

#### St Mary's

**9am Holy Communion**

**Update on Simon** Simon was discharged from the Brompton Hospital on Friday and is very pleased to have returned home after 10 weeks in hospital to continue to rest and recuperate.

The Doctors have advised that he must do all he can to avoid seasonal infections for the next six weeks at least. Therefore apart from his daily walks for his Cardio Rehab, he will stay at home and minimize socializing. He won't be participating in any public events for the time being.

Thank you for your kind thoughts, encouraging messages and continued prayers. We feel very blessed and continue to see the fingerprints of God throughout this testing time.

Every blessing to you all and with our love  
Nicola and Simon xx

**London Marathon Fundraiser** There will be a sale of Christmas sweet bags and a few other Christmas gift items in the Community Centre after the morning service this Sunday, and at the back of the church after Christingle. All proceeds towards Verity's fundraising for the Children's Society. Huge thanks for supporting her.

**Martin Hiscock** we were sorry to hear that Martin died in Prospect Hospice on Sunday morning 7<sup>th</sup> December. Martin was a much-loved member of the Christ Church congregation for many years, was church warden from 2002-2005 and was also chair of the Old Town Partnership of Churches 2006-2009. Daniel Pitt writes: *'Martin's leadership, wisdom, kindness and grace are some of his qualities that will be remembered. He set a high bar in his leadership roles.'*

*In addition to his many roles at - and outside - Christ Church with St Mary's, Martin was a regular member at Men's Breakfast, where on many occasions he courageously shared very personal issues, including depression, which affects many. Martin spoke, and wrote, directly and with compassion.*

*Outside his demanding professional life, Martin was also an assessor for the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, including Gold - another challenging role.'*

Please hold Wendy and all of Martin's family and friends in your prayers at this time.

**Canon Alastair Stevenson** died at Great Western Hospital on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December after a short illness. Alastair was a curate at Christ Church from 1984-87, serving under Canon Owen Barraclough, and will be fondly remembered by many who have been part of the Christ Church community since the 1980s. Please keep Margaret and the family in your prayers.

**Please remember to save your used postage stamps** and pop them in the box at the back of Christ Church. They go to raise money for the RNIB. Please

leave a margin of ½” around the stamps. Huge thanks to Angela Wirdnam for coordinating this for us for so many years.

### ✨**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 **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

### **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)

**‘Sisters in Scripture’ Young Women’s Bible Study** - Fortnightly on Thursdays 7pm at Mackenzies Bar, Wood Street. Our final meeting for 2025 has now happened and 2026 dates will be available soon. For further information please contact the Revd. Rach Collins [rach.collins@methodist.org.uk](mailto:rach.collins@methodist.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.

† 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 Stella Howarth, Pamela, Martin Hiscock, Alastair Stevenson 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<br>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.<br>522832                  |
| Christ Church Comms and Fundraising | Steve Cox:<br><a href="mailto:communications@christchurchswindon.co.uk">communications@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a>  |                                 |
| Gifts /Donations                    | Stephen Grosvenor, Gift Aid Secretary:<br><a href="mailto:stephen@christchurchswindon.co.uk">stephen@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a><br>Paul Ng, Treasurer:<br><a href="mailto:treasurer@christchurchswindon.co.uk">treasurer@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a><br>Different ways to support us:<br><a href="https://linktr.ee/supportchristchurchswindon">https://linktr.ee/supportchristchurchswindon</a> | Stephen<br>Tel. 07885<br>217077 |
| Community Centre @ Christ Church    | Chris - 07582 305760<br>Jenny - 07312 083949<br>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>

Christmas at Christ Church  
with St Mary's



**IN CHRIST CHURCH**

**Christingle Service**

**4pm Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

**Service of Lessons & Carols**

**6.30pm Sunday 21st December**

**Christmas Eve**

**4pm Crib Service**

**11pm Midnight Mass**

**Christmas Day**

**8am & 10am Holy Communion**

**AT ST MARY'S**

**Carol Service**

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

**'Blue Christmas'**

**7pm Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**