



WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH

Parish Newsletter

December 2025 & January 2026



Letters from our Vicar, Rector and Rural Dean, and from our Associate Priest

JOY

The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people ...' Luke 2.10-11

The Church of England's Advent and Christmas theme for 2025 revolves round a single word: Joy!

Our churches and cathedrals will – as always – be seeking to make the most of the opportunity December brings to share The Joy of Christmas with their communities.

The great joy of Christmas, of course, is the good news the angel declared to the shepherds – the news of Jesus' birth as Emmanuel (God with Us).

At the heart of this year's offering are three aims:

- To help schools and churches share the joy of Christmas with children and families.
- To help congregations to prepare for the joy of Christmas.
- To help all who will engage with Church this Christmas to enter deeper into prayer.

Once again we will be encouraging everyone who has shared the joy of celebrating Christ's birth to spend some time reflecting on that joy and praying daily throughout the Christmas season.

Your Rural Dean, James **Revd James Pitkin**

romseyareadean@gmail.com jamespitkin@priest.com
rector@tandbchurches.org.uk

December can be such a busy month, and the Christmas season seems to get longer every year. Have you decided which church service to attend (there are many)? Have you chosen a carol service (there are several to choose from)? Have you bought and wrapped your Christmas gifts? Whose turn is it to host? If you can feel the pressure building as you read these sentences then maybe it's time to do things a little differently.

This Advent, we could make time each week to have a cup of tea and sit quietly to consider the Christmas story, the nativity, the birth of Jesus. "Jesus is the reason for the season." It is not meant to be a time of stress, but instead a time of joy. A reminder that God stepped into our world to demonstrate how much we are loved. Christmas = Love.

Have a happy and joyful Christmas.

Revd Sara-Jane Stevens, Associate Priest X

Letters from Churchwardens

Advent, the start of the Church year, a season of hope, joy and expectations leading up to the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Sadly though, there are those in our community who still require additional support, especially at this time of year. The Wellow Scout Group, in collaboration with the Parish Council and St. Margaret's, are collecting gifts and food to donate to Romsey Food Bank for distribution. If you are able, please do donate for this worthy cause at our local drop points, Wellow Vicarage and the Church.

The Benefice charity for this month is Young Carers. I have been an adult carer and can appreciate how these young people selflessly make life bearable for others. It can cause anxiety, stress and loneliness and they need all the support available. I know we all have pressures on finances at this time of year but please do give whatever you can. Let us give hope for all; remember, hope is contagious and your actions will inspire others!

A reminder of our Christmas services where we celebrate the Holy Birth. There is the Carol Service at 6.00 p.m. on 21st December, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Our Crib Service is at 2.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and Eucharist Service at 9.15 a.m. on Christmas Day. All are welcome and I look forward to greeting you. For those unable to attend, I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Mel King, St Margaret's Churchwarden

We all need something cheery after the seriousness of the past few months, and usually in Sherfield that involves making a Christingle and the chaos of us all reaching for the best sweets and getting our candle vertically in the orange so as not to set anyone on fire when we light up. This year as we have a Joint Benefice Service on Advent Sunday we are going to Christingle on 21st December.

We have our Christmas coffee morning on 6th December with all the excitement that brings, hopefully no big storm overnight like last year! Festive spirit will ring out that afternoon as bell ringers are again bringing their handbells for some carol playing – my Mother and Brian Gould were a picture of concentration last year playing the handbells, with a bit of tuition from Caroline Daniels. There might have been a bit of counting but otherwise both were silent and that doesn't happen often!

Our own Carol Service is on 14th December at 6.00 p.m. with the traditional Lessons and Carols and a little bit of jollity thrown in before we enjoy a cup of wassail and a mince pie. A lovely community occasion to get us in the mood for Christmas. How many knitted Wise Men will be there this year? Three is just so pedestrian.

We are holding our "midnight" Communion at 8.00 p.m. as usual. I know midnight and 8.00 p.m. might be an oxymoron, and on Christmas Day at 11.00 a.m. just leave the turkey cooking while your family and visitors join us – the more the merrier!

May the message of Christmas fill the world with joy.

Julia Noble, St Leonard's Churchwarden

St Margaret's Services and Events

St Margaret's Services, Readers and Sidespersons for December 2025 and January 2026

| December 2025 | | Reader 1 | Reader 2 | Sidesperson |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Sunday 7th December | Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. Carols on Canada Common (Methodist Chapel) 2.30 p.m. Messy Church Christingle (Wellow Village Hall) 4.00 to 5.30 p.m. | Ann Jarrett | Carl Donnelly | Ann Jarrett |
| 14th | Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. | Lesley Mackay | John Parr | John Parr |
| 21st | Holy Communion (said) 9.15 a.m. Carol Service 6.00 p.m. | Tim Jobson Special Service | Sue Amey Readers | Tim Jobson Barbara King |
| 24th Christmas Eve | Crib Service 2.00 p.m. | Mel King | | Barbara King |
| 25th Christmas Day | Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. | Rose Forward | Barbara King | Barbara King |
| 28th | Holy Communion 8.15 a.m. Matins 9.15 a.m. | Paul Newby | Sue Forsey | Paul Newby |
| 4th January 2026 | Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. | Tim Jobson | Gael Clemmett | Tim Jobson |
| 11th | Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. | Lesley Mackay | John Parr | John Parr |
| 18th | Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. | Carl Donnelly | Jonathan Cooper | Barbara King |
| 25th | Holy Communion 8.15 a.m. Matins 9.15 a.m. | Paul Newby | Sue Harder | Paul Newby |
| 1st February | Holy Communion 9.15 a.m. Messy Church (Wellow Village Hall) 4.00 to 5.30 p.m. | Ann Jarrett | Rose Forward | Ann Jarrett |

Every week in St Margaret's Church Rooms (Transport can be arranged if needed)
Seasonal Lunch, Tuesday from 12 noon **Coffee and Chat, Thursday from 10.30 a.m.**

St Leonard's Services and Events

6th December (3.00 p.m. – open ringing from 2.00 p.m.) – Winchester & Portsmouth Guild of Bell Ringers Carol Service
7th December – Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin) **14th December (6.00 p.m.) – Carol Service**
21st December – “Christingle” Family Service (Revd Sara-Jane Stevens) **24th December (8.00 p.m.) – “Midnight” Mass**
25th December – Christmas Day Family Service (Clare Durham) **28th December – Morning Prayer (Julia Noble)**
4th January – Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin) **11th January – Morning Prayer**
18th January – Epiphany Family Service (Revd Sara-Jane Stevens) **25th January – Morning Prayer**
[Services are all in St Leonard's at 11.00 a.m. unless stated otherwise]

Saturdays 6th December and 7th February, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, Coffee Mornings in St Leonard's

Other Diocesan Notices in brief The Diocesan Roadshow will be at St Andrew's, Dibden Purlieu from 2.00 to 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday 27th January. More info may eventually appear on <https://winchester.anglican.org/courses-and-events/> Meanwhile see https://content.mailplus.nl/m21/docs/user503105400/3119/Diocesan_Roadshow_Meet_the_Team_2025-3.pdf.

Lectionary Listings for use in both Churches

| Date | Sunday | Old Testament | Psalm | New Testament | Gospel |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 7 December | 2nd of Advent (P) | Isaiah 11:1-10 | Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 | Romans 15:4-13 | Matthew 3:1-12 |
| 14 December | 3rd of Advent (P) | Isaiah 35:1-10 | Psalm 146:5-10 | James 5:7-10 | Matthew 11:2-11 |
| 21 December | 4th of Advent (P) | Isaiah 7:10-16 | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 | Romans 1:1-7 | Matthew 1:18-end |
| 24 December | Christmas Eve (W) | Isaiah 9:2-7 | Psalm 96 | Titus 2:11-14 | Luke 1:67-79 OR John 1:1-14 |
| 25 December | Christmas (W) | Isaiah 9:2-7 | Psalm 96 | Titus 2:11-14 | Luke 2:1-14[15-20] |
| 28 December | 1st Christmas (W) | Isaiah 63:7-9 | Psalm 148 | Hebrews 2:10-18 | Matthew 2:13-end |
| 4 January | 2nd Christmas (W) | Jeremiah 31:7-14 | Psalm 147:12-20 | Ephesians 1:3-14 | John 1:[1-9]10-18 |
| 11 January | Baptism of Christ | Isaiah 42:1-9 | Psalm 29 | Acts 10:34-43 | Matthew 3:13-end |
| 18 January | 2nd Epiphany (W) | Isaiah 49:1-7 | Psalm 40:1-11 | 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 | John 1:29-42 |
| 25 January | 3rd Epiphany (W) | Isaiah 9:1-4 | Psalm 27:1, 4-9 | 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 | Matthew 4:12-23 |
| 1 February | Candlemas (W) | Malachi 3:1-4 | Psalm 84 | Hebrews 2:14-18 | Luke 2:22-40 |

In case of ambiguity, Readers should not hesitate to consult the Celebrant to check which variant is required.
 At St Margaret's Matins, Second Reading is the Gospel. Altar Frontal Purple, then White/Gold.

St Margaret's Church, East with West Wellow and St Leonard's Church, Sherfield English

<https://tandbchurches.org.uk/news-notice/> <https://www.sherfieldenglish.org.uk/st-leonards-church>

Rector/Vicar : Revd James Pitkin rector@tandbchurches.org.uk 01794 340635

Associate Priest : Revd Sara-Jane Stevens revsj@btinternet.com 01794 765762

Curate : Revd Yin-Yin Bull yin-yin@tandbchurches.org.uk 07726 692452

St Margaret's PCC Secretary : Mrs Lesley Mackay lesley_mackay@outlook.com 01794 322570

Parish Newsletter Compiler : Mr Paul Newby paul.r.t.newby@btinternet.com 01794 322993

St Margaret's, East with West Wellow, Churchwardens

Mr Roy Perry : roy.perry123@btinternet.com

Mr Mel King : melk48@hotmail.com 01794 519433

St Leonard's, Sherfield English, Churchwardens

Miss Julia Noble: julia@manorfarmpark.co.uk 01794 322497 Mrs Clare Durham: sherfieldclare@gmail.com 07980 314838