



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 8.30am-4.30pm) or email [parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk](mailto:parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk)**

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Pentecost Christ Church

8am Holy Communion – led by the Revd. David Day

10am Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Norma McKemey

Sermon: The Revd. Nitin Shinde

Theme: 'Peace, Power and Purpose'

Readings: Acts 2: 1-21; John 20: 19-23

Reader: Simon Giles

Prayers: Ailsa Palmer

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

12 noon Holy Baptism – the Revd. Norma McKemey

*We welcome the family and friends of Harper Magali Gardner Valente*

6.30pm Informal Evening Worship – led by James Davies-Spratt

## St Mary's

9am Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Moira Slack

[Download our monthly Service Poster](#)

## Bible verse for 2026



## 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

**Week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> May**

<b>Morning Prayer</b>	9-9.30am Monday, Tuesday and Thursday Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel 7.30am Saturday Morning Prayer & Men's Breakfast 9-9.30am Wednesday & Friday Virtual Morning Prayer Telephone: <u>0800 2605903</u> to join by phone Use this passcode 694043607#
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May Bank Holiday</b>	10am Full peal attempt on the Christ Church Bells 3pm Treasure Together Spiritual Reflection Group in the Large Meeting Room
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May</b>	6pm Confirmation Rehearsal in Christ Church
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10.30am Christ in Quiet 2pm Memorial Service for David Hobbs in Christ Church 6.30pm Evening Worship 7pm Bible Encounter Group
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10am funeral of Patricia Ferris in Christ Church
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>NO IONA WORSHIP GROUP THIS MONTH</b> 3.30pm burial of ashes of Eileen Churcher in Jubilee Memorial Garden 7pm Pilgrims of the Way at St Mary's
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May</b>	7.30am Morning Prayer & Men's Breakfast 10am visiting ringers to the church bells 6.30pm in Christ Church - Red Events Presents the Music of the Lord of the Rings – an orchestral tribute to Howard Shore

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026 – Trinity Sunday**

**Christ Church**

**8am Holy Communion**

**10am Partnership Confirmation Service – see paragraph below for further information**

**6.30pm Songs of Praise**

**St Mary's**

**9am Holy Communion**

**There will be a full peal attempt on the Christ Church Bells on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May, starting at 10am.** We wish the ringers every success. If all goes well the bells will be ringing for around 3¾ hours.

## Grateful thanks and phased return

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your continued friendship, prayers and acts of kindness which we have appreciated so much as a family, which have come from across our Old Town Partnership and the wider Swindon community. We thank God for you all and for the continued physical and emotional healing which we are experiencing as the days go by.

We were away last week in Cornwall and really benefitted from the sea air and coastal walking. We were greatly blessed at an Ascensiontide service in Sidmouth last Sunday followed by Choral Evensong at Truro Cathedral last Tuesday.

As we hold you in our love and prayers this Pentecost this Icon of Tenderness from Truro Cathedral speaks to us deeply. We share it with you praying that you will experience healing love of God in the midst of your joys and challenges.



We are looking forward to my phased return to public ministry as Vicar on Sunday 31st May at the Partnership Confirmation service. In June I will be working 10 hours per week, in July 20 hours, in August 30 hours. I am grateful to our Archdeacon, the Ven. Christopher Bryan who will be overseeing this. We will ensure there is clear communication and clarity with the Staff team, to whom we are so grateful, about what I can and can't take on. Primarily I will

be concentrating on preparing and leading Sunday services and the occasional offices, building up my confidence step by step.

Thank you for your understanding about this gradual process. Please continue to pray for us and the team working at the heart of Christ Church and St Mary's in the Old Town Partnership of Churches.

With our love and prayers for Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit. May each of us, wherever we are, experience the spray of God's love, Jesus' grace and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

'Here is Love, vast as the ocean.'

Every blessing, *Simon and Nicola*

### **Ordination of Priests 4th July 3pm at Bristol Cathedral**

Andy, Martina, Nitin and Sophie are all expecting to be priested at this service. The Deanery is investigating the possibility of a coach from Swindon as members of many churches may wish to attend. This is likely to start and end at St John's Parks where there is plenty of parking and will cost roughly £18 return. Please email Martina [martina.lewis@ntlworld.com](mailto:martina.lewis@ntlworld.com) by **31st May** if you would like to go by coach. Return time to Swindon is estimated at around 7.30pm.

### **Engineering Work Experience Opportunity Needed**

I am looking for help finding a work experience placement for my son, Fabian, aged 17, who is studying for a BTEC Engineering Diploma alongside A-Levels in Maths and Physics.

As part of his course requirements, he needs to complete a full-time two-week placement (10 working days) between 29th June and 10th July in an engineering-related company or organisation.

Fabian is bright, hardworking, and keen to learn, but despite contacting a number of companies, we have not yet been able to secure a placement. We are therefore hoping someone within the church community may have a contact or connection that could help open a door.

Ideally, the placement would be in the Swindon area, but we are willing to travel if necessary.

If you may be able to help, or know someone who could, please contact: *Jennifer Miles*. Email: [jenniannemiles@gmail.co.uk](mailto:jenniannemiles@gmail.co.uk) Tel: 07952 875994

## **Message from West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze treasurers: Independent Examiner**

Shaw and St Mary's used to be part of an ecumenical group of churches which also included Toothill and Westlea. This partnership ended last year.

This is going to be the first year that both our churches will need to have our accounts checked, or so we believe, and we need them doing before the end of June.

Are there any accountants who would be able to independently examine the accounts of the 2 churches please?

Please contact Stephen Kershaw [stephen.kershaw2@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.kershaw2@gmail.com) and copy Sally Robertson [sally.robertson27@btinternet.com](mailto:sally.robertson27@btinternet.com) if you are able to help or have a recommendation of someone who might be by 24<sup>th</sup> May.

Once again, our thanks for any assistance.

God Bless

*Stephen Kershaw, Treasurer Holy Trinity Church, Shaw*

*Mary Martin Treasurer St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze*

**Partnership Confirmation Service** Our confirmation service this year is at **10am on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026 in Christ Church**. Please do put this date in your diary and come along to support Matt and Bradley from Christ Church, Ite and Abiola from Bath Road, Jenny who will be received into the Fellowship of Immanuel, and Jennifer Miles who will be received into full membership of the Church of England at this service.

## **Possible prayer group**

Following the Prayer For Swindon prayer meeting at Christ Church on 16<sup>th</sup> May we are exploring the possibility of setting up a monthly prayer meeting in Christ Church to pray for those who are sick, for our town, country & across the World including the Persecuted Church. If interested, please contact the Parish Office [parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk](mailto:parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk) 01793 522832 or Verity Brooke-Maples 07900 988938. Date & time to be arranged after we identify the level of interest & people's availability.

**'Ny Ako – All My Springs are in You' Echoes from Madagascar Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm at Immanuel**. Cultural music and dance by young people from Madagascar. **Free entry**, donations on the night welcome. Plus, a chance to buy crafts from Madagascar. For more information, please contact Barbara on 07769 973015

**The High Sheriff of Wiltshire's Annual Charity Concert in Christ Church – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2026 7.30pm** featuring Ten in a Bar and the JTP Trust Youth Choir. Tickets £10 (concert only) or £20 (concert and reception afterwards) are available from the Parish Office (cash or cheque only) or online at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/high-sheriffs-charity-concert-organised-by-rotary-swindon-cares-for-swa-tickets-1984474854711> (please note that Eventbrite takes a small admin fee).

### **We'd love for you to join us at the Bristol Diocese Roadshow!**

Come and discover inspiring stories from churches that have been supported by our buildings, environment, fundraising, volunteering, and racial justice teams. You'll have the chance to meet team members, ask questions, and share your own experiences.

#### **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 4-6.30pm in Christ Church**

(also, 3rd June at St Peter's Filton and 10<sup>th</sup> June at St Andrew's Filton)

Booking <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/diocese-support-service-roadshows-tickets-1987532415959?aff=oddtcreator>

### **Believing Science Wonder Day**

**Saturday 22nd August 10am-4pm at Bath Road Methodist** on behalf of the Old Town Partnership.

This is a family fun day exploring God's creation with a scientific twist. We will be hiring in a planetarium, and exploring the world through the Astronomy, Green, Life, Light & Colour and Observatory Zones. Previous examples can be found at <https://www.believingscience.org/wonder-days>

Volunteers needed to:

- lead on the zones (craft skills and science knowledge welcome but not necessary – full briefing provided)
- welcome the families
- chat with visitors
- provide refreshments
- set up on Friday and or clear away on Saturday.

Full day or half day shifts available.

More details from Revd Rach – [rach.collins@methodist.org.uk](mailto:rach.collins@methodist.org.uk)

Save the date and sign up now to volunteer -

<https://forms.gle/iQzNGrBkJErLsas68>

## **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>

## **Join Us for the Christ Church Eco Fair & Summer Fete!**

We are thrilled to invite you and your family to kick off this year's Swindon Churches Green Festival with a brilliant day of community, fun, and eco-friendly celebration!

On Saturday, 6th June, from 11am to 3pm, the Christ Church grounds will come alive with a Summer Fete and Eco Fair. As a proud A Rocha Gold Award Eco Church, this event is a wonderful expression of our commitment to being Rooted in Faith – Growing a Greener Future. Whether you want to browse the eco-stalls and plant sales, chat with local wildlife organizations, or take part in our Churchyard Wildlife Count, there are plenty of ways to connect with God's creation.

Of course, it wouldn't be a summer celebration without plenty of classic fete fun! The afternoon will feature a bouncy castle, games, face painting, and eco-craft activities for the children, alongside a selection of wonderful stalls to browse. We will have fantastic hot and cold food options available, as well as our cafe and cider bar to keep everyone refreshed.

Don't forget to bring your four-legged family members along too—they can test their skills on our "Try Out" Dog Agility Course!

This event marks the launch of a whole week of green festival activities running until 14th June – find out more at:

<https://linktr.ee/SwindonChurchesGreenFestival>

Entry is completely free with a small charge for some activities, so please invite your neighbours, bring your friends, and let's celebrate together.

## For your prayers

† Mike Shurmer, John Webb, Ann Sharpe, Ali Potter, Neville Gray, Simon Stevenette, Manda Shinde, Barbara Sheppard, Kaf Smith, Gordon Hudd, Emilia Shaw, Ian Handy, Michael Porter, Reg Hardwick, Brigitte Chandler 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 Patricia Ferris, David Hobbs, Eileen Churcher and all those mourning a loved one

† For Adam & Linzi who were married in Christ Church on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, and for Liam and Amanda Wood who were married here on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025

† For Harper who will be baptised this Sunday

† 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: <a href="mailto:staffteam@christchurchswindon.co.uk">staffteam@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a>	
Parish Administrator / Clerk Christ Church Comms and Fundraising	Carol Simmons: <a href="mailto:parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk">parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a> Steve Cox: <a href="mailto:communications@christchurchswindon.co.uk">communications@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a>	Tel. 522832
Gifts /Donations	Stephen Grosvenor, Gift Aid Secretary: <a href="mailto:stephen@christchurchswindon.co.uk">stephen@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a> Paul Ng, Treasurer: <a href="mailto:treasurer@christchurchswindon.co.uk">treasurer@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a> Different ways to support us: <a href="https://linktr.ee/supportchristchurchswindon">https://linktr.ee/supportchristchurchswindon</a>	Stephen Tel. 07885 217077
Community Centre @ Christ Church	Chris – 01793 267500 Jenny - 07312 083949 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/christchurchswindonecohob>

**Swindon Churches Green Festival**  
6TH TO 14TH JUNE  
Rooted in Faith - Growing a Greener Future

## ECO FESTIVAL



- Churchyard Wildlife Count
- Nature Trail
- Amphibians
- Bird Spotting
- Local Wildlife & Eco Organisations
- Eco stalls - plant sales, and more

## SUMMER FETE



- Bouncy Castle
- Games
- Eco craft activity
- Face painting
- Stalls
- Hot and cold food
- Cafe and bar
- Try Out Dog Agility Course

**CHRIST CHURCH SWINDON, OLD TOWN, SN1 3HB**  
**11AM TO 3PM - SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**




ROOTED IN FAITH  
GROWING A  
GREENER FUTURE



**THAMESDOWN LADIES CHOIR**

# "This is why we sing"

With special guests  
**Devizes Clarinet Ensemble**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 7.30pm

Immanuel URC | Upham Road | Swindon

Tickets £12.50 (concessions under 16)  
Refreshments provided

Tickets available for choir members.  
e.mail: [sing.tlchoir@gmail.com](mailto:sing.tlchoir@gmail.com) Tel: 07597 737234

**RAISING MONEY FOR SWINDON STROKE SUPPORT GROUP**




TICKETS

**Christ Church Swindon**

**HOLY ROOD ON THE LAWN**  
**THE HEART AND SOUL OF SWINDON**

**THE FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH ANNUAL LECTURE:**  
**THE HOLY ROOD RESCUE PROJECT**  
by Claudia Suckling  
Director of Wiltshire Historic Buildings Trust

**THURSDAY 11 JUNE 3-4PM AT CHRIST CHURCH**  
Refreshments Available  
Members FREE | Non-Members £5





Images showing the recent vandalism in the church

# Organ Recital

**BY CHARLES VINCE**





**IN CHRIST CHURCH**  
**WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE**  
**1PM - 2PM**

Refreshments by the Friends of Christ Church  
Retiring collection in aid of church funds

