



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 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 – Easter 5 Christ Church

8am 1662 Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Norma McKemey  
Sermon: Ailsa Palmer

10am All Age Worship – led by the Team

Theme: 'A Place for Everyone'

Reading: Acts 8: 26-40 (dramatised)

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

3pm Messy Church at Bath Road Methodist Church

6.30pm Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Norma McKemey  
Sermon: James Davies-Spratt

## St Mary's

9am Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Norma McKemey  
Sermon: Ailsa Palmer

[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

**Our mission:** By proclaiming Christ through teaching and example:

- By welcoming and serving all through hospitality.
- By encouraging people to find God through worship, faith, and prayer.
- By providing a spiritual home and resources for the local community.
- By transforming Swindon and beyond with God's hope and compassion.

**Our values:** We will do this with humility, grace, and respect, listening prayerfully to God and our neighbours.

### Week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> May

**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: 0800 2605903 to join by phone  
Use this Passcode 694043607#

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May - Bank Holiday** 9am Morning Prayer  
NO TREASURE TOGETHER TODAY – we will be back on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May** BEER FESTIVAL SET UP – CHURCH CLOSED EXCEPT FOR:  
9am Morning Prayer

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May** BEER FESTIVAL SET UP – CHURCH CLOSED EXCEPT FOR:  
10.30am Christ in Quiet  
*11.30am Funeral of Brenda Babington at Kingsdown Crematorium*  
6.30pm Evening Worship  
7pm Fellowship of Faith – Mental Health check-in – **see paragraph below for further information**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May** BEER FESTIVAL SET UP – CHURCH CLOSED EXCEPT FOR:  
9am Morning Prayer  
1pm Burial of Ashes of Jean Baxter in Christ Church Burial Ground  
8pm (doors 6pm) – The 13<sup>th</sup> Old Town Beer Festival – Comedy Night

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May** The 13<sup>th</sup> Old Town Beer Festival

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May** 9am Morning Prayer  
The 13<sup>th</sup> Old Town Beer Festival

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Sunday before Ascension Day

#### Christ Church

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

3pm The 13<sup>th</sup> Old Town Beer Festival Finale – Family Music Bingo

**NB No evening service in Christ Church**

#### St Mary's

9am Holy Communion

Please note that Christ Church will be closed from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May for Beer Festival Set up, except for services and events shown above

If you missed Revd. Robert Jordan's farewell service last Sunday, you can watch back here <https://www.youtube.com/live/hsN6BPgfOZk>

**Ascension Day Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May** there will be a service of Holy Communion in Christ Church at 7.30pm – all welcome

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting Results

On Sunday 19th April, we met to decide who should represent us on our Parochial Church Council for 2026-2027. The meeting was led by Norma McKemey, and attended by 34 parishioners, with 8 apologies. Our Church Wardens were elected: Sheila Wright and Paul Andrews, with thanks to Simon Giles for the great service he has given over the past two years. Our new PCC lay members are Sarah Garrett (Safeguarding lead), Elizabeth Breakspear - Jones, Simon Giles, Stan Hagarty, David Ratnam, Judith Hawkins, Alison Tremlett, Yvonne Andrews, Janice Titcombe, and Helen Hartnell (Secretary). Genny Williams is our PCC Licensed Lay-Minister on the PCC. At the meeting, Paul Ng presented the Financial Report for 2025 and continues as our Finance Officer for 2026. The new representatives for the Swindon Deanery Synod are Anthony Slack, Daniel Pitt and John Pryce. Several questions were asked from the floor. If you would like to see the full minutes of the APCM, please request a copy from either Helen Hartnell ([helen@Christchurchswindon.co.uk](mailto:helen@Christchurchswindon.co.uk)) or from Carol Simmons at the Parish Office. *Helen Hartnell*

### Praise the Lord!



Dear Family and friends at Christ Church and beyond, Thank you SO SO much for praying for me last Sunday. I felt uplifted by your intercessions throughout. I arrived safely at the Start line, and met a random fellow cardiac pacemaker runner there from New York. What a lovely encounter. Had a wonderful wander through the streets of London, including a 10-minute fun photo shoot on Tower Bridge, courtesy of a kind spectator. Had hugs and chats with the Children's Society team at mile 13, and

more hugs and chats with Shin Splint supporters from Swindon at other miles further on, and then my dear family by Buckingham Palace! Was so excited to see the Finish line that I managed a speedy sprint! Praise the Lord! I finished

feeling good with no calamities enroute. I took it VERY carefully and enjoyed the day immensely.

Your support and donations to my fundraising have brought the total thus far to well over £5,000, including Gift Aid.

I am humbled by your love and generosity.

Thank you a million times and thanks be to God for His care of me along the way. I am blessed beyond measure.

A few of you have asked me to post my link again, so here it is. The page is open for a further month. God bless you all. *Verity*.

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/verity-brooke-1757751292872?utm\\_medium=FA&utm\\_source=WA](https://www.justgiving.com/page/verity-brooke-1757751292872?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=WA)

## Mental Health Check-in!!



At Fellowship of Faith, we value talking about mental health, and regularly host check-ins.

Hosted by our very own qualified Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner (PWP) and co-founder of Fellowship of Faith. On May 6th we are invited to learn about Coping Strategies. Everyone is welcome, there's no pressure to talk, but if you want to, or need to, this is a safe space for you.

For more info contact:

[fellowshipoffaithoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:fellowshipoffaithoutreach@gmail.com)

## We Need You: Join Us in Supporting Our Biggest Fundraising Festival

The Old Town Beer & Cider Festival has become a much-loved tradition at Christ Church and remains our biggest annual fundraiser. While it is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together, enjoy great company and celebrate, its core purpose is to raise essential funds that support the ongoing work of Christ Church and our Community Centre. These funds enable us to continue offering vital services, outreach and practical support to people across Old Town and beyond throughout the year.

Thanks to the generosity of everyone who attends, volunteers and supports the festival, we are also able to extend that impact further by partnering with additional charities each year. Over the past 12 years this has included a wide range of incredible organisations such as Swindon Food Collective, Prospect Hospice, Swindon Women's Aid, Wiltshire Tree House and many others. This

year we are proud to support Swindon Town FC Community Foundation and Sepsis Research FEAT, alongside the church's ongoing mission.

As we head towards the finale of this year's festival, we'd especially love your support for our Music Bingo evening — a relaxed, church-friendly and family-friendly event featuring uplifting rounds of pop music across the decades alongside a special round of ancient and modern church songs. It promises to be a fun and inclusive way to round off the festival while raising vital funds. Please buy tickets, bring your friends and family, and help us make a real difference together.

Find out more and buy your tickets at <https://oldtownbeerfestival.com/100-hits-bingo/>

### **People's Emergency Briefing at Christ Church**

Christ Church welcomed 75 people on 27th April for a screening of People's Emergency Briefing, presented by Chris Packham and organised by the Christ Church Eco Group. Supported by local church Eco groups and environmental organisations, the film explored the climate and nature crisis and practical ways individuals and communities can respond.

Following the screening, attendees joined discussion groups to reflect on local action. Daniel Pitt said he was encouraged by the strong support and shared commitment to working together on these important challenges.

Christ Church, recently awarded A Rocha Gold for environmental stewardship, now looks ahead to the upcoming Swindon Churches Green Festival (6–14 June), offering further opportunities to celebrate creation and inspire positive action.

Find out more on our Eco Group page:

<https://www.christchurchswindon.co.uk/blog/eco-church/>

### **Christian Aid Week 2026 – 10th to 16th May. 7 DAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

It will be Christian Aid Week from 10th to 16th May, and we need some volunteers to deliver the envelopes. Delivery-only envelopes are a simple, contact-free way to collect donations from your local community without the need to knock and collect. You can do this while walking the dog, out with the children or just having a stroll in the spring sunshine (when we get some)

Please let me know if you are able to help. Mike Palmer 01793 635112  
[michael@christchurchswindon.co.uk](mailto:michael@christchurchswindon.co.uk)

### **Pray for Swindon 2026 – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 7-9pm in Christ Church**

Good News for Swindon would like to invite you to join us in worship together and pray for Swindon! We want to respond to Scripture's encouragement to 'Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...and pray to the Lord on its behalf' (Jeremiah 29:7), by inviting God to bless Swindon and to pray for his Kingdom to come and his will to be done here – that his salvation, light and healing would be seen and known in Swindon this year!

God's people united in prayer are powerful, and Swindon needs a church who prioritise prayer! So, please make this a priority by putting the date in your diary and coming along.

**One Nurse. Three wars. Always the Children.** Join us for an inspiring evening with Anne Watts, former Save the Children Nurse, as she shares powerful stories from the front line in celebration of A Million Acts of Hope Week.

**A 3 course Italian dinner, followed by a talk.**

Date: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May

Time: 6.30pm arrival | Dinner served at 7pm

Venue: Fabio's Restaurant, Bath Road, Swindon

Cost: £25 per person

#### **Booking**

Email Fidelma Meehan: [F.Meehan@savethechildren.org](mailto:F.Meehan@savethechildren.org)

Phone: 07970 868364

**Learn more about Anne and her work:**

[www.annewatts.co.uk](http://www.annewatts.co.uk)

All proceeds will be donated to Save the Children

### **Join our Diocesan Pilgrimage 2026**

Step into a nine-day pilgrimage from the 15<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026, for an adventure of prayer, story, and hope. Kingdom Seeds in Local Soils coincides with Thy Kingdom Come and is part of our Bristol diocesan Rhythm of Life. It's a call to pray that the seeds of God's kingdom may be sown in every corner of our diocese. You can join us for as much, or little, of the journey as you are able - even if that's simply saying hello as we pass through! Find out more here:

<https://www.bristol.anglican.org/churchlife/resourcesforparishes/mdiyp/sowi>

[ng-seeds-in-kingdom-soil/kingdom-seeds-in-local-soils--diocesan-pilgrimage-2026.php](https://www.churchswindon.co.uk/kingdom-seeds-in-local-soils--diocesan-pilgrimage-2026.php)

**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 the confirmands as they make this important step in their journey of faith.

**'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).

### **Upcoming Events at Christ Church and the Community Centre**

Our latest Events brochure is available online now. View it here:

<https://www.churchswindon.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>

### **For your prayers**

† Mike Shurmer, John Webb, Ann Sharpe, Ali Potter, Neville Gray, Simon Stevenette, Barbara Sheppard, Kaf Smith, Gordon Hudd, Emilia Shaw, Ian Handy, Michael Porter, Reg Hardwick 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 Jean Baxter, Brenda Babington, Maureen Puffett, Margaret Bohane, Marion Brickell, Terry Wollen, Patricia Ferris, Monica Butcher 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 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. 522832
Christ Church Comms and Fundraising	Steve Cox: <a href="mailto:communications@christchurchswindon.co.uk">communications@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a>	
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 - 07582 305760 Jenny - 07312 083949 email - <a href="mailto:ccooperations@christchurchswindon.co.uk">ccooperations@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>

**COMEDY . LIVE MUSIC . BREWS & BEATS . MUSIC BINGO**

**Old Town Beer Festival Centurion Edition**

**100 Beers & Ciders**

**THU 7TH - SUN 10TH MAY**

[WWW.OLDTOWNBEERFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.OLDTOWNBEERFESTIVAL.COM)

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Christ Church Swindon

Partnership with Festival of Swindon

**SWINDON OLD TOWN COMEDY CLUB**  
THURSDAY MAY 7TH  
TICKETS £15.00 (INCLUDES FREE BEER)

**ESTHER MANITO**  
**SAMANTHA BAY**

**Brews & Beats**  
THE ART AND SCIENCE OF PAIRING BEER AND MUSIC  
with acclaimed author and Sunday Times Beer Critic - Peter Brown

**FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1:30-4:30PM**  
CHRIST CHURCH SWINDON  
TICKETS £10 (includes 4 x 1/2 pint tasters)

**THE XIII OLD TOWN BEER FESTIVAL**  
WHAT THE PLUCK 5-6:30PM  
LIVE MUSIC NIGHT SATURDAY 9TH MAY 5-10PM

**100 HITS FAMILY MUSIC BINGO!**  
GAMES | PRIZES | DRINKS  
CHRIST CHURCH SWINDON  
SUN 10TH MAY | 3-6PM  
SNACKS, BEER & CIDER INCLUDED  
ADULTS £10  
KIDS £5

beer fest finale

# 100 HITS

# FAMILY

# MUSIC

# BINGO!

Beer Festival  
Centurion  
Edition



Christ Church  
Swindon

GAMES | PRIZES | DRINKS  
CHRIST CHURCH SWINDON

SUN 10TH MAY | 3-6PM

SNACKS, BEER & CIDER INCLUDED

ADULTS £10

KIDS £5



[WWW.OLDTOWNBEERFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.OLDTOWNBEERFESTIVAL.COM)

# **Ascension Day**

## **Service of Holy Communion**



**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm**  
**in Christ Church**  
**ALL WELCOME**



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**

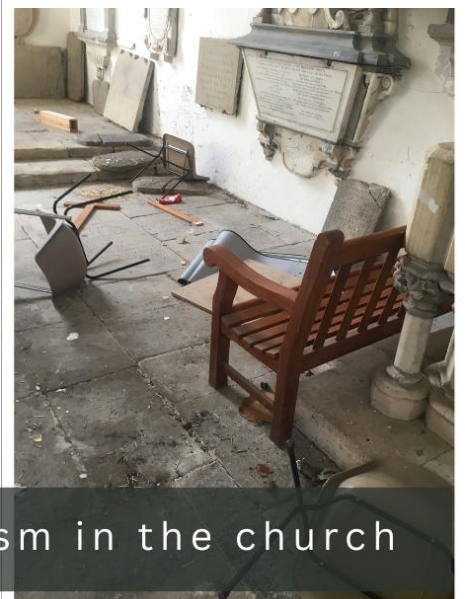
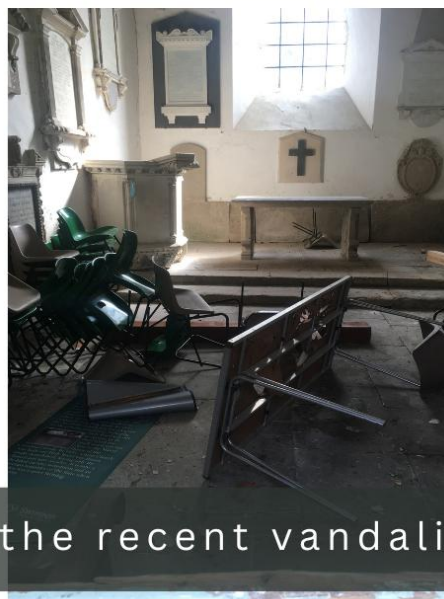
by Claudia Suckling

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



# ny AKO

ALL MY

ARE IN YOU

# Spirings



ECHOES FROM MADAGASCAR



Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm

Immanuel Church, Upham Road

Cultural music & dance by young people from Madagascar

**FREE!** Donations on the night welcome  
Plus a chance to buy crafts from Madagascar

Swindon Old Town Partnership Of Churches

More info:  
Barbara 0776 997 3015