



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 13<sup>th</sup> September 2026 – Trinity 15**

**Christ Church**

**Vocations Sunday**

**Mission Giving Day for Swindon Commercial Chaplaincy**

**8am Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Canon Simon Stevenette**

**10am Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Canon Simon Stevenette**

**Children's Talk & Sermon - the Revd. Canon Becca Stevens, Bristol Diocese**

**Adviser for Ordinands and Vocations**

**Children's Talk – 'Forgiveness: Letting Go with Open Hands'**

**Sermon: 'Vocation, Forgiveness & Mercy'**

**Readings: Genesis 50: 15-21; Matthew 18: 21-35**

**Reader: Polly Sternbauer**

**Prayers: Nicola Stevenette**

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

**12.30pm Holy Baptism – the Revd. Daphne Hardwick**

***We welcome the family and friends of Sebastian Alexander Wood***

**6.30pm Healing Service – led by Ailsa Palmer**

**St Mary's**

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

**[Download our Monthly Service Poster](#)**



## 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 14<sup>th</sup> September

|                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Morning Prayer</b>                      | 9-9.30am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel<br>9-9.30am Wednesday & Friday Virtual Morning Prayer<br>Telephone: <u>0800 2605903</u> to join by phone<br>Use this passcode 694043607# |
| <b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September</b>    | 3pm Treasure Together in the Large Meeting Room                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September</b> | 10.30am Christ in Quiet<br>6.30pm Evening Worship<br>7pm Fellowship of Faith 4 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bring & Share Meal at the Vicarage                                                                                |
| <b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September</b>  | 2.30pm <i>Funeral of Ian Hedges at Kingsdown Crematorium</i><br>4pm 'Where Art Thou' Art Group in the Garden Room                                                                                                          |
| <b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September</b>  | 1-4pm Heritage Open Day & Flower Festival<br>7 for 7.30pm Friends of Christ Church Anniversary Quiz Night                                                                                                                  |

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September – Trinity 16

#### Christ Church

**8am Holy Communion**

**10am Informal Holy Communion**

**4-6.30pm Friends of Christ Church 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Afternoon Tea**

**6.30pm Choral Evensong**

#### St Mary's

**9am Holy Communion**

**Carol is now on leave and will be back in the office on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September. If anything is urgent please speak to Chris or Jenny – thank you.**

**Mission Giving Sunday** Our first Mission Giving Sunday for 2026 is **THIS SUNDAY 13th September** and will be for Swindon Commercial Chaplaincy. Our Churchwarden, Sheila, will be speaking at the morning service along with Mrs

Chris German, Secretary of SCS and Working Chaplain, to give you more information about this vital service. Please give generously – thank you. **Our guest preacher this morning is the Revd. Canon Becca Stevens, Bristol Diocese Adviser for Ordinands and Vocations.**

### Grateful thanks

Thank you once again for your kindness and prayers during my 16-day stay in hospital since 15th August. I was very well looked after on Mercury Ward and benefited greatly from the ministry of the Chaplaincy Team and local clergy.

It was very good to be discharged home on Monday this week and I return to the hospital each afternoon for my daily IV antibiotic treatment until the 27 September. Unfortunately, it meant that Nicola and I were unable to go away on a week's retreat to St Beuno's in North Wales, although we were very pleased that Hugo took up one of our places and has had an excellent time. I have walked down to Holy Rood church and received a blessing from Father Mark. We look forward to welcoming Father Lucas to preach at our Choral Evensong service on Sunday 20th September 6.30pm. All welcome

Archdeacon Christopher and I have agreed that I shall return to work on 20 hours per week on phased return until the end of September. I am very grateful to the Staff Team as they have taken on more responsibilities on my behalf. Please pray for us as we meet together on Monday night planning for this term and working towards Christmas.

The PCC, Children and Families working group are considering on our behalf working towards the appointment of a Children and Families Minister. Please pray for their meeting on Tuesday night as we commission them today for all their work in this vital area.

Please be assured of my continued friendship and prayers as we continue as lifelong learners and teachers.

God bless us all, *Simon*

### National Suicide Prevention Week 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September

Christ Church and the Community Centre has been supporting National Suicide Prevention week, which began last Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

There is a 'Tree of Hope' in the Community Centre Lobby for people to write a message of hope, kindness or encouragement on a leaf which is then added to our tree. Your words could brighten someone's day, remind them they are not alone, or inspire hope when it's needed most.

Please do visit the Centre and add your leaf.

The tree will remain there until the end of Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

### Fellowship of Faith

A very warm welcome to you all, from Fellowship of Faith group, to join us at our 4th anniversary Bring and Share meal in the Vicarage garden around a campfire on Wednesday 16th September at 7pm-9pm.

### Calling all cake bakers!

Can you help bake a cake for the Friends of Christ Church 25th anniversary? Cakes needed for Sunday 20th September. Please get in touch with Chris if you can help and to confirm what type of cake you can provide.

[chris@christchurchswindon.co.uk](mailto:chris@christchurchswindon.co.uk) – 01793 267500

**Our next choral evensong in Christ Church is on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm.** This will bring our Friends of Christ Church 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations to a joyful close. The choir will be singing music by Philip Ledger, Robert Jones and Philip Moore. **Our guest preacher will be Fr Lucas Rodrigues, Priest in Charge of Holy Rood Roman Catholic Church.** Please come along to the Friends of Christ Church afternoon tea (see poster below) and stay on for evensong!

### NEW MUSICAL SETTING FOR COMMUNION SERVICES

#### A message from Tim Eyles, Director of Music:

We have been using our current musical setting of the communion service for at least 15 years and I think it is time for a change. In discussion with the vicar, we have decided to introduce the new music from the morning service on 27th September. It is called the Mass of St Thomas and was composed by David Thorne about 30 years ago. You can listen to it on YouTube here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVMJxiIXQMs&list=RDvVMJxiIXQMs&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVMJxiIXQMs&list=RDvVMJxiIXQMs&start_radio=1)

I will run through the Gloria, Gospel responses, Sanctus, Benedictus and Eucharistic prayer acclamations before the services on 27th September, 3rd October (6.30pm) and 10th October to help you get the hang of the music. I hope you enjoy it!



## Swindon Food Collective Harvest Appeal

Swindon Food Collective is Swindon's primary food bank. During 2025 we supplied over 90,000 meals to the local community, a third of meals provided were to children. During 2026 so far, we have seen a 22% increase in demand for food parcels, however donations are down. Not only do we supply food parcels to families that last 3-5 days, but we also work closely with the NHS providing 'Home From Hospital Bags', ensuring people have food, tea, coffee & milk for their return home.

We are reaching out to local schools, churches and organisations for support please.

We rely heavily on donations from the general public to enable us to support our local community. There will be a box available for donations in Christ Church on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October when we will celebrate Harvest Festival. The poster above details items we are most in need of. This consists of non-perishable foods, toiletries and household cleaning.

Thank you in advance for your support, we are unable to produce our food parcels without you. If you have any questions, please email:

[harvest@swindonfoodcollective.org](mailto:harvest@swindonfoodcollective.org) or have a look at our website:

<https://www.swindonfoodcollective.org/>

Swindon's Local Foodbank - Exclusively For Swindon From Swindon.

Unlike other national food banks, all donations made by people from Swindon to Swindon Food Collective, stays in Swindon. Our local community is at the heart of everything we do.

*Regards, Swindon Food Collective (Food Bank)*

## Sunday Club Shoebox Appeal

We have begun to collect items for the children to pack into shoeboxes later in October, on behalf of the charity Link to Hope. This is a small charity, who will be delivering the shoeboxes to families and the elderly in Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria. We would be grateful for any donation, from an empty shoebox, a single item or completed box. Items needed include, toiletries, playing cards, adult socks, safety razors, shampoo etc

Last date for donations is Sunday 25th October. **Please leave donations at the Parish Office Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays 8.30am to 4.30pm, or pass to Sue.** For further details, please visit <https://www.linktohope.co.uk> or see Sue at coffee on Sundays. You can also email [Sue@christchurchswindon.co.uk](mailto:Sue@christchurchswindon.co.uk).

### **New creche for 10am services**

Christ Church will be starting a creche during the 10 o'clock service in October, so that those with small children can have a quiet moment or two in the service if they would like it!

Where: in the Community Centre

When: every Sunday during term time apart from the first Sunday of the month (All Age). Children will leave/be brought by their parents at the same time that Sunday Club leaves the service and should be collected during communion.

What: play/sing/read stories

Who: all babies and pre-school children

If you would like to help with this new venture, please speak to Ali Tremlett. We would love more helpers.

### **'Left to their own devices?' Tech-savvy kids and how to raise them**

This live evening event from Care for the Family is coming to **the DoubleTree by Hilton, Swindon SN5 8UZ on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2026 at 7.30pm.** The evening will explore:

- What our children are exposed to online, who they're speaking to and how they behave
- Why tech can feel so addictive (and what's happening in your child's brain)
- The impact social media is having on mental health
- Creative ways to tackle issues as a family
- Practical tips to set you up for success

Speakers are Philip Jinadu, Director of Care for the Family and an experienced communicator who is passionate about strengthening families, and Kate Duroux from Care for the Family's Community Engagement Team, supporting churches, schools and prisons in their work with families.

Early bird ticket £6 (offer ends 22<sup>nd</sup> September)

Group rate £8

Standard ticket £11

Book now at <https://cff.org.uk/owndevices> or by calling 029 2081 0800.

There is a leaflet at the back of Christ Church with more information.

## Sanctum – Spiritual Direction Formation & Training

An online evening course with three in-person days

January 2027 to December 2027

Applications are now open for Sanctum, the Diocese of Bristol's new formation and training course in spiritual direction, launching in January 2027. Designed to be accessible to a greater diversity of students, the course will meet fortnightly online during term time, with three in-person Saturdays each year. Each session will include teaching, drawing upon biblical, theological, and psychological perspectives, alongside a breadth of Christian spiritual wisdom and prayer including poetry, music and art. Students will develop practical skills through work in pairs and triads and will be supported throughout their formation by a personal tutor, learning community, and regular appraisals to aid growth and vocational discernment.

Closing date for applications & references: Friday 2nd October 2026.

Further details, including the brochure, course programme and application forms are available from: [mmsupport@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:mmsupport@bristoldiocese.org)

## 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>

### For your prayers

† John Webb, Ann Sharpe, Ali Potter, Neville Gray, Manda Shinde, Barbara Sheppard, Kaf Smith, Gordon Hudd, Emilia Shaw, Ian Handy, Michael Porter, José Humerick, Evie Adams, Annette Holliday, Pauline Cain, Simon Stevenette, Jennifer Miles 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 family and friends of Ian Hedges, Bill Dickie, Agnes Morse and all those mourning a loved one.

† For Sebastian, who will be baptised this Sunday.

† For the Best Mates charity and all those in need of mental health support.

† For the Head teachers, staff and Governors, students and pupils in our school communities: Lainesmead, Holy Rood RC, King William Church of England School, Lethbridge Primary, Croft Primary, Lawn Manor and Commonweal School.

† For the Chaplaincy at Swindon Town Football Club, particularly for all those who joined the Club over the summer

† 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.

**Working Lives in Bloom:**  
A Flower Festival & Heritage Open Day  
at Christ Church  
19<sup>th</sup> September 2026 | 1 - 4 pm  
A special combined Flower Festival and Heritage Open Day.  
Inspired by the 2026 National Heritage Open Days theme.

**Enter Our Flower Festival Competition**  
The Flower Arranging Competition is open to all  
and will be judged in four categories:

- Window Display - Theme: Jobs that shaped our town
- Pedestal Class - Theme: Working Together
- Table Exhibit - Theme: Market Town Place
- Children's Class - Theme: Baker's Basket

Download the entry form  
here

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19<sup>th</sup> September 2026 | 1 - 4 pm  
A special combined Flower Festival and Heritage Open Day.  
Inspired by the 2026 National Heritage Open Days theme.

The event will celebrate the people, crafts, routines, and occupations that have shaped our community through the ages. Discover beautiful floral displays inspired by working life, explore the heritage of Christ Church and Old Town, and enjoy exhibitions, stories, demonstrations, and activities for all ages.  
Vote for your favourite!

To find out more about the Flower Festival & Heritage Open Day, the flower arranging competition, and how to get involved, visit the event page here:

<https://cccswindon.co.uk/page/posts/400>

Spaces are filling fast for the Friends of Christ Church Quiz on Saturday 19th September. I know that many of you have mentioned to me that you are planning to take part. Please book your tickets now before it is too late -

<https://cccswindon.co.uk/events/100/details> Tickets are on a first come first served basis. Many thanks, Chris Smith.

**Next weekend**

**THE FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH 25TH ANNIVERSARY QUIZ NIGHT**  
Sat 19th September £10  
In the Community Centre  
Doors open at 7pm  
Game starts at 7.30pm  
Our drinks available  
Includes a chip shop supper of choice  
For further information and tickets visit  
[www.cccswindon.co.uk/page/tickets](https://cccswindon.co.uk/page/tickets)

**The Friends of Christ Church 25th Anniversary Afternoon Tea Celebration**  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Sep - 4 to 6:30pm  
in the Community Centre  
Enjoy a delicious selection of tea, coffee, freshly made sandwiches, homemade cakes, and traditional scones with jam and cream.  
Free to Members  
Family and Friends welcome with donation (please pre-book for catering numbers)  
*All Invited*

**Join us for our Autumn Choral Evensong**  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 6.30pm  
in Christ Church  
Guest preacher:  
Fr Lucas Rodrigues  
Priest in Charge, Holy Road  
Roman Catholic Church  
Music by Philip Ledger, Robert Jones and Philip Moore  
Organist: Tim Eyles  
Conductor: Richard Sutcliffe

## OUR CONTACT DETAILS

|                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Vicar<br>Staff Team                                                    | Revd. Canon Simon Stevenette: <a href="mailto:simon@christchurchswindon.co.uk">simon@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a><br>Staff Team: <a href="mailto:staffteam@christchurchswindon.co.uk">staffteam@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a>                                                                                                                                                                     | Tel.<br>529166               |
| Parish Administrator / Clerk<br>Christ Church Comms and<br>Fundraising | Carol Simmons: <a href="mailto:parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk">parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a><br>Steve Cox:<br><a href="mailto:communications@christchurchswindon.co.uk">communications@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a>                                                                                                                                                          | Tel.<br>522832               |
| Gifts/Donations                                                        | Stephen Grosvenor, Gift Aid Secretary:<br><a href="mailto:stephen@christchurchswindon.co.uk">stephen@christchurchswindon.co.uk</a><br>Paul Ng, Treasurer: <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 Tel.<br>07885 217077 |
| Community<br>Centre @ Christ<br>Church                                 | Chris – 01793 267500<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>