

29TH NOVEMBER 2026
(FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT)

WEEKLY NOTICES

ADVENT 2026: MAKING ROOM FOR CHRIST

Dear Friends,

Well, here we are again, at the beginning of another Advent! As Charles Dickens famously wrote in A Christmas Carol, "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year." What a wonderful thought, especially when Christmas seems increasingly dominated by shopping, decorations, presents and endless preparations!

Advent, which begins on 29th November this year, offers us something far more meaningful. **It reminds us that Christmas isn't simply about preparing for a celebration; it's about preparing our hearts for Christ.**

In the Samuels' household, preparations involve lists, followed by more lists to remind us of what was on the original lists! Isn't that right, Sheila? My responsibility usually involves retrieving the Christmas decorations and attempting to untangle the Christmas lights. A task requiring patience, perseverance and on occasions divine intervention!

Advent, however, invites us to untangle something far more important: our hearts and minds.

With everything happening in our world, alongside the pressures of everyday life, it's easy to become overwhelmed. Yet Advent calls us to slow down, reflect and rediscover what truly matters.

Advent is a season of hope, peace, joy and love. It reminds us that God has not abandoned our world. Through the birth of Jesus Christ, God comes among us, bringing light into darkness and hope into uncertainty.

So, here's a little Advent challenge: give God the same attention you give your phone when it pings!

Find a few quiet moments each day for prayer, reflection and Scripture. Ask yourself: **Am I simply preparing for Christmas, or am I preparing to welcome Christ?**

My prayer is that this Advent we rediscover the hope, peace, joy and love found in Jesus, and share these blessings through kindness, generosity and compassion with our neighbour.

As Scripture reminds us, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5)

May Christ's light fill your hearts and homes this Advent and throughout the coming year.

Every blessing,

Rev. Patrick Samuels

SUNDAY SERVICES @ CHWCHURCHES

GLUTEN FREE? If you require a gluten free wafer for communion please let the sides people know when you arrive and inform the priest when you get to the altar rail.

29th November 2026
(First Sunday of Advent / St Andrew's Patronal Festival)

ST ANDREW'S WRAYSBURY
11.00 a.m. Joint Parish Communion Service

ST MICHAEL'S HORTON & ST THOMAS' COLNBROOK
No services - please join us at St Andrew's

6th December 2026 (The Second Sunday of Advent)

ST MICHAEL'S HORTON
09.30 a.m. Parish Communion Service

ST ANDREW'S WRAYSBURY
10.30 a.m. Refreshments
11.00 a.m. Contemporary Service

ST THOMAS' COLNBROOK
11.00 a.m. Parish Communion Service

Next upcoming COMBINED service for your diaries:

Christmas Day - Friday 25th December - 10am - St Andrew's Wraysbury

27th December at St Michael's Horton
9.30 a.m. Joint Parish Communion

SAFEGUARDING ST. ANDREW'S, ST. MICHAEL'S AND ST. THOMAS' CHURCHES ARE COMMITTED TO THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF ALL CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS WHO FALL WITHIN OUR CARE. A COPY OF OUR SAFEGUARDING POLICY MAY BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBPAGE. IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS AT ALL ABOUT THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN OR VULNERABLE ADULTS YOU CAN CONTACT OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER, HEATHER HERMES ON 01784 391417 EMAIL: SAFEGUARDING@CHWCHURCHES.ORG ALTERNATIVELY YOU CAN CONTACT THE DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING TEAM, 01865 208295 EMAIL: SAFEGUARDINGREFERRALS@OXFORD.ANGLICAN.ORG OR THE LOCAL AUTHORITY SOCIAL SERVICES TEAM ON 01628 683150.

SPECIAL CELEBRATION AT ST MICHAEL'S

IAN HARMAN - 50 YEARS AS ORGANIST

Last Sunday was a very special day at St Michael's Church, Horton as we celebrated an incredible milestone - Ian Harman's 50 years as organist at St Michael's!

For half a century, Ian has provided the music for countless Sunday services, weddings, baptisms, funerals and special occasions, becoming such an important part of the life and history of our church.

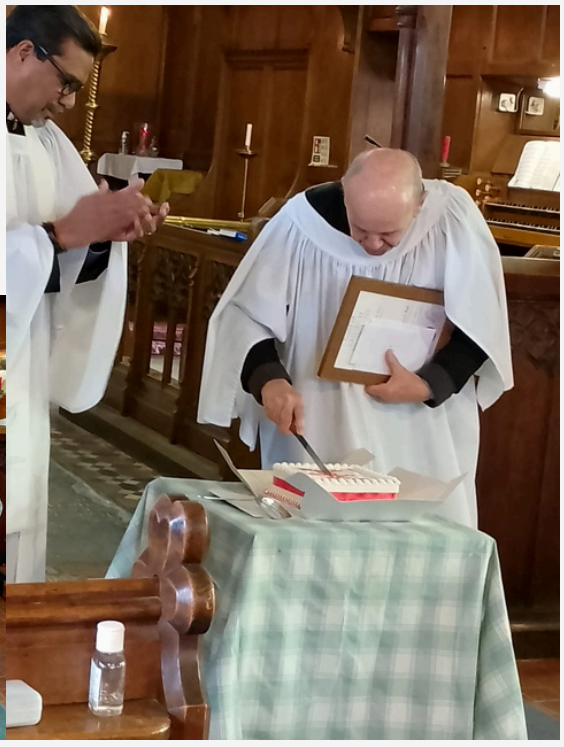
To mark this wonderful achievement, Ian was presented with a certificate recognising his 50 years of service, signed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. And, of course, no celebration would be complete without cake!

Congratulations, Ian, and thank you for 50 wonderful years of music, commitment and service to St Michael's. We are so grateful for all that you do.













CHURCH NEWS

CURIOUS ABOUT CHRISTMAS

ST THOMAS' CHURCH
SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

As Christmas approaches, Advent gives us an opportunity to slow down, pause and make space for what really matters.

Join us for a morning of reflection as we explore the four themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. You can take part in a led reflection or simply drop in and spend some time exploring the four Advent activities at your own pace.

9.30am - Welcome and pastries for those joining the led reflection

10.00-11.30am - Led reflection

10.00am-12 noon - Drop in anytime to explore

There's no need to book - just come along when you can. Everyone is welcome, whether you're looking for a quiet moment of reflection or simply curious to discover more about Advent. Contact Rev Sheila for more info!

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

FOOD AND GIFT CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

We are putting together Christmas hampers for parishioners who may be finding things particularly difficult at the moment.

If you would like to help, food items, gifts or donations of money would be gratefully received. Financial contributions will be used to purchase items for the hampers.

Gifts and food can be brought to church over the next few weeks.

Thank you for helping us bring a little extra Christmas joy to those in our church community who need it most.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

PLEASE BRING DONATIONS TO CHURCH

We are collecting warm socks, scarves and hats for men and women to give to people supported by Slough Homeless. Please bring along a new, good-quality item to church to share a little warmth and kindness.

PRAYER

Come Together To Pray

MONTHLY COMBINED PRAYER

First Tuesday of every month
No meeting in December due to The Bible Course



OUR MISSION PARTNERS

- Open Doors, serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide
- Learning 4 Life Foundation, The Kitchen, Zanzibar
- Wraysbury and Horton Voluntary Care
- Alexander Devine Children's Hospice
- Canaan Ministries and Bookshop in Staines

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Jenny Gregg, Danielle Readings, Angela Robertson, David Gregg, Peter Furzer, Leah, Annie, Mark Blackman, Greg Scott, Judy Osborne, Olga Cheeseman, Bea Tucker, Sue Wynne-Davies, Roy Talbot, Sue Waller, Margaret Lenton, George Blackman, Alison, Joan Poole, Louise Swanston, Peter and Shirley Lane.



The Frost Partnership

are delighted to invite you to the annual Christmas tree blessing.

Friday 27th November

From 6.30pm

For carols, a special guest!

Mince pies and Mulled Wine

Supported by
The Kitchen

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
CHW CHURCHES

Christmas

CURIOUS ABOUT ADVENT?

Advent is a season of waiting and watching - but too often it becomes a to-do list with candles on
Join us for a morning to pause, reflect and explore the meaning of Advent

All are welcome

Saturday 28th November
St Thomas' Church, Colnbrook

LED REFLECTION
9:30am Welcome & pastries
10am - 11:30am
Explore Hope • Peace • Joy • Love

OR

DROP IN ANYTIME
10am - 12 noon
Explore interactive Advent activities at your own pace

www.chwchurches.org

DURING THE WEEK @ CHWCHURCHES

Friday 27th November
18.30 Blessing of Christmas Tree outside Frosts Estate Agents

Saturday 28th November
09.00 Men's Breakfast in St. Andrew's Annexe
09.30 Curious about Advent? at St. Thomas' Church
10.00 Stitch in Champney Hall
13.00 Make & Mingle in Champney Hall Studio

Monday 30th November
09.10 Morning Prayer at St. Michael's
10.00 Horton Community Coffee Morning at Champney Hall

Tuesday 1st December
09.10 Morning Prayer at St. Thomas'
13.30 St. Andrew's Cafe in St. Andrew's Annexe
19.30 The Bible Course at St. Michael's

Wednesday 2nd December
09.10 Morning Prayer at St. Andrew's
10.00 Little Lambs Toddler Group in St. Andrew's Annexe
19.00 Connect Youth Group at St. Thomas'
19.30 Bell Ringing Practice at St. Andrew's

Sunday 6th December
16.00 Lighting of the Christmas Tree at Champney Hall

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

Vicar: Rev. Patrick Samuels
Mobile 07349 037437
Vicar@CHWChurches.org

Admin: Fiona Norton
Mobile 07543 539 569
Office@CHWChurches.org
Digital: Cat Garner
Comms@CHWChurches.org

Community Cafe & Contemporary Services
Tony Hermes
Tony.hermes@CHWChurches.org

Connect Youth Group & All Age Services
Rev. Sheila Samuels
Mobile 07901 170503
Sheila.samuels@CHWChurches.org

Safeguarding:
Heather Hermes
Safeguarding@CHWChurches.org

Little Lambs:
Becky Webb
LittleLambs@CHWChurches.org

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
CHW CHURCHES

Men's BREAKFAST



Gather for a morning filled with encouragement, connection, and a nourishing meal. Begin your day with good food, good company and a chat.

Guest speaker: Tony Britten
Sharing his love of photography

Saturday 28th November | **9am** | **St Andrew's Church Annexe, Wraysbury**

FREE FOOD AND GOOD COMPANY

07543 539569
office@chwchurches.org

NHS Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust

www.rbwm.gov.uk Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead

CHRISTMAS in HORTON

Lighting of the Christmas Tree

Sunday 6th December at 4pm

Mulled Wine & Mince Pies | Local Crafts | Carols

Santa's Grotto | Build a Snowman Competition — Get creative and join in!

Come along and get into the festive spirit with friends, family and the Horton community!

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
CHW CHURCHES

You are warmly invited to our

Christmas CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 13th December - 6pm
St Andrew's Church, Wraysbury

Join us with family and friends as we sing favourite Christmas carols and celebrate the joy, hope and peace of the season

www.chwchurches.org

All are welcome

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
CHW CHURCHES

Christmas SERVICES

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus

Curious about Advent?
Saturday 28th November – from 9:30am
St Thomas' Church

Christingle Service
Sunday 20th December – 3pm
St Thomas' Church

Crib Service
Thursday 24th December – 4pm
St Thomas' Church

Midnight Mass
Thursday 24th December – 11:30pm
St Thomas' Church

Carol Service
Sunday 13th December – 6pm
St Andrew's Church

Christingle Service
Thursday 24th December – 5pm
St Michael's Church

Midnight Mass
Thursday 24th December – 11:30pm
St Andrew's Church

Christmas Day Joint Service
Friday 25th December – 10am
St Andrew's Church

www.chwchurches.org