

The Church of England in Plymstock & Hooe

Newsletter 63 (V7)

December 2025

Worship during December



Parish Communion Services this Month

Sunday 7th – 10 am St Mary and All Saints

Sunday 14th – 10 am St John the Evangelist

Sunday 21st – 10 am St Mary and All Saints

Sunday 28th – 10 am St John the Evangelist

Other Services in December

Every Tuesday at St Mary's 10 am Service and Coffee
(**Tues 23rd** at St Mary's, followed by Christingle making @ 11 am)

Friday 5th 6.30 pm - St Mary's, Memorial Carol Service

Saturday 13th 10 am 3 pm - Open Day, St Mary's

Sunday 21st 4 pm Carols at St Mary's

Wednesday 24th 2 pm Good Shepherd & **4 pm** St Mary's **Christingle**

Wednesday 24th 11.30 pm Midnight Communion St John's

Thursday 25th 10 am Communion St Mary's



pray



grow



serve
with joy

Reflection for December

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. (John 13:34)

Dear Friends,

Advent is a time of hopeful waiting. Waiting for Jesus' birth and seeking light in the dark times of winter. Talking to a family member recently, they told me about their annual visit to Salisbury Cathedral for the From Darkness to Light: Advent Procession – a service that starts in darkness and then throughout the service darkness gives way to a thousand lighted candles.

The world is a dark place, full of hurt, war, poverty, anger and it is only through our hopefulness that we can survive the dark times.

As Bishop Mike says in his Advent letter:

The Good News of Advent is that ultimately our hope lies not in our own personal or communal efforts, initiatives or agendas but rather in the God of Advent who drew near to us in the babe of Bethlehem and who will come again to take away the darkness forever and be our eternal light.

Our hope and mission as a parish is for growth, to share the joy of the Gospel a bit further and to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ more broadly in our community and through this develop a thriving community of disciples who can help us spread our hope even further. To do this we need to think about our behaviours and consider what makes us stand out as a group that others might want to join...

So, as we think about Advent, I wonder if we could consider doing something different to count down the days to Christmas to share the joy of the Gospel with those around us:

Perhaps we could start a reverse Advent Calendar – where we add an item every day to a bag or box for the foodbank. Or we could encourage our neighbours to join the Christmas Open Day in St Mary's (see front page for details), to find out more about the story of Christmas through crafts and a Christmas quiz – to find out what we're waiting in hope for this advent.

Wishing you all a blessed and hope-filled Advent and every blessing this Christmas.

Carl, Jo, Kerry, Mary, Carl, Jo, Tony, Graham and Sheila.
Your Churchwardens and Ministry Team.

Be still and know that I am God (Ps 46:10)

News and Events in December



St John's on the Hill
Come & enjoy coffee/tea
& home-made cake.
Thurs 4th and 18th
December
10.30 - 12 noon
St. John's Church Hall,

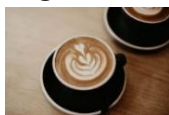
Community Coffee morning

Church of the Good
Shepherd Hall

Wed 10th December

10.30-12 noon

Marine Road, Oreston, PL9 9NL



Memorial Carol Service

A special service of carols
and reflections as we
remember our loved ones. **St
Mary and All Saints: Friday
5th December 6.30pm**



Morning Prayer in the Parish



Morning Prayer:

Wed: **9.30 am, Good Shepherd.**

Thurs: **9.30 am, St John's**

Compline (Night Prayer): Monday evening, 8.45 pm on Teams – if you would like to attend this service, please email for the link:

enquiries@plymstockandhooe.org

Both morning prayer and compline will last around 20 minutes.

All are welcome to attend

Christmas Craic! Sing

Devon will perform a
Christmas themed concert

Thursday 11th December

at **7.15 pm** in St Mary's Church. Tickets

£5 from Steve Bawn - Tel: **07305021565**

all proceeds to church funds.



Warm Welcome Space

Every Sunday

12-2 pm over the winter
months.

Everyone welcome!



Our new team of Anna
Chaplains and Anna Friends
will be commissioned by the
Archdeacon on 14th December during the
Communion service at St John's

Plymouth

FOODBANK still

needs your

donations -

especially in the run up to Christmas

Collections continue at St. Mary's & St.
John's Churches.

Financial donations can also be made –
please ask a churchwarden or member
of the clergy.



Listening to the Music of the
Soul by Guli Francis-
Dehqani. Monday evenings
in December: **1st, 8th, 15th
and 22nd December 7.30
pm** followed by Compline at
8.45 pm

For the Teams link please email:

enquiries@plymstockandhooe.org

Also search for The Big Church Read
online!



The Bereavement Journey

A 7 Session Series of

film and discussion

groups to gently guide you through
aspects of grief and bereavement to
help you process the loss of a loved
one, whether recent or long ago.

Starts Sunday 5th January 2-4 pm in
Plymstock Parish Hall. Contact **Carl** for
further information or to book a place.



Financial Giving

This is an important part of being a member of our Parish Community. It ensures that we can maintain our Christian presence in this area through our mission and ministry. There are a number of ways you can give:

- Parish Giving Scheme – donate securely by direct debit
- Direct to the PCC Account by standing order
- Via our PayAz Giving Stations at the back of our churches
- Scan the QR code on the card in your pew
- Via Give a Little - <https://givealittle.co/c/5tdlgpjS4TFNpnTjvT7ASH>
- Cash in one of the Yellow Gift Aid Envelopes in the pews
- Cash in the collection plate at a service



All these are easy ways to make your financial gift. If you would like to set up regular giving, speak to a churchwarden, sides-person, or one of the clergy, who will direct you to a member of the finance team.

Parish Contacts:

Associate Priest:

Revd Carl Budden, Tel: 07525 210645
carl.budden@plymstockandhooe.org

Curate:

Revd Jo Parker, Tel: 07773 170714
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Churchwardens:

Kerry Gilbert, Tel: 07765 464846
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Mary Goulding, Tel: 07789 602953 E:
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Safeguarding:

Frankie Dee, Tel: 07775 800924 E:
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All Hall Bookings:

hallbookings@plymstockandhooe.org

For all enquires:

enquiries@plymstockandhooe.org

Prayer for the Vacancy

We pray for the Christian Community of Plymstock and Hooe that we may use this time of transition to grow closer to each other, to listen to each other and to support each other in exploring your mission for our whole community and the contributions we each can make.

Guide us all as we seek the way ahead together, that together we may discover your plans for your kingdom in this place.

In Jesus name we pray,

Amen