

All Saints Church Awbridge December 2025 and January 2026



Jesus, light of the World

"The Word (Jesus) was the source of life, and this life brought light to mankind. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out"
John 1 v4-5



*A Happy Christmas to all of you from
the members of All Saints Church Awbridge*

We are all looking forward to celebrating the wonderful festival of Christmas which brings light and joy amidst the dark of winter and the darkness in so many places. Take some time to come along and take part in the familiar Christmas story once more, in nativity plays and carol services, in meals shared together, in festivities all around us. Look for God revealing his love to us this Christmas time - often in situations and circumstances where we may least expect it. Jesus, as light of the world, brings light into the dark places and nothing can overcome it.

We have many things in our village for which we can be thankful, for the community in which we live and worship, for the commemorations shown at Remembering and Remembrance Services in November and for social events in which we can all take part.

To mark All Saints Day we had a special service in November when the Bishop of Winchester came to dedicate our new organ. This was a celebration of worship including fabulous music, and flower arrangements incorporating musical instruments. Thank you to all who came to support this event and to all who made it possible.

Fundraising: Thank you to everyone who came and supported our Quiz Evening and Christmas Fayre raising vital funds to support our church and providing great social events in our village.

Film Clubs: We enjoyed watching "Sing!" as our first Children's Film show and "Wonka" as our first grown-ups Cinema Club event. The next Children's Film Club, with a Christmas train theme, is on Thursday 11 Dec at 4.00 pm in church, entry and refreshments by donation.

Messy Church: A great celebration of "Light" took place at our last Messy Church looking at Paul's journey to Damascus, lanterns were made, balloons were carried, cakes were iced all with the theme of light and pumpkins were carved with Christian symbols. The next Messy Church "What - more visitors?" is on Friday 2 January, 11.00 am, at Braishfield Church Room.

Christmas Food for Southampton City Mission Basic Banks: For the last few years we have collected Christmas Food items for Southampton City Mission, the same charity which we collect for at Harvest time, we will collect Christmas food items on Sunday 7 Dec and at the breakfast service on 14 December. It is always a challenging time for many families, so some festive treats would be lovely, please bring items with long sell-by dates.

Eco-Christmas: We are having a tree of Christmas Greetings in church with handmade tags and donations to Climate Stewards in lieu of writing cards and there will be wildlife friendly decorations in the churchyard to supplement our Christmas Decorating. As Advent begins, we turn our gaze to the true meaning of Christmas - God with us, Emmanuel. The humble birth of a child in a stable may seem distant from the way we celebrate today, but it offers a profound reminder of simplicity. This season, let's reflect on the story that we wish our actions and choices to tell, see: arochoa.org.uk/journeyingtowards-a-zero-waste-christmas. May our hearts and our celebrations align with the simplicity and beauty of the Christmas story.

The popular **Village Christmas Lunch** is on Wednesday 3 December at 12.00 noon when we will enjoy good food, and special carols from the choir at Awbridge School.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to our **Christmas Services and Events**. We will also welcome the Ark and Awbridge School, to church, for their own celebrations.

Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 21 December at 7.00 pm - enjoy carols and mulled wine. To join the Pop Up Choir please contact Chris Thompson email: chris.s.thompson@me.com.

Crib Service: Monday 22 December at 4.00 pm for families, in Awbridge Church, a short informal, interactive gathering retelling the Christmas story with Crib figures and carols.

Christmas Eve: Midnight Holy Communion on Christmas Eve at 11.15pm

Christmas Day: All Age Family Worship at 10.00 am

There will be a **New Year's Day Walk** on Thursday 1 January, starting at 11.00 am, from Butts Green, Lockerley, followed by a social at 12.30 pm at the Bear and Ragged Staff, Michelmersh.

We start a year of celebrating our 150th Anniversary on Saturday 17 January at 7.00 pm with a special evening **"Pearly Gates - The Rehearsal!"** An evening in conversation with Revd Tom - similar to the radio show Desert Island Discs - plus multimedia and some interesting photos and music from Tom's life so far...Mulled wine will be available for medicinal purposes...

Services and Events in December and January

Wednesday 3 December	12.00 noon Christmas Village Lunch at Awbridge village hall
Sunday 7 December <i>Advent 2</i>	9.30 am Holy Communion
Thursday 11 December	4.00 pm Children's Film Club in church
Friday 12 December	9.15 am The Ark Celebrates Christmas in church
Sunday 14 December <i>Advent 3</i>	9.00 am Family Breakfast Service at Awbridge village hall 6.30 pm Contemporary Worship Service
Sunday 21 December <i>Advent 4</i>	7.00 pm Candlelit Carol Service
Monday 22 December	4.00 pm Crib Service
Tuesday 23 December	6.30 pm ADVA Carols at the village war memorial
Wednesday 24 December	11.15 pm Christmas Eve - Midnight Holy Communion
Christmas Day	10.00 am Christmas All Age Family Worship
Sunday 28 December	10.30 am UB Holy Communion at St Mary's, Michelmersh
Thursday 1 January	11.00 am New Year's Day Walk from Butts Green, Lockerley
Friday 2 January	11.00 am Messy Church at Braishfield Church Room
Sunday 4 January	9.30 am Holy Communion
Sunday 11 January	9.00 am Family Breakfast Service at the village hall 6.30 pm Contemporary Worship Service
Saturday 17 January	7.00 pm "Pearly Gates with Rev Tom Benson" in church
Sunday 18 January	9.30 am Holy Communion
Sunday 25 January	9.30 am Morning Worship

Other Activities

Coffee Hub	Every Tuesday in the church rooms from 9.15 – 11.30 am
Prayer Meeting	Before Coffee Hub on 2 & 16 December, 5 & 19 Jan from 9.00 am
House Group	Social 9 Dec, at 7.00 for 7.30 pm at The Byre and 7 & 22 Jan 7.00 for 7.30 pm at Chanwel Please contact Fred Tucker - 07740 027007
Craft & Chat	Fridays 5 & 19 Dec and 9 & 23 January, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm in Awbridge Village Hall Committee Room Please contact Sue Franklin - 01794 322185
Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 3 December, 12 noon, in the village hall Please contact Lynda Tucker 07884 492314
The Ark Toddler Group	Fridays, during term time from 9.15 am to 11.00 am in Awbridge Village Hall, starts again 9 Jan 2026. Please contact Lynda Tucker - 07884 492314

Useful Church contacts

Awbridge Church website www.awbridge.church

Rector	Revd Tom Benson	01794 368335	tbenson09@aol.com
Associate Priest	Revd Jane Thompson	01794 502035	jane.thompson@me.com
Curate	Revd Anthony Cross	07728 671302	curate.braishfield@gmail.com
Churchwardens	Fred Tucker	07740 027007	fred@chanwel.co.uk
	Mary Savage	07516 010794	marysavage126@gmail.com
Benefice Office	Sarah Boothman	01794 878020	braishfieldbenefice@gmail.com

Useful Village contacts

Awbridge Neighbourcare 08450 946155

Awbridge Village website www.awbridge.info