



TWYNING PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025

The very first Christmas

God's love was bigger than the mess we made.
He knew what to do, so here's what he said,
"I'll send them my son to show them the way
to love one another, and live like I say.
And I'll give them my power, deep down in their hearts
to fight what is bad, to make a new start
and live in this world, just like I first planned
and turn what is sad into glad again. And turn what is sad into glad again."

So a woman called Mary, just minding her business
was asked to be part of the very first Christmas
by an angel called Gabriel, shiny and bright
who showed up one day, and gave her a fright.
"No need to be scared," the angel explained.
"I come here with good news, simple and plain.
You'll give birth to God's baby! It's all in His plan
to turn what is sad into glad again. To turn what is sad into glad again."

Then Mary and Joseph, her husband, went down
to be counted by Caesar in Bethlehem town.
With no empty rooms left to rent for their stay
they stopped in a place where the animals lay.
And there in the hay, she gave birth to God's son
and cuddled and cradled her small special one
who would grow up to do all the things that God planned
and turn what is sad into glad again. And turn what is sad into glad again.

Some shepherds were watching their sheep down the way
when an angel appeared like a firework display
and shocked all the shepherds and shook up the sheep
and made sure that no-one would get a night's sleep.
"Run to Bethlehem! Go!" the bright angel said.
"See the babe in the manger, hay under his head.
He's amazing. He's special. For only he can
turn what is sad into glad again. Turn what is sad into glad again."

by Bob Hartman

A Prayer Lord, like the shepherds in Bethlehem, we are filled with deep-seated joy as we welcome you into our wounded world. May we also be like the shepherds, who went about praising your name after visiting you in the manger. Today is a day to celebrate. Today is a day to renew our discipleship. Amen.

From the Parish Records

Burial of Ashes 3.11.2025 **Jean Mary & Edwin John Price** RIP

Thanks from Mary's Meals

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for your precious gift of £100, which is helping us to transform the lives of hungry children around the world with a nutritious daily meal in school. Your kindness is bringing food, joy and hope to the children who eat Mary's Meals, allowing them to make the most of their education and giving them the chance of a better future. Today more than three million hungry children in 16 of the world's poorest countries – including South Sudan, Ethiopia, Malawi and Liberia – are sitting in the classrooms with full stomachs, and learning to read and write, thanks to supporters like you.

Yours sincerely, Philippa Dodd, Mary's Meals UK

Advent "House Group" - invitation from Ven. Ron Hesketh

As the Lent Group sessions were so well received, Ron is offering similar for this Advent on three Thursdays before Christmas: December 4th, 11th and 18th at 2.30pm at his house. We shall be looking at Paula Gooder's *Journey to the Manger* & a Church of England booklet *O Come Emmanuel*. Ron has purchased copies in beforehand so all you need to bring is yourself. Please let him know if you are interested in joining the group – newcomers are most welcome. And the tea / coffee is good too!!

Ron Hesketh 01684 299 773 ronhesketh@gmail.com

Christmas Cards for Cobalt

A big thank you to all for the steady supply of greetings cards which I find in my bucket in church every week to take to the Cobalt unit for recycling. Please continue to recycle your greetings cards of all sorts – birthdays, anniversaries, get well wishes, congratulations for any achievement ... during 2026 and beyond.



As has happened in previous years, we are supporting the recycling appeal for Christmas cards and so this year, could I ask you not to mix other greetings cards with Christmas cards, please? In my family in December we have three birthdays and one anniversary (I know! Crazy!) but I'll be holding on to those cards till well into January and ask you to do the same, please.

The deadline for Christmas card collection for Cobalt will be **Sunday 11th January 2026**, so please have your cards in one of the big containers which will be on one of the pews at the back of the church from **Sunday 28th December 2025**. As always, please put them in a plastic bag to allow the volunteers to handle them easily.

If you haven't already bought your Christmas cards, Cobalt Christmas cards are on sale in Tewkesbury Hospital, in the waiting area, at the far window.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Sheila Hendy

SERVICES AND EVENTS

Dec 1st	Monday	1.30pm	Open the Book	Twynning School
Dec 4, 11, 18	Thursdays	2.30pm	Advent Group at Ven. Ron Hesketh's	
Dec 7th	Sunday	9.30am	PARISH COMMUNION + Refreshments	
Dec 14th	Sunday	9.30am	PARISH COMMUNION	
Dec 15th	Monday	6pm	Twynning School Carols in Church [tbc]	



Wednesday 17th Dec 10am -12noon PARISH COFFEE MORNING
with Richard Bailey at Birds Farm

Dec 20th	Saturday	10am	Carol Singing outside the Village Shop	
		11.30am	going on to Tewkesbury Hospital	
Dec 21st	Sunday	4pm	Candlelit Service of Lessons and Carols followed by 'a glass and mince pies'	
(Holy Communion available in the benefice at Tewkesbury Abbey at 8am BCP & 10.30am Parish Mass)				
Dec 22 & 23	Mon & Tues	6pm	Carol singing - Family nights see p5	
Dec 24th	Wednesday		Christmas Eve - CHRISTINGLE	5pm
Dec 25th			Christmas Day Family Communion and CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS in Church	9.30am



Dec 28th	Sunday	9.30am	PARISH COMMUNION + Refreshments	
Jan 2nd	Friday	3-6pm approx	Peal by Worcester Cathedral ringers	
Jan 4th	Sunday	9.30am	PARISH COMMUNION	
Jan 11th	Sunday	9.30am	PARISH COMMUNION + Refreshments	
Jan 14th	Wed 10 -12noon		Parish Coffee Morning with Junie & Robert, at Gosling Cottage, High St	
Jan 18th	Sunday	9.30am	MORNING PRAISE	
Jan 18th-25th	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity			
Jan 25th	Sunday	9.30am	PARISH COMMUNION + Refreshments	

Services, Readers & Hymns for Dec 2025 & Jan 2026

9.30am unless time given	readings [small lectionary]	1st & 2nd readings	hymns
7 th December Advent 2 Parish Communion	Isaiah 11.1-10 p3 Romans 15.4-13 Matthew 3.1-12	Vera Hesketh	3 Come thou long expected 7 Hills of the north rejoice 9 Lo he comes NEH 18 Tell out my soul
14 th December Advent 3 Parish Communion	Isaiah 35.1-10 p7 James 5.7-10 Matthew 11.2-11	Dorothy Williams	109 Longing for light RED 62 I the Lord of sea & sky 128 Make way 192 There's a light
21 st December 4pm <i>Carol Service</i>	"Five Lessons + Many Carols"	tbc	<i>from</i> <i>The Bethlehem Carol Sheet</i>
25 th December <i>Christmas Day</i> Family Communion	Isaiah 52.7-10 p20 Hebrews 1.1-4 John 1.1-14	Mike Jones	<i>The Bethlehem Carol Sheet</i> 1 O little town of Bethlehem 7 While shepherds watched 14 It came upon a midnight 12 O come all ye faithful
28 th December Christmas 1 – Holy Innocents Parish Communion	p1032 Jeremiah 31.15-17 1 Corinthians 1.26-29 Matthew 2.13-18	Chris Cole	18 Angels from the realms 20 On Christmas night 8 See amid the winter's snow 11 Joy to the world
4 th January 2026 <i>Epiphany</i> Parish Communion	Isaiah 60.1-6 p33 Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12	Jac Taylor	<i>The Bethlehem Carol Sheet</i> 4 As with gladness 5 The first Nowell 23 What child is this 21 We three kings
11 th January <i>Baptism of Christ</i> Parish Communion	Isaiah 42.1-9 p37 Acts 10.34-43 Matthew 3.13-17	Arthur Storey	48 Bethlehem of noblest cities 49 Brightest and best NEH 52 O worship the Lord 484 The church's one foundation
18 th January Epiphany 2 Morning Praise	<i>contemporary</i> Isaiah 49.1-7 1 Corinthians 1.1-9 John 1.29-42	Olivia	<i>Junior Praise</i> 22 Be still for the presence 6 God is working his purpose 275 When I needed a neighb'r
25 th January Epiphany 3 Parish Communion	Isaiah 9.1-4 p44 1 Corinthians 1.10-18 Matthew 4.12-23	Mac McKeever	12 On Jordan's bank NEH 50 From the eastern mountain 238 New every morning 55 Hail to the Lord's anointed
<p style="text-align: center;">Everyone is always welcome at all our services and events.</p> <p>See our website: http://www.achurchnearyou.com/twyning-st-mary-magdalene</p> <p>NB An induction loop for those with hearing aids is available at all services in Twyning Church</p>			



On the next page you'll find the arrangements for this year's carol singing.
Most sessions are open to everybody in our village. No previous
experience is required! This is a great traditional activity – do join us.

TWYNING CAROL SINGERS 2025

There has been singing in and around the village since the 1960s. To continue with tradition, we are offering these days, times and venues. If you and your family would like to sing carols around the village this Christmas, please join us. Everyone is most welcome.

Every year we raise money for charities who have made a difference to the lives of people within our village or county. charities that support individuals, families and the community.

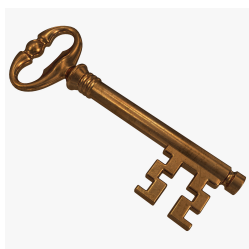
Please can you give any suggestions for charities to Gemma before the 7th Dec.

LEADER(S)	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Gemma	Sun 7 th Dec	4-5pm	Twyning Church A brief practice to indicate availability and give out details for the indoor events.
Angela	Tues 16 th Dec	8.45pm	Masons meet Spring Gardens Car Park, Concert Dress
Gemma	Weds 17 th Dec	8.45pm	Masons meet Spring Gardens Car Park, Concert Dress
Lucy	Sat 20 th Dec	10am for 30 - 40 minutes	Outside Village Shop come & sing - in aid of chosen charities <i>families welcome</i>
Lucy	Sat 20 th Dec	11.30am	Tewkesbury Hospital <i>Families welcome</i>
Gemma + Organist	Sun 21 st Dec	4pm	Church Carol Service Carol Singers giving a couple of well-known carols: casual dress
Gemma 	Mon 22 nd Dec	6pm	Family Night: Paxhill Lane, The Mayalls & Orchard Drive Meet @ Twyning Chapel <i>Families welcome</i> Kindly invited back to Ron and Vera Hesketh (Whistledown, Twyning Green) at the end of the evening
Ellie 	Tues 23 rd Dec	6pm	Family Night: Lynworth Lane, Hillend Road and Freemans Close Meet @ end of Lynworth Lane <i>Families welcome</i> Kindly invited back to Richard Bailey (Bird's Farm) at the end of the evening



Royal Mail have released their **Christmas stamps for 2025** and have gone for a more modern take on the Nativity scenes. The five stamps, designed by Paula Doherty, depict an angel (2nd class), Mary & Joseph (2nd class large letter), Mary & the baby Jesus (1st class), the shepherds (1st large class) and the three wise men (£3.40).

Paula designed this year's stamps by taking fragments of different fabrics and patterned paper to create this harmonious arrangement. Christians believe that God's work in Jesus Christ is a work of reassembly – gathering pieces of a fragmented world that points to unity. This is represented clearly through: the generous sleeves of the wise men, the head coverings of the shepherds and the cloaks of Mary and Joseph.



Church Door Volunteers THANKS

Twynning PCC would like to thank you all so much for the efforts you have put in last year, for doing the regular unlocking and locking of the Church door. Many visitors to the Church have commented most favourably on the condition of the Church and their experience within its walls. Here are some entries in the Visitors Book which is to be found on the bookshelves near the door.

22 March 25 M & G, Nassau Bahamas. Remembering a friend.

22 April 25 M & K, Malvern. Wonderful Church with lovely Easter flowers.

5 June 25. M L, Shrewsbury. I was baptised here in 1939. Lovely to see everything so well ordered and looked after.

9 June 25 Cycled to 9 churches between Tewkesbury and Worcester. Only three were open and only Twynning offered any facilities. Well done!

26 June 25 MM Texas, USA. Beautiful, peaceful Church.

7 July 25. RH Cheltenham. I became an uncle yesterday and came to pray for my new niece's health. Thank you for allowing my visit.

26 Aug 25 AT, Illinois, USA. So much larger than we expected. Glad you were open.

27 Sept 25 BV Penzance, Cornwall. Remembering a man who lived in Twynning and died in India in 1916.

2 Nov 25 Birmingham. Walked around this exceptionally kept Churchyard - is a credit to you all.



From the Bellringers – notice of a Peal to be rung

On Friday 2nd January, a band of ringers will be attempting to ring a peal on the Twynning Church Bells. This will begin at 3pm and, if successful, will continue until soon after 6pm. We hope that you will enjoy the ringing which should be of a very good standard, the organiser coming from Worcester Cathedral. However, should you wish to go out for the afternoon, please accept this notice and have time to make arrangements!!

pp David Bagley, Twynning Tower captain



Vicar:	Revd Canon Nick Davies	01684 850 959
Reader & Parish Lay Minister:	Angela Cole	1684 294 325
Churchwarden:	Chris Cole	01684 294 325
Hon. Treasurer:	Richard Bailey	01684 298 268



Tewkesbury Benefice



*We are part of the Benefice of **Tewkesbury with Walton Cardiff & Twynning** with Revd Canon Nick Davies as our vicar & Revd Hannah Barraclough as associate vicar.*

New Chief Operating Officer appointed

We are delighted to announce the appointment of **Will Jones** as our new Chief Operating Officer (COO). He will be taking up the post on **Tuesday 1 December** and comes to us with a wealth of experience from major ecclesiastical and heritage sites. He is currently the Head of Operations at Gloucester Cathedral, where he served as Interim COO. Before that, he led the visitor experience team at Bath Abbey.

Will shared his enthusiasm: "I am delighted and excited to be stepping into this role. Born and raised in Gloucestershire, I've always felt a strong connection to this area and its remarkable heritage. The Abbey has long been a place I've admired, and it feels a huge privilege to now be part of its story. I look forwards to working alongside everyone to make sure the Abbey continues to be a welcoming place for all, while also planning carefully for the future."

Celebrate Christmas at Tewkesbury Abbey

30th November – Advent Carol Service at 6pm.

9th December – Schola Cantorum Carol Service at 6.45pm.

21st December – Christmas Carol Service at 6pm.

24th December – Christingle at 4pm – (doors open at 3.15pm, no dogs please).

24th December – Midnight Mass at 11.30pm.

25th December – Christmas Day Mass at 10.30am.

11th January – Epiphany Carol Service at 6pm.

What else is on at Tewkesbury Abbey?



Charpentier, Handel & Haydn by Tewkesbury Choral Society
Saturday 6th December 2025 at 7:30
 Tickets are £20 and bookable online or in the Abbey Shop.

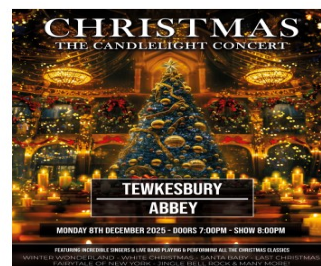
Wild Worship Sunday 7th December at 3-4pm

Join us for an informal, family-friendly outdoor service giving thanks for the beauty of creation. This a free-to-attend service and all are welcome. As we prepare for Christmas, put aside the busyness and the rush, and spend a little wild time outdoors, with stories, prayers, crafting and a campfire.

Christmas - The Candlelight Concert

Monday 8th December at 7.30pm

Experience the enchantment of Christmas – The Candlelight Concert in an unforgettable musical celebration presented by Xperience Live.
 See Abbey website to book



Mediaeval Baebes – ‘Twelfth Moon’ Concert 10th December at 7pm

Established as one of the most successful female-led, early music and folk ensembles in Europe; lush, ethereal harmonies will transport the listener through a myriad of ancient and forgotten languages. See Abbey website to book

Handel’s Oratorio Messiah

sung by the Schola Cantorum with The Bristol Ensemble on Saturday 13 December at 7pm. Tickets are £25, £22 and £18 and these are available at the Abbey Shop and online at www.ticketsource.co.uk

Sunday Services at Tewkesbury Abbey

Sunday	7.30am	Morning Prayer	Wednesday	9am	Morning Prayer
	8am	Holy Communion BCP		4pm	Centering Prayer
	10.30am	High Mass	Thursday	9am	Morning Prayer
	5pm	Evensong		11am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Monday	9am	Morning Prayer		5.30	Choral Evensong*
	5.30	Choral Evensong*	Friday	9am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	9am	Morning Prayer		5.30	Choral Evensong*
	12 noon	Holy Communion	Saturday	9am	Morning Prayer
	5.30	Choral Evensong*		4pm	Evening Prayer
*Choral Evensong sung by Schola Cantorum in			* term-time, otherwise said Evening Prayer 4pm		

Come to explore Tewkesbury Abbey and bring your visitors

The Touching Souls Tea Room opens Monday to Saturday from 9am till 4pm and Sunday 11am to 3pm. **The Abbey Shop** opens Monday to Saturday from 10am till 4pm and Sunday after the morning service till 4pm

CONTACT US on 01684 850 959

Revd Canon Nick Davies	vicar@tewkesburyabbey.org.uk
Revd Hannah Barraclough	associate.vicar@tewkesburyabbey.org.uk
Benefice Administrator Claire Redstone	info@tewkesburyabbey.org.uk



December's Dynamism



This Christmas, Ven Ron is giving out booklets called “Twelve Joys of Christmas”. Do take one and browse the very readable pages written by Nicholas Papadopoulos, Dean of Salisbury Cathedral. We shall also be using some of its wording for readings at our Carol Service.

Here's part of the Introduction:

“Where do I find JOY at Christmas?

Of course in the good news of the birth of Jesus.

Of course in the worship offered to God in the glorious setting of [*our churches*].

Of course, in the carols and the readings.

But also ... in other stuff. The stuff we're probably not meant to talk about in church.

You know. The Christmas tree. The presents. THE FOOD. The trips and the treats. I look forward to them. I love them. They give me **joy**.



...

At Christmas we celebrate the divine becoming visible in the earthly, don't we? Isn't it just possible that in this other stuff – this decidedly earthly stuff – we catch a glimpse of the divine? I believe that it is. ...

This is the stuff that opens my eyes ever wider to the mystery and wonder of Christ's birth, and my hope is that, whatever brings you joy this Christmas, it might open your eyes ever wider to that mystery and wonder, too. For ‘... the Word became flesh and lived among us’.”

Every blessing for Advent, Christmas and beyond
Angela Cole

Reader, Parish Lay Minister	01684 294325	angelacole135@hotmail.com
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[Your contributions are most welcome for the first 2026 issue: by **20th** Dec please.]



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Mike Bennett 1 Abbots Court Drive, Church End - www.piedpiperappeal.co.uk

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