

## MAIN SUNDAY SERVICES

(see separate sheet for Christmas Services)

### Sunday 7th December

9.15am St John's Holy Communion  
9.45am Holy Trinity Family Communion  
11.00am St Mary's Holy Communion  
11.15am St Leonard's Family Communion  
4.00pm Holy Trinity Evening Service

### Sunday 14th December

9.15am St John's Holy Communion  
9.45am Holy Trinity Holy Communion  
11.00am St Mary's Holy Communion  
11.15am St Leonard's Holy Communion

### Sunday 21st December

9.15am St John's Holy Communion  
9.45am Holy Trinity Holy Communion  
11.00am St Mary's Holy Communion  
11.15am St Leonard's Carol Service

### Sunday 28th December

10.30am St Mary's United Parish Service

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## The Joy of Christmas

The joy of Christmas is the Church of England's theme for this Christmas. One of the resources it has produced is a delightful little book called 'The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas.'



The story opens by telling us that there once was an owl who lived in an empty, cold, damp and lonely old barn which was just the way he liked it because he was a grumpy owl. One night a man, a woman and a donkey burst through the door. 'What are you doing in my barn?' hoots the owl to the donkey. When the donkey explains that the guest room is full and the lady is about to have a baby, the owl declares that he doesn't give a hoot and flies off to find somewhere he can be alone. You will have to read the book if you want to find out if the owl misses out on the joy of Christmas or whether the story ends with him hooting for joy.

Joy is a key theme in the Christmas story. When the angel Gabriel tells Mary that God has chosen her to be the mother of the long-awaited Saviour she sings a song of joy – the Magnificat. Following the birth of Jesus, the angels' message to the shepherds is 'Behold I bring you good news of great joy.' We read that when the wise men saw the star that would lead them to the Christ child they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

For many people Christmas is a joyful season. A time for decking the halls with holly; a time for going to a Christmas panto; a time for feasting and making merry; a time for family to gather once more. Sadly, Christmas isn't joyful for all. It's not if you are worrying about how you will pay for it all; it's not if a Christmas party means he'll come home drunk once more; it's not if there's an empty chair at the Christmas table where there was a loved one the year before. For many of us Christmas can be a mixture with both highs and lows – a time when joy comes and goes.

May I wish everyone who is looking forward to the joys of Christmas every blessing. May I encourage us all to be alert and sensitive to those for whom Christmas isn't a time of joy. May I invite us all to remember that in the birth of Jesus – Emmanuel – God comes down to be with us and he doesn't come and go. Jesus is with us when we are on the mountain top and full of joy. Jesus is with us when we are down in the valley and full of sorrow. Jesus is with us at every twist and turn, nook and cranny along the way.

Happy Christmas,

Scott

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## Giving campaign 2025

Earlier in October, envelopes were given out in our churches with information about our Giving Campaign. If you have yet to respond, it's still not too late! You can either bring your response to church, or scan and email it to Revd Jo. If you didn't get an envelope and would like one, please also email Revd Jo on [jo@telfordchurch.co.uk](mailto:jo@telfordchurch.co.uk).

We will be collating all the offers of help and will get back to you in the coming weeks about these. If you have returned the Finance card, our Treasurers/Gift Aid Secretaries will be contacting you regarding your requests. Should you be concerned that we haven't responded to you following your response, please do get in touch with us.

## Parish Confirmation Service - Sunday 1st February 2026

Bishop Michael will be coming to St Mary, Ketley for our next Confirmation Service in the parish on Sunday 1st February at 10.30am. If you would like to start receiving the bread and wine at Holy Communion, or would like to confirm your faith and the promises made at your baptism, or just want to know more about Confirmation, please contact Revd Jo

## Christmas in our local schools



Developing links with local schools in the parish is one of the priorities for our mission and ministry as

an important way of enabling children, and their families, to discover the good news of Jesus and to encounter the love of God. We also have a number of people in our churches who are also involved in our school links. December is the time of the year when Revds Scott and Jo will be sharing the Christmas story in schools, and when our churches will be opening their doors to welcome children, school staff and families. Please do pray for all those that we will encounter in this way, that they will discover the joy and love that is at the heart of Christmas.

Here are the various events that will be taking place across the parish:

Christingle Service at Meadows School; Experience Christmas at St Mary's Church for Meadows School; Lawley Primary School Service at St John's Church; Lawley Primary School Christmas School Assembly Experience Christmas at Holy Trinity Church for Captain Webb School; Experience Christmas at Holy Trinity Church for Dawley CE School; Old Park Christmas Performances at St Leonard's Church; Chipmunks Nursery Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church; Little Learners Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church; Dawley CE Christmas Service at Holy Trinity Church; Captain Webb Foundation Stage Service at Holy Trinity Church; Old Park Christmas Assembly

These events will involve about 1100 children, as well as the adults who accompany them!

**Baptisms in November: "May they shine as a light in the world to the glory of God"** Romee Taylor

**Funerals/burial of ashes in October: "May they rest in peace and rise in glory"** Thomas James

Williams Margaret Joan Upton Chris Short

**Contact:** Revd Prebendary Jo Farnworth (Team Rector)  
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email: jo@telfordchurch.co.uk  
Revd Scott Edwards (Team Vicar)  
tel: 01952 504917  
Email: scott@telfordchurch.co.uk

## CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND SERVICES IN CENTRAL TELFORD PARISH



### Sunday 14th December:

4.00pm & 6.00pm Carols by Candlelight at St James, Stirchley

### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

2.00pm All Friends Together Christmas Service at Holy Trinity, Dawley

### Friday 19th December

7.00pm Carol Service at St John, Lawley

### Saturday 20th December:

10.00am Messy Christmas at Holy Trinity, Dawley

### Sunday 21st December:

11.15am Carol Service at St Leonard, Malinslee

4.00pm Carol Service at St Mary, Ketley

5.00pm Carols & Christingle Service at Holy Trinity, Dawley

### Christmas Eve: Wednesday 24th December

4.00pm Crib Service at Holy Trinity, Dawley

4.00pm Crib Service at St John, Lawley

4.00pm Crib Service at St Leonard, Malinslee

9.30pm Christmas Eve Communion Service at St Mary, Ketley and at St John, Lawley

11.30pm Christmas Eve Communion Service at Holy Trinity Dawley and at St Leonard, Malinslee

### Christmas Day: Thursday 25th December

10.00am Holy Communion Service at St John, Lawley

## Weekly Activities in the Parish

### Holy Trinity

Wednesdays: Trinity Tots 9.30 - 11.00 doors open at 9.00am (term times only)

Thursdays: Trinity Tots 9.30 - 11.00 (term times only)

For more information please contact Glenis [07513 202282](tel:07513202282)

### St Leonard's

Mondays: 11.00 - 12.00 Drop in food bank - available for people struggling financially or for anyone who wants to help reduce food waste. Tea and coffee served

Wednesdays: 10.00 - 10.45am Exercise to Music

Class. Cost = £3 Last Tuesday of the month (usually)

9.30 - 11.30am Chatty Club 1.30 - 2.30pm Baby Babble.

For more information, contact Jo 01952 416370

### A Safe Church

The parish of Central Telford is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults. We follow the House of Bishops guidance and policies and have our own Parish Safeguarding Officer and Safeguarding Links for each church. More information about safeguarding can be found at [www.lichfield.anglican.org/safeguarding](http://www.lichfield.anglican.org/safeguarding)

If you have any concerns in the parish, please contact Revd Jo (07562 739683) or our Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator Hannah Yapp (07752 192175)