



BISHAM TOGETHER

The Monthly Newsletter
from All Saints Bisham
December 2025

Hello everyone,

Despite December's best attempts to surprise us each year—with frosty mornings, shortening days, and the annual mystery of where on earth we stored the Christmas decorations—there's no mistaking that the Advent season is upon us once again.

As we prepare for the celebrations ahead, our church family gathers to welcome the hope and joy of Emmanuel, and to share in all the warmth this special month brings.

May this season offer moments of stillness amid the bustle, renewed gratitude for the blessings around us, and a gentle reminder of the light that shines in every darkness.

Carol

Interim Team Vicar



Church Life

Worship & Events:

- Every Sunday: 9.30am Holy Communion at All Saints Bisham
- First Sunday of every month: 8am Book of Common Prayer Service
– next service: 7th December

10th December, 10am — Daytime Carol Service

A gentle, welcoming service of favourite carols for those who prefer not to be out in the evening. Refreshments will be served before the service.

14th December, 4pm — Nine Lessons and Carols

A traditional candlelit service telling the story of salvation through scripture and song.

21st December, 4pm — Community Carols

A joyful gathering for all ages as we sing well-loved carols together, led by the JAM choir and enjoy time as a community. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served before the service.

24th December, 3pm — Crib Service

A family-friendly retelling of the Nativity as we gather around the crib to welcome the Christ-child.

25th December, 9.30am — Christmas Day Communion

A joyful celebration of Christ's birth as we share communion on Christmas morning.

Sundays at All Saints...

The Reason for the Season: An Advent Journey

This Advent, our sermon series will follow the weekly Bible readings, guiding us on a journey through the scriptures that invites us to slow down, listen closely, and wonder again at the “reason for the season.” What are we really waiting for—and what might God be longing to awaken in us as we journey towards Christmas?

Each week, the scriptures draw us into themes of watching, hoping, and preparing our hearts for Christ's coming. Through the voices of the prophets and the unfolding Gospel story, we're encouraged to look for God at work in unexpected places and to rediscover the light that breaks into even the busiest of Decembers.

So, I wonder, what would it look like for you to pause, wonder, and rediscover the heart of Christmas this year?

Why not join us, and let's discover together.

...And in other news this month:



On 1st November, a few of us gathered at Church and spent some time thinking about life and death, pondering some very interesting questions about grief and the reality of loss, funerals – what happens and what could happen – and how society and our culture deals with death.

These are not easy things to talk about, but the questions prompted us to start the conversation and proved interesting and helpful to all who attended.

Alongside the serious reflections, there was also plenty of humour and light-hearted moments, which reminded us that even in the midst of difficult topics, laughter and shared fun have their place.

A Service to Remember a Loved One



On Sunday 2nd November, we gathered at church for a special service to remember and give thanks for the lives of those we loved and lost and see no longer.

The service provided a quiet, reflective space for prayer, music, and shared memories, allowing everyone to honour their loved ones in their own way. Candles were lit, names were spoken aloud, and the congregation came together in a spirit of comfort, support, and gentle remembrance.

Thanks to Catherine, Mary and Ros for helping to serve refreshments which allowed us time to talk and remember together.

An Evening with Iain Farrington

On 7th November, we were thrilled to welcome back to Bisham for the second time, the acclaimed composer, organist and pianist, Iain Farrington!



The evening was a delightful musical journey, beginning with a selection of French organ classics in the first half, before moving on to Iain's own compositions in the second half, including a set of lively jazz-inspired pieces.

His remarkable talent, combined with the warmth and humour he brings to his performances, made it a truly memorable evening.

Thanks to Sean and the team for serving up wine and nibbles in the interval making the evening even more enjoyable and giving everyone a chance to chat and relax.



Safeguarding Sunday: Caring for all

Safeguarding Sunday is an annual opportunity for all churches across the country to reaffirm their commitment to creating safe, caring communities for all. We recognise it each year to reflect on our responsibilities, celebrate the good work being done, and ensure that safeguarding remains at the heart of our life together.

November 16th was *Safeguarding Sunday*, and this year's theme, *Action Speaks Louder*, encourages all churches not only to reflect but to actively improve safeguarding, learning from past mistakes and celebrating the vital work happening behind the scenes to protect vulnerable people.

Our Parish Safeguarding Programme sets out mandatory requirements across areas such as plans and procedures, roles, training, and how church activities are run. We track our progress through an online Safeguarding Dashboard, and we are delighted that All Saints Bisham is currently 100% compliant.

If you'd like to know more or explore ways to support this essential work, please speak to Revd Carol Cooper, Mary Gooderidge, or Mark Garrad.



A Beautiful Bisham Wedding



On 22nd November we were pleased to celebrate the wedding of Chris and Sarah. Despite the wet and bitterly cold weather, nothing could dampen the joy of the occasion as we welcomed their family and friends into the church to share in their special day.

Chris and Sarah have been worshipping with us at Bisham for around six months, during which time we've come to know them as a wonderfully warm, smiling and genuinely lovely couple. It was a privilege to be part of their Big Day, and we wish them every happiness in their life together.

Silver Jewellery Party

It was great to host our second Silver Jewellery Party on Friday 29th November. It was a lovely evening of browsing, chatting, and discovering some beautiful handmade pieces, ethically produced by Mexican Artisans and sold through the Christian company, "More Precious than Silver".

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event. Your presence helped create a warm and enjoyable atmosphere, and we hope you found something special to take home.



Bisham Church Friends

The Great Bisham Quiz Night

The Quiz Night was a brilliant evening of brains, banter, and community spirit! The winning team included the Vicar and Churchwarden—proving that divine inspiration and parish experience make a formidable quiz combo! Guests enjoyed challenging rounds, a delicious meal from Bisham Abbey, and a lively raffle. Thanks to everyone's generosity, the night raised over £3,000 for the Friends—a truly wonderful result!



But sadly, we also said a sad goodbye to Sean Wheeler as he announced he will be stepping down as Chair of the Bisham Church Friends this December, after an exceptional five years at the helm.



Under his leadership, the Friends have grown to 160 members, and Sean has been remarkable in organising events and fundraisers, such as the quiz night, that have brought the community together and supported the life of the church.

Sean's dedication, energy, and warm leadership will be greatly missed, and we are immensely grateful for all he has done for the Friends and the Church over the years. He has faithfully served on our Church Council, bringing his wisdom and experience which we have always valued.

We are extremely grateful to Sean for his involvement, and he promises to remain involved with the Friends as a volunteer. I'm sure you join me in wishing him well for the future.

Of course this leaves the Friends with large boots to fill! So if you feel that the role of Chair of the Friends, is something you could take on in the future, do please speak to Sean as the Friends are looking for someone to continue with all the fantastic work he has done, and to build on the strong links with the Church, the Abbey and the local community.

There is a wonderful group of volunteers who regularly bake, serve and clear up after events at the church, so you would not be on your own!



Bisham CofE Academy



Bisham School Remembrance Service



On November 11th, the school gathered at Bisham Church for their annual Remembrance Service. Years 5 and 6 led the service, helping us reflect on the significance of Remembrance Day, including the story behind the poppy as a symbol of remembrance.

They also shared the poignant poem *"In Flanders Fields,"* which reminds us all of the horrors of war..

We marked the two-minute silence, assisted wonderfully by Keith Spiers who played *The Last Post* and *Reveille* for us. It was a moving and thoughtful moment, bringing the whole school community together to reflect and remember.



Wintershall Travelling Nativity



The children were treated to a special experience when the Wintershall team brought their Travelling Nativity to the school field.

This interactive retelling of the Christmas story, complete with costumes, animals, and lively performances, allowed the pupils to step into the world of Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds in a vivid and memorable way.

The field became an open-air stage as the story unfolded around the children, capturing their imagination and helping them engage with the Nativity in a fresh and joyful way. They met a shepherd and his sheep, heard stories from the journey to the stable, and even had to help wake up one of the Wise Men—who, they were told, spends all night watching the stars!

Each child was given a "Pilgrim Bag" to take around with them, and the characters gave them a small memento to remind them of their particular story.

It was a wonderful visit that brought the heart of the Christmas story to life for everyone present.





Community Notices

Upcoming Dates:

- 10th December, 10am — Daytime Carol Service
- 14th December, 4pm — Nine Lessons and Carols
- 21st December, 4pm — Community Carols
- 24th December, 3pm — Crib Service
- 25th December, 9.30am — Christmas Day Communion

Contact us:

Parish Office (Marlow)	01628 481806	parish.office@4u-team.org
Rev Carol Cooper	07774 061944	carol.cooper@4u-team.org
Mark Garrad (Churchwarden)	07738 029086	garrad.mark@gmail.com
Bisham Church Friends (Sean)	07808 094777	www.bishamchurchfriends.org
Daphne Dru (Safeguarding)	07717 441437	Daphne.dru@4u-team.org

Community Gallery

A few moments from the life of our church and community this month.....



Iain
Farrington
Concert



School Remembrance
Service

Wintershall Travelling Nativity

