All Saints Church Awbridge December 2026



The Star of Bethlehem

"..the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star they were overjoyed"

Matthew Ch 2 v9-10

A Happy Christmas to all of you from the members of All Saints, Awbridge.

We are all looking forward to celebrating the wonderful festival of Christmas again, as we journey through Advent, opening doors of Advent Calendars, hearing familiar carols, music and stories so that we can experience once again the mystery of the Holy Nativity Story gently revealing itself to all of us. If we look at the stars, in the bright sky above, it is easy to imagine the compelling attraction of that Star of Bethlehem, taking us to the place of Jesus' birth. If you want to know more come and join in our events and services, we even have a special event dedicated to studying that very special star.

Over the last few months we have many things to be thankful for in our village, for the community in which we live and worship, for the commemorations shown at Remembering and Remembrance Services, in particular for Remembrance we had special poems written by Awbridge School pupils, a new bagpipe lament from Ian Keith and wonderful trumpeter Isaac Child playing at the war memorial.

150th Anniversary Events

In November, we had another 'Pearly Gates the Rehearsal' with special guest the Bishop of Winchester, when we enjoyed hearing his life story and favourite music choices including the Rolling Stones and met his dog named "Noggin" after Noggin the Nog, a family favourite! Thank you to everyone involved.

Our annual Christmas Fayre is in Awbridge Village Hall on Friday 27th November from 2.30 to 5.30 pm. which will include some great stalls and crafts and lots of fun, raising vital funds to support our church and providing a great social event in our village.

We also have a stunning introduction to Advent with a special concert with the Eldon Singers in the church on Sunday 29th November from 7.00 pm.

Our final event is a talk on "The Star of Bethlehem" by Professor Julian Evans in the church on Friday 4th December from 7.00 pm with mulled wine. Do come along and find out more and be surprised at the science behind the real star of Bethlehem.

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 6th Dec and at the Family Breakfast Service on 13th 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 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. Make Christmas greener, one day at a time. Fun, practical, biblical and thoughtful, why not try some easy Eco-tips from "A Rocha UK" to go greener at Christmas. Sustainability and creation care for busy people. 'Make your own decorations from recyclable materials, such as dried orange slice ornaments,

sticks of cinnamon, cardboard tube fairies or giant paper snowflakes. Turn scrap paper into paper chains. Responsibly foraged materials like pine cones and holly can be used for wreaths. For more ideas see http://arocha.org.uk/make-christmas-greener-one-day-at-a-time/

Christmas: We look forward to welcoming you and your family to our services and events. We will also welcome the Ark and later Awbridge School, to church, for their own celebrations. All our church Christmas Services are advertised shown below and in the Church Christmas Card, or visit our church website for more details at www.awbridge.church

Carols by Candlelight is on Sunday 20th December from 7.00 pm, including our Pop-up Choir, do join us and enjoy carols and mulled wine. If you would like to join the choir, please contact Chris Thompson, email: chris.s.thompson@me.com. Rehearsals are at Awbridge Church on Wednesday evenings 2nd, 9th &16th December from 7.00 pm.

The Crib Service is on Tuesday 22nd December from 4.00 pm in the church, for families of all ages, with an informal Nativity Play written and performed by a local family, it is a unique re-telling of this amazing story, so don't miss out on this opportunity, with carols and refreshments

Christmas Eve: Midnight Holy Communion on Christmas Eve, from 11.15 pm

Christmas Day: Christmas Day Family Celebration from 10.00 am

There will be a **New Year's Day Walk** on Friday 1st January, starting at 11.00 am, from Butts Green, Lockerley, parking near the school, and this may be followed by a visit to a local hostelry! All Welcome, please contact James Alexander: 07785 724531.

Messy Church is on Saturday 2nd January from 11.00 am at Braishfield Church Room when we start to look at the season of Epiphany with the Wise Men.

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Services and Events

Wednesday 2 December	12 noon	Christmas Lunch in the church rooms
Friday 4 December	7 00 pm	The Star of Bethlehem in the church
Sunday 6 December	9.30 am	Holy Communion (with Christmas donations for SCM)
Friday 11 December	9.15 am	The Ark celebrates Christmas in the church
Sunday 13 December	9.00 am	Family Breakfast Service in Awbridge Village Hall
	6.30 pm	Contemporary Worship
Sunday 20 December	7.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight
Tuesday 22 December	4.00 pm	Crib Service
Thursday 24 December	11.15 pm	Christmas Eve Midnight Holy Communion
Christmas Day	10.00 am	Christmas Day All Age Family Celebration
Sunday 27 December	10.30 am	UB Holy Communion at St Mary's Michelmersh

Regular Activities

Coffee Hub	Every Tuesday in the church rooms from 9.15 – 11.30 am
Prayer Meeting	Before Coffee Hub on 1 & 15 December from 9.00 am
House Group Social	Tuesday 8 December from 7.30 pm at Chanwel House Please contact Lynda Tucker - 07884 492314
The Ark Toddler Group	Friday 4 December from 9.15 am to 11.00 am in Awbridge Village Hall (plus celebration in church on 11 Dec) Please contact Lynda Tucker - 07884 492314
Craft & Chat	Friday 4 December from 10.30 am – 12.30 pm in Awbridge Village Hall Committee Room Please contact Sue Franklin - 01794 322185

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	Benefice Administrator	01794 878020	braishfieldbenefice@gmail.com

Useful Village contacts

Awbridge Village website www.awbridge.info **Awbridge Neighbourcare** 08450 946155