

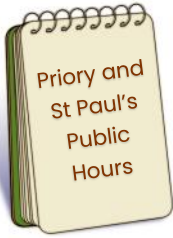
Parish Magazine of Worksof Priory with Carburton & Clumber



December 2025



£1



The Parish Office

Applications for baptisms, weddings, etc:

Public Hour: Fridays 10.30am - 11.30am

Our Giving

Bank details for standing orders or donations are:

Workshop Priory Parochial Church Council

Virgin Money Sort Code: 05-09-89

Account Number: 38125853

Due to bank charges for processing cheques and cash, we kindly ask that, wherever possible, people donate money using online banking, even for small amounts. This doesn't cost us a penny. Please indicate in the reference field who it's from, and what for, then we can Gift Aid your donation wherever possible.

You can also donate quickly and easily by scanning our QR code, there is also an option to register to gift aid your donation, it takes a matter of seconds!



Thank you!



Regular Public Worship Times

Sundays

9.30 am	Parish Sung Mass with Junior Church
11.30am	Mass at Clumber Chapel
6pm	Evening Prayer and Benediction (First Sunday)

Monday - Saturday (when possible)

9am	Lauds	(Morning Prayer)
6pm	Vespers*	(Evening Prayer)

Daily Mass

Monday	9.30am	Mass at Priory
Tuesday	6.30pm	Mass at Priory
Wednesday	9.30am	Mass at Priory
Thursday	6.30pm	Mass at Priory
Friday	12noon	Mass at Priory
Saturday	9.30am	Mass at Priory



Family Worship

Wednesday	10.15am	Songs and Stories for pre-school children and their parents and carers at Priory
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Confessions

Thursday	5.45pm	at Priory
Friday	11.30am	at Priory

vicar@worksoppriory.co.uk

Weddings and Baptisms by appointment. Enquiries to

admin@worksoppriory.co.uk

**On the last Thursday of the month the Rosary replaces Vespers and Mass is offered for the Society of Mary, if no other occasion is being kept that day.*

We aim to make our services as accessible as possible by making the best of the resources available to us across the Parish.

Activities For Children and Young People



All children and young people activities are cross parish ventures putting their joint resources to best use.

Pre-school:

'Songs & Stories', for our youngest [new-born to nursery] and their grown-ups. We meet every Wednesday 10.15 to 11.30am, in Priory Lady Chapel. We have play with soft toys, sound toys, a ball park, picture books and baby gyms followed by story and song.

Please see our Facebook page, 'Worksop Priory Family Page' for updates.

Children of primary school age:

Junior Church for children aged 7-11 on Sundays:

- ♦ during the 9.30am Parish Mass at Priory

Parental consent forms are required for all children and young people accessing any activities unaccompanied.

Registers for November 2025

Baptisms

2nd Theodore Middleton
8th Constance Limber



Baptisms can be booked each Friday morning at the Priory between 10.30am and 11.30am. If you have queries please email admin@worksoppriory.co.uk

Baptism preparation sessions are held at the Priory on the first Saturday of each month at 5pm.

Funerals

17th Hazel Humphreys
18th Billy Potts
26th Rosaline Staniland



Society Of Mary and Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham

This month our Society Meeting will be **6pm for Rosary**, 6.30pm for Mass
Thursday 18th December in Priory

Everyone is welcome to join in. The Rosary will be recited as part of our prayerful preparation for Mass and guidance can be given to help in this beautiful and effective way of prayer.

The "Society of Mary and Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham" refers to a local parish-based group called a Walsingham Cell, which is affiliated with the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham. Cells are local groups of parishioners who support the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham through prayer and by deepening their devotion to Mary and the incarnation.

December 2025

Dates, Observances and Prayer Intentions

1	Advent Feria	Carburton and Clumber
2	Advent Feria	Kilton and Larwood
3	S. Francis Xavier	Migrants
4	S. John of Damascus	Christian Artists
5	Feria	Town Shops and Businesses
6	S. Nicolas	Junior Church
7	2nd Sunday of Advent	The Parish
8	The Immaculate Conception	The Parish
9	Advent Feria	Increased Donations to Foodbank & Hub
10	Advent Feria	Lowtown and Sparken Hill
11	Advent Feria	Town Centre
12	Advent Feria	The Cathedral
13	S. Lucy	Our Youth Groups
14	3rd Sunday of Advent	The Parish
15	Advent Feria	Addicts

MONTHLY DEVOTION:

THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION

16	Advent Feria	Our schools
17	Advent Feria	Teachers and Philosophers
18	Advent Feria	The Jewish People
19	Advent Feria	The Justice Service
20	Advent Feria	Prisoners
21	4th Sunday of Advent	The Parish
22	Advent Feria	The Nations of the World
23	Advent Feria	The Joy of Christ Among Us
24	Advent Feria	A Holy Keeping of Christmas
25	Christmass Day	The Parish
26	S. Stephen	Persecuted Christians
27	S. John the Evangelist	Growing Disciples
28	The Holy Family	The Parish
29	S. Thomas Becket	The Church of England
30	6th Day of Christmass	The Homeless
31	7th Day of Christmass	The Lonely and Isolated

Christmass decorations

Once again plans are being made to ensure that Priory is decorated to the glory of God and the pleasure of all who visit during the Christmass period. If you would like to offer help to set up the Christmass trees (after Mass Sunday 21st) or help with flowers please speak with James.

Financial donations towards the decorations/flowers can be made by a bank transfer - please use the word decorations, or by putting a labelled envelope on the collection plate.

Thank you!



Fr Spicer writes....

Advent can be a time of great blessing. It can also be a time of great stress! It's because Christmass is so important, and needs to be celebrated with the best I can muster, that I need a period before it. After all the Church gives me six weeks of Lent to prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord at Easter. This year the Church gives you and me a full four weeks of Advent days to wait and prepare.

Advent is as much about waiting as it is preparing. Our Lady Mary and S Joseph waited with great expectation for the birth of their child. Ordinary baby things had to be got ready, and then on top of it all a census is called and they have to leave Nazareth to register in Bethlehem. Stresses as well as blessings. Waiting and preparing. Like them I wait; only with a difference, because I'm waiting to receive Jesus into my life. Yes I know he is already "in my life" but Advent calls me to wait, be still, be aware of his coming to me again and again if I will let Him.

Advent calls me to prepare to meet Jesus as my Lord and King, face to face. Historically preachers prompted people to dwell on the Four Last things; death, judgement, heaven and Hell. I look forward, with hope to meeting my Lord, trying to put behind me anxieties or fears. Looking at why I'm anxious, why fearful, and asking if there is anything I can do to dispel them. Is there something about my way of life that brings sadness to Jesus? Is there something that needs addressing which will allay fear and anxiety and bring me peace here on earth?

"Peace on earth" is what the Angels proclaim is the purpose of the birth of Jesus. It was needed 2000 years ago, and it is still needed. So as a Christian I keep Advent as a time of looking to myself and to this world, and offering to be an instrument of peace. I try to do this in what seems to be the busiest time and so least peaceful time of the year! I need even more to be saying my prayers, even more need to be opening my Bible and allowing Him to come to me, even more to be meeting Him in the Sacraments, especially Confession and the Mass.

Give yourself some space with God as an early Christmass present. Watch,

wait, prepare and celebrate the Coming of your God to earth this Advent, this Christmass. God bless.

Fr Spicer

Celebrating The Sacrament Of Reconciliation

Many Christians use Advent as a time to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, make their confession. When we next sing the Gloria at Christmass, it can be as those who have come to their Lord, having confessed their sins and received the assurance of forgiveness.

All may come and speak with a priest; advice and help will be given especially if it is your first confession and it can be as informal as you like. Don't think because you can't kneel down you can't make a confession! Some should do so, especially if there is something from the past that is troubling you, that you cannot shake off or leave behind in the normal ways of examining your conscience - before going to sleep at night or before receiving Holy Communion.

Any of your priests will be happy to make an appointment to meet with you and celebrate the sacrament. Fr Spicer will also be available at the following times in Priory:

December 2025

Thursday 18th	from 5.45pm
Friday 19th	from 11.15am
Saturday 20th	from 10am
Tuesday 23rd	from 5.45pm



Parish Visiting

The PCC have set themselves the vision to visit every house in the parish with a leaflet over the next few years. On the last Saturday of the month some of us will gather to leaflet a few roads together. The leaflet will be an introduction to our life here, what we can offer to support someone who wants to lead a Christian life and asking if they would like to come to a Mass to hear someone or something that is on their hearts be prayed for.

If you would like to help deliver leaflets please look out for the next meeting place. Please if possible say a prayer for this endeavour, at around 10.30am, that the homes receiving leaflets will come to know of God's love in the Church.



SAFEGUARDING AT WORKSOP PRIORY

What to do if you have a safeguarding concern:

Urgent concerns

If you believe someone is at immediate risk of being harmed you must contact either the Police or Social Services directly:

Police 999

Nottinghamshire Multi-Agency

Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 0300 500 8090/0300 456 4546

Non-urgent concerns

If the concern is not urgent or an emergency, Worksop Priory has a **Parish Safeguarding Officer – Susan Bekisz**, who manages safeguarding issues at church. She can be contacted on safeguarding@worksoppriory.co.uk alternatively you can call **07355 850735**. This phone cannot always be answered immediately, but you can leave a message. We will endeavour to respond within 48 hours.

There may be occasions when our Safeguarding Officer is not available.

If we have not responded within 36 hours after you have raised a concern, consider the following options to get advice:

Fr Spicer 01909 472180 or 07748 653640

Diocesan Safeguarding Team 01636 817200

Raise funds for us for FREE

with  easyfundraising



Join as our supporter today at:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause

Just search for:

WORKSOP PRIORY

8,000+ retailers will donate to us whenever you shop with them



JOHN
LEWIS



Start at the
easyfundraising
website or app

Click out
to where you'd
like to shop



Checkout:
prices are exactly
the same!

The retailer sends
a % of your spend
to easyfundraising



They pass
it on to us
:)

Plus, you'll get...



Exclusive retailer offers



Competitions



A warm feeling inside!

Over
£60m
raised for UK good causes

£0
extra cost to anyone

Please consider doing your online shopping through the easyfundraising website or app. Currently if you join and shop with eBay by 30 September, Worksop Priory will be entered into the draw to receive one of TEN £500 micro grants. Plus, whenever you buy from eBay or any other participating retailer, Worksop Priory receives a small percentage of the spend as a donation at no extra cost.

All those donations soon add up!

CAN YOU HELP WITH FUNDRAISING FOR PRIORY?

As you may have gathered from the posters in church and notices in the booklets and newsletters, our Christmas fundraisers are literally just around the corner. Are you able to donate any items for the following stalls at the **Christmas Fair?**

- * Tombola prizes
- * Bric a Brac
- * Cakes, biscuits, sweet treats

We also need biscuits for the refreshments on offer throughout the **Christmas Tree Festival**.



Are you, or a business you know, able to donate a prize for the **New Year Raffle** to be drawn on Sunday 4 January 2026? Susan has prepared a letter that can be given to businesses asking for donations, so please contact her if you'd like to help.
admin@worksopriory.co.uk or 07355 850735

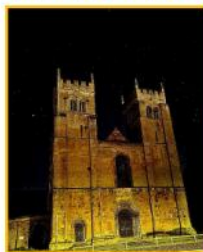
Christmas at Worksop Priory

FEATURING

CARLTON MAIN FRICKLEY
COLLIERY BAND
AND
WHITWELL BRASS BAND

Saturday 6th December
7pm (Doors Open 6.30pm)
Worksop Priory
Tickets £10 (u16s free)
Purchase tickets at:
www.carltonmain.co.uk

EVENING MUSIC at WORKSOP PRIORY S80 2BU
December 19th 2025 at 7pm Admission free
An ADVENT concert in the baroque tradition



Worksop Priory Choir
and friends
with strings,
woodwind, and organ
directed by
Rosemary Field

Photo credit: Ash Penny Williams

- Bach – Extracts from Cantata *Sleepers Wake*

Soloists: Laurena Kumar-Lee (Soprano) Jonathan Price (Baritone)

- Bach – unaccompanied cello pieces
played by Annabel Gordon, New York

- Magnificat – Buxtehude

Evening Music is a tradition dating back to baroque times in Germany, where it thrives still. A short concert is given in town churches, with a mix of sacred and secular music programmed. The timing is early evening and the duration under an hour.

This is definitely NOT a Christmas concert, so please be aware there are no carols.

It is the Priory musical outreach project for Advent. We are immensely grateful to friends in the musical profession for giving time, skills and travel costs to offer it as a gift to all who want to come and hear it. **Admission free, retiring collection for the fabric of the building.** Ramp access, toilets, some parking on site and large car park nearby. **Wear warm clothing; the medieval Priory is chilly.**

Further details from Musicdirector@worksopriory.co.uk

Worksop Priory, Priorswell Road, Worksop S80 2BU



WORKSOP COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2025

WORKSOP PRIORY

**WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER TO
SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER**



Please help us make this year's festival a success:

- * Spread the word and come and vote for your favourite tree. The winning tree will receive a **£100 donation** for their cause. Our deepest thanks to the kind supporter who donated this prize.

FESTIVAL ALSO FEATURES:

- * **Mosaic Recorder Consort** perform at **1pm** on **Friday 5 December**
- * **Priory Christmas Fair** on **Saturday 6 December** 10am –4pm
- * **'Christmas at Priory'** concert by Carlton Main Frickley Colliery & Whitwell Brass Band, **7pm** on **Saturday 6 December**.

Thank you to all who have offered their help so far it is greatly appreciated. We still need some help:

- * Setting up for the Christmas Fair on Friday afternoon and clearing away afterwards on Saturday.
- * Stewarding and providing refreshments at Saturday's evening concert.
- * Staffing church on Monday 8 December when all the trees are removed.



Please give Susan a call about any of these
on 07355 850735
or email
admin@worksoppriory.co.uk



Thank you!

Church Memories...

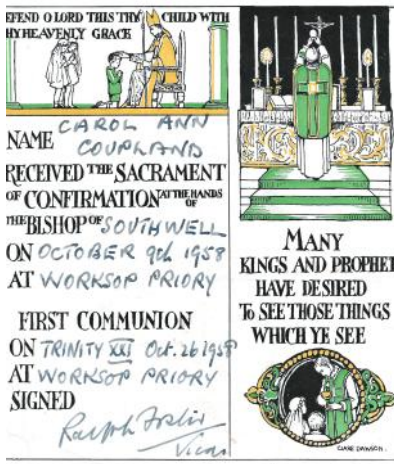
My parents were married at the Priory Church in 1933 and my sister and brother both attended Priory schools. I remember being part of the Rose Queen procession when I attended the Abbey Infants school and my Rose bouquet came from Grandad's garden.



My next school was Abbey Girls and I remember having to go up the creaky stairs in the Gatehouse! At this time the Summer Fayre was held in the Vicarage gardens on Potter Street where the Maypole dancing took place. Moving to Priory Senior School was a big change, mixing with all the much older pupils.

I remember Father Sawyer standing at the back of the Priory Church advising the "readers" to speak more slowly so that the congregation could hear the words clearly.

After church on Sunday mornings, I would often go to visit Gran and Grandad down Boundary Row. He would be sat on the step waiting for me, and Gran would have toasted homemade bread on a fork in front of the open fire with Danish tub butter – yummy!



At Midnight Mass in 1963, Mum and I came to the Priory to pray for Gran who was very ill. She died the next day, Christmas Day. Although this is a joyous time, I find it tinged with sadness every time I hear her name read out during the Christmas Day Mass.

Having been baptised, confirmed and worshipped at the Priory Church since I was 5 years old, it was important to me that I also be married in this well-loved building, on 14th September 1968.



After living in Lancashire for six and a half years, then moving back to Worksop, on one occasion I remember meeting my Priory School Deputy Head/Church Warden Mrs Waltham. I mentioned that I had started attending St Anne's Church as I wanted our girls to go the nearest church school. She said it wouldn't matter which specific church I attended.

When the girls grew older, I returned to the Priory Church where I helped Ginny with Sunday school, read lessons and was part of Mr Morby and Mr Salmon's 'A' Team! We had to stand to attention, nails cleaned, shoes polished etc before giving out hymn books.

At this time Father Holdridge asked me to become his secretary. One morning before giving me a lift to the post office in his 'motor', he was in such a hurry he pulled the computer system plug out of its wall socket. He was mortified once he realised I could have lost all my morning's work, I had thankfully saved everything! We had a long and happy working relationship, his mantra being – 'trust in God Carol, not Man'.

During the Interregnum period, Father Marcus and Father Kevin liked to dictate their letters to me, Father Kevin was always my favourite. After Father Andrew was appointed vicar I also worked for him for a number of years.

Colin and I celebrated both our 40th and 50th wedding anniversaries at the Priory Church.

Having seen many changes and known many Vicars and Church Wardens over the years, my faith, like the Church itself, remains constant. I will always remember those people past and present who have shaped my Priory life.

Carol Rabbit



Bambino Sunday

On the Third Sunday of Advent, December 14th, at Priory we will again prepare ourselves to celebrate Christmass in our homes with Bambino Sunday.



Please bring the Bambino - the Christ Child figure - from your crib scene to Church to be blessed. There's still time to buy, borrow from someone who has two or make a crib set if you haven't got one.

Placing it in an entrance way or where visitors can see it is a special devotion which will help bring Christ's' peace to your house and your keeping of the feast.

Priory Church Christmass Card

Yes, we will be repeating our Christmass Card display again. All you have to do is bring one Christmass card signed to all the congregation, make a donation similar to what you would have spent on cards and postage, pin your card to the board and enjoy all the others!

All donations are divided equally between your nominated charities. Your donation can be given to the Churchwarden or myself or placed in a labelled envelope in the collection plate. Please make any cheques payable to "Worksop Priory PCC".



Thank you, Fr Spicer



Children's Liturgy

Every Sunday

Priory Church 9.30am



Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 121
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:37-44

Speak, Lord

S.D.C.
SOCIETY OF
DOCTRINE
CHRISTIANS
www.sdc.me.uk

SUNDAY LITURGY FOR CHILDREN

Year A — 1st Sunday of Advent



Today is the 1st SUNDAY of ADVENT



A TIME TO WAIT FOR

Fill in the missing letters and colour in the Advent Wreath with one lit candle.

THE C _ _ _ _ G OF J _ _ _ _ S

Jesus said:

"I will come

again for the

Second time ...

**SO ALWAYS
BE READY."**

In this space write about or draw a picture of what you can do to be ready for the second coming of Jesus.



Speak, Lord

S.D.C.
SOCIETAS
DOCTRINAE
CHRISTIANAE
WWW.SDC.ME.UK

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 71
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

SUNDAY LITURGY FOR CHILDREN

Year A — 2nd Sunday of Advent



JOHN THE BAPTIST PREACHING ...



1. John said "I _____ with water".

2. He went to _____ in the desert.

3. He said, "_____", for Jesus is coming.

4. "Jesus will baptise you with the Holy _____".

5. John baptised people in the River _____.

6. He said, "Make his paths _____".

7. Many people _____ their sins.

		P				
		R				
		E				
		P				
		A				
		R				
		E				

Today is the
2nd SUNDAY
of **ADVENT**





Speak, Lord

S.D.C.
SOCIETAS
DOCTRINAE
CHRISTIANAE
WWW.SDC.THE.UK

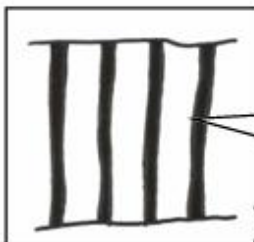
Isaiah 35:1-6.10
Psalm 145
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

SUNDAY LITURGY FOR CHILDREN

Year A — 3rd Sunday of Advent



JOHN AND JESUS



Draw John the Baptist behind the prison bars.

From the prison, John sent some friends to Jesus:

ARE YOU THE ONE WHO IS
TO COME ?
THE M _ S _ I _ H ?

Then Jesus said:

JOHN IS A SPECIAL MAN.
HE IS THE GREATEST
P _ O _ H _ T.
HE IS GOD'S
M _ S _ E _ G _ R.

They found Jesus making miracles.



Draw Jesus making a miracle.

Today is the
3rd SUNDAY
of ADVENT





Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm 23
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24

Speak, Lord

S.D.C.
SOCIETAS
DOCTRINAE
CHRISTIANAE
www.sdc.me.uk

SUNDAY LITURGY FOR CHILDREN

Year A — 4th Sunday of Advent



Today is the
4th SUNDAY
of **ADVENT**



JOSEPH AND MARY

AN ANGEL APPEARED TO JOSEPH IN HIS SLEEP.

JOSEPH,
DO NOT BE
A _____ D

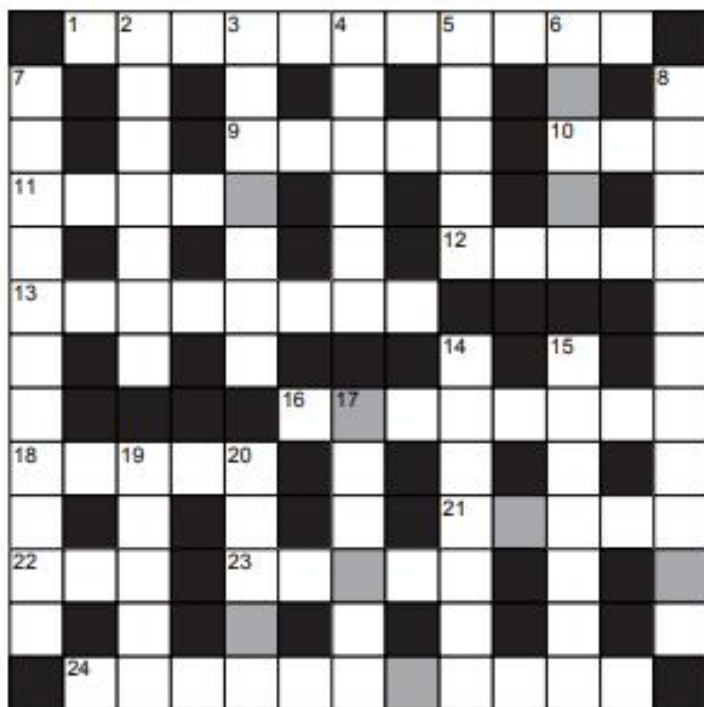
SHE IS GOING
TO HAVE A
S _____

TAKE
M _____ Y
AS YOUR
W _____ E

NAME THE
SON
J _____ S

Draw the Angel and fill in the missing letters.

December Puzzle Page



Across

- 1 Eg Plato (11)
- 9 Command (5)
- 10 Bristle-like appendage (3)
- 11 Faces (anag.) (5)
- 12 Common greeting (5)
- 13 Intrepid; courageous (8)
- 16 Coldly detached (8)
- 18 Decomposition (5)
- 21 Opposite of best (5)
- 22 Signal assent with the head (3)
- 23 Undo (5)
- 24 Group of islands (11)

Down

- 2 Midpoint (7)
- 3 In a relaxed manner (7)
- 4 Marsh plants (6)
- 5 Object on which a bird roosts (5)
- 6 Electronic message (5)
- 7 Gathering information (4-7)
- 8 Not yet finished (11)
- 14 Writing fluid holder (7)
- 15 Frightening (7)
- 17 Portable computer (6)
- 19 Alcoholic beverage (5)
- 20 Period between childhood and adulthood (5)

Unscramble the letters in the shaded squares to reveal a themed word:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Source: richardsonpuzzlesandgames.com

Counting the cost of Christmas celebrations.

Christmas produces even more rubbish than usual: around 30 percent more glass and cans for instance, are collected over this period, helping to generate more than three million tonnes of extra rubbish. An estimated 83 square kms of Christmas wrapping paper will end up in our rubbish bins, and around 125,000 tonnes of plastic packaging will be thrown away over Christmas.

Here are some tips for reducing the season's environmental impact:

- Say NO to unwanted bags and use a reusable shopping bag
- Buy loose vegetables and avoid goods with unnecessary packaging
- Compost your vegetable peelings – around 140 million sprouts are sold in Asda supermarkets in the final week just before Christmas!
- Buy Christmas gifts that are durable. Go for 'experience presents' such as theatre tickets or book tokens, or annual membership of an organisation, society or magazine. These don't come in packaging.
- If you buy electrical goods, look for items that run off mains electricity rather than batteries. If you buy batteries, buy rechargeable. Remember to recycle old ones.
- Recycle unwanted gifts to a local hospital, play centre, charity shop or school.
- If you get new clothes at Christmas, donate unwanted old ones to charity shops.
- Use the Parish Christmass card or buy cards on recycled paper
- If you are sending cards please do not just leave them in church- give them out in person. Every January we throw away cards to people who didn't even know they were there!

Return your received cards to church after Twelfth Night for the Woodland Trust to recycle.

New Year's resolution: Reduce, reuse and recycle as much as you can in 2026, and complete the loop by buying recycled goods wherever possible.



Updates from the Parochial Church Council

PCC Secretary writes...

I have been a member of the Priory PCC for over 20 years! I have seen many changes as you can imagine and while the general goals of our work have remained the same emphasis has, and rightly so, changed. This is not an article that will dwell on the past, as Christians we are called to live in the world, but as individuals, and as a Christian community, we must face up to the present and always look towards the future.

There is now a far greater focus on safeguarding and rightly so, the protection of vulnerable people regardless of their age is paramount. All should feel welcome in our churches and be without anxiety, you will I am sure have noticed much more information on this around the priory and within the magazine and weekly sheets. This involves a great deal of work from the PCC working alongside Canon Spicer and Susan and forms one of the major subjects in our meetings. Please do take the time to read and listen where this is concerned as we all have a part to play.

We have a few more members now on the PCC and this has helped spread the load of some of the work that is required but there are still plenty of spaces and I would ask that we all take some time in prayer and ask if God is calling us to serve in some small way.

Our discussions around fabric I am afraid always centre around money and time and we lack the former and the people to give the latter. So much more could be done but we often have to work toward what is the minimum we can do. I would ask that as we approach the AGM early next year we pray and talk about the role of Churchwarden, James works tirelessly for us all but to have someone to stand with him would be of great benefit.

Money and fundraising are always an important



discussion and we all have to understand that our finances are precarious. There is the opportunity for us all to play a part in this too, the raffle currently being run needs to be a success and I am not asking for us all to buy extra books of tickets but if we can sell a book to someone new it would make all the difference. To be honest there is little more disheartening than someone just refusing to even take one book away with them. As a PCC we are convinced that the ministry of the priory is essential not only for ourselves but also for the parish and the wider church and this informs all our discussions.

Again I say that this is not a negative article and while some of our meetings are difficult and rightly so, we all must take heart from the beauty of our worship and the building in which we offer our praises to God.

The work of the PCC is varied and if you are interested in joining, please do ask. God bless.

Robin Carrington-Wilde

Priory Finances

PCC Treasurer writes...

You may have recently received a letter from Fr. Spicer, encouraging us all to follow the Bible's teaching on "tithing" (i.e. giving a proportion of our income to charity).

Our beloved Priory has been giving spiritual guidance and emotional support for over 900 years: historically it has been a place of comfort and education, of leadership and mission. But after such a historic and heroic past it is with some regret that I must inform you of the unhealthy state of our Priory finances. The gradual downward trend from previous years is continuing and we are moving further into the red. Let me explain how Priory finances work.

Worksof Priory, like all other churches, operates like a small business.

We have our income, including:-

- ♦ Donations and giving (bank transfers, card machine, collection plates, etc.)
- ♦ Fundraising events (concerts, Christmas Tree Festival, seasonal fayres, coffee mornings, etc.)
- ♦ Fees (weddings, funerals, etc.)
- ♦ Grants (for pilgrimages, etc.)
- ♦ Charity collections (Christian Aid, Mission Direct, etc.)

.....and we have our expenses, including:-

- ♦ Building maintenance
- ♦ Utilities (gas, electricity, water, broadband)
- ♦ Insurances
- ♦ Church supplies (e.g. communion wafers & wine, candles, incense, etc.)
- ♦ Admin expenses (mobile phones, copier supplies & paper, software licences, etc.)
- ♦ Salaries & payments (administrator, organist, retired clergy, wedding & funeral attendants, etc.)
- ♦ Clergy Expenses (travel, vicarage maintenance, etc.)
- ♦ Pilgrimage expenses
- ♦ Charity payments (Christian Aid, Mission Direct, etc.)

.....and as with any business the profit equals the income minus the expenditure.

As we approach the end of the year our income just about matches those outgoings listed above: but sadly that is not the whole picture. You may have noticed there is one glaring omission in the list of expenses **it does not include a salary for our vicar!** As far as the Priory accounts are concerned, the vicar comes free; he is just one of the many benefits and services that the Diocese gives us, and in return for which, we (along with all the other parishes in the Diocese) are required to contribute our “share” towards its running costs. But this year, after all our expenses and bills are paid, there is effectively nothing left for the Diocese.

Theoretically our quota should be around £80,000, but the Diocese has recognised the specific challenges the Priory faces (a large historic church with daily services in a relatively deprived parish) and it has reduced our quota to £39,672. Each month we have been making a small contribution towards our quota but we are currently on target to cover only ~36% of what has been asked of us and even that will leave us ~£10,000 in the red.

We have made progress in containing our running costs but the only way to reduce the deficit is to increase our income.

As we approach the feast of the nativity of our Lord and Saviour, a time when we traditionally think of others, let us all look deep into our hearts, our conscience, and our pockets, and ask ourselves, “Am I doing enough?” and “Could I give more?”

Keith Wake



COME AND JOIN

**CHRISTINGLE MAKING
AT WORKSOP PRIORY**

**TUESDAY 23 DECEMBER
11.00AM**

**READY FOR OUR CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
ON CHRISTMAS EVE AT 4.00PM**

ALL WELCOME!

‘My Favourite Hymn’ ... by Peter Klonowski

This month's hymn has been chosen by Peter Klonowski who organises Worksof Priory's team of servers, as well as ordering the supplies required for the altar.

Peter has been serving since he was 7 years old and the hymn 'Come Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire' takes him back to those days, with its lyrics that he finds deep and meaningful.

HYMN FACTS!

"Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire" is an English translation of the ancient Latin hymn *Veni, Creator Spiritus*, attributed to the ninth-century monk Rabanus Maurus. The most common English version was translated by Bishop John Cosin in 1627. The hymn is known for its association with the Pleiades, which was associated with the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, and its use in the Book of Common Prayer, where it is set for ordinations and consecrations. The traditional tune is a plainchant melody.

“Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire”

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart:

Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight:

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace:
keep far our foes, give peace at home;
where thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but One;
that through the ages all along
this may be our endless song,

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Source: Ancient and Modern: #241



'Christmas'



The bells of waiting Advent ring, The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night has caught the streaks of winter rain.
In many a stained-glass window sheen from Crimson Lake to Hooker's Green.
The holly in the windy hedge and round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge, the altar, font and arch and pew,
So that villagers can say 'The Church looks nice' on Christmas Day.

Provincial public houses blaze and Corporation tramcars clang,
On lighted tenements I gaze where paper decorations hang,
And bunting in the red Town Hall says 'Merry Christmas to you all'

And London shops on Christmas Eve are strung with silver bells and flowers as
hurrying clerks the City leave to pigeon-haunted classic towers,
And marbled clouds go scudding by the many-steepled London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad, and oafish louts remember Mum,
And sleepless children's hearts are glad, and Christmas morning bells say 'Come!'
Even to shining ones who dwell safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true? and is it true? the most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue, a Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea become a Child on earth for me?
And is it true? For if it is, no loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissue fripperies, the sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent and hideous tie so kindly meant.



No love that in a family dwells, no carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells can with this single Truth compare -
That God was Man in Palestine and lives to-day in Bread and Wine.



John Betjeman

***‘What sweeter music can we bring,
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?’ (Robert Herrick)***

The word *sweet* often means harmonious, when applied to music in the 16th Century. *Sweet singing in the choir* (from another carol) will refer to singing in harmony, and in a well-trained way rather than much belting out of the tune. This skillset takes a lot of learning, and so is seen as an offering in itself – a gift of time and effort by the person responding to the gift of voice and life.

Come Christmas, we are usually at our lowest numbers in the choir here. We share this with my previous church, where the culture was to “do” Christmas around the 15th and then scarper off to relatives, to France, to Hampshire - anywhere to get out of central London. Responding to that creatively, one of our atypical singers (she stayed at home!) introduced her cellist friend visiting from the USA. This turned out to be Annabel Gordon, and the first Midnight Mass we played with just the two of us, Annabel playing unaccompanied from the side chapel during Communion, was intense and moving, with those in church spellbound in an atmosphere which was thick with calm, and ordered beauty, and prayer. The same sort of experience is coming to us here on Dec 19th during the Advent Evening concert. This event is our offering to you, the parish, instead of a special Advent liturgy, this year. I don’t mind sharing that it is only possible due to serious generosity on the part of a 7 or 8 pro musicians, as well as some younger pupils, joining us.

We shall do what we can at Christmas with who we have, as always, and design the music provision to fit, rather than feel as though there are holes in the fabric of it.

So, what of carols in general? Originally a folk way of telling the story, some are very long and reach right back into the time of the prophets (The Lord at first did Adam make) and others are narratives of just the Bethlehem moment (Silent night) whilst again, several are actually Luke’s Gospel re-written in verse (While Shepherds watched). The big theology-lesson carols

are beloved of those whose interest is not only in the story itself, but the answer to that impossible question – Why? – and deciding that to ask, How? Is even more futile. (Come, thou redeemer of the earth). These tend to be 4th Century teaching aids, when catechism by verse was just as needed as in the medieval, vernacular-language carols. It never goes away, in truth.

Why do we not do a Nine Lessons and Carols on Advent iv here? Well, for a start, that service is meant to happen on Christmas Eve at dusk, the age-old tradition of starting the next day's event as the sun sets on the previous day (a Jewish thing, a day being only sunlight hours so technically it's tomorrow as soon as it's dark). Advent Four is a day of longing and imminence, of "so near but not quite yet" and of course, the reason other places do their carols that evening is because no-one wants to turn out on Christmas Eve, plus Midnight, plus Christmas morning, and possibly (deluxe version) Evensong. After all, if you lived on site in the monastery it was only a toddle down the night stairs, wasn't it? But the 9LC had not been invented then.

This year, the way the dates fall, we will have a decent Christmas Evensong on Sunday 4th January. Christmas is here until 6th, when it's Epiphany. It would be good if this Evensong were well-attended and much carol-singing was done with joy and not with "it's all over now" cynicism, so I hope that we can indeed bring our "sweetest" music to this and have some *Dulci Jubilo*, the sweet rejoicing promised us in the final line of *Wake, O wake*, the chorale with which our Advent Evening Music concert opens. There is a thoughtful paper-chain here, strung up over the time, and hopefully pretty enough to be cheerful but not up long enough to gather cobwebs and cooking oil! Thank you all for your support and friendship through 2025 – much appreciated.

***'We see him come, and know Him ours
Who with His sunshine, and His showers,
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.'*** *Herrick*

Rosemary Field, Director of Music



Worksop Priory C of E Primary Academy



Welcome to Priory Nursery and Reception



Our Nursery Times are:

Morning – 8:30am to 11:30am

Afternoon – 12:30am to 3:30pm

We are also able to offer 30 hrs by application



We offer some fun groups to attend *with your little one*, either before your child starts with us or once they are at Nursery.

Playgroup @ Priory Nursery

Activities, dancing, stories and rhymes for the under 5's. Every Monday
1.15 – 2.15pm.

Family Fitness

Action activities with stories and rhymes for the under 5's. Tuesday 3.30-4:15pm. Runs for six weeks each term, please contact the office for dates.

Wiggly Worship at Priory Church

For the under 5's (pram service), every Wednesday 10.15-11.15am.



We look forward to seeing you!

Contact the Academy Office on 01909 478886

Or email office@worksoppriory.snmat.org.uk





Including the 2025
Workshop Community
Christmas Tree Festival



Workshop Priory CHRISTMAS FAIR



**CRAFT - GIFTS - TOMBOLA
HOT FOOD - REFRESHMENTS**

**SAT 6 DEC
10am-4pm**

Our Christmas Fair is the perfect place to find gifts for everyone on your list! Plus vote for your favourite Christmas Tree - £100 prize donation for the tree with the most votes!



**FREE
ENTRY**

Priorswell Road, Workshop, S80 2BU
For more details including running a stall:

07355 850735

admin@workshoppriory.co.uk



Parish Magazine Subscription 2026



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Puzzle page solution:



Keyword: MISTLETOE

The Hundred Club



This is one of our main fundraisers here at Priory. The cost remains £1 per week and we have prizes of £20, £10 and 2 x £5 weekly, £100 twice yearly and £500 annually.

For joining the club please contact Susan either at: admin@worksoppriory.co.uk or on 07355 850735

Subscription Information:

To make this enterprise simpler to manage we please ask that subscriptions be paid by bank transfer if possible and referenced '100 CLUB'. Cash payments should be in an envelope clearly marked '100 CLUB' with your **NAME** and **NUMBER**. Each number is £1 per week. Envelopes can be placed in the collection plate or passed to a member of the clergy, Keith Wake or Susan Bekisz.

AVAILABLE NUMBERS

29,32,34,59,61,62,63,72,74,50,81,82,84,86,89,91,92,96,97

Thank you for your support!

Looking Ahead...



December

Wed 3rd-7th	Christmas Tree Festival
Fri 5th	Mosaic Recorder Consort (1pm)
Sat 6th	Priory Christmass Fair (10am—4pm)
Sat 6th	Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band Concert (7pm)
Mon 8 th	Immaculate Conception Mass 6.30pm
Fri 19th	Advent Evening Music Concert (7pm)
Tue 23rd	Christingle Making (11am)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Wed 24th	Childrens Christmas Service (4pm) Mass During the Night at Priory (12 midnight)
Thurs 25th	Mass during the day at Priory (9.30am) Mass During the Day at Clumber (11.30am)
Sat 27th	Fundraiser; Vicarage Coffee Morning (10.30am-12.30pm)
Sun 28th	Christmass Parish Lunch at Priory (12.30pm)

January

Thurs 1st	Mary Mother Of God, Mass at Priory (12 noon)
Tue 6th	Epiphany, Mass at Priory (6.30pm)
Tue 27th	Priory PCC Meeting (6.30pm)

Parish Magazine... We are coming to the end of another year of parish magazines. The production of a full colour magazine on a monthly basis takes both time and money and it is important that we are giving our readers useful and interesting information and articles. Your feedback is always welcome.

Subscriptions for 2026 are now due and remain at **£12** for **12 magazines**. You will see from the form on page 34 that there are a variety of ways of paying your subscription. Whatever method you use it would be very helpful if you could complete and return the enclosed form. This will help us to know how many magazines to print each month.

Thank you, Susan & Ginny

January Magazine

Please send articles or news for the
January 2026 magazine to
admin@worksopriory.co.uk
by **Friday 14th December** at the latest.

Something to make you smile...

A man found himself in terrible financial difficulties. He is so desperate that for the first time in his life he gets down on his knees and prays to God for help. 'Dear God, I desperately need your help. I have no money to spend on Christmas presents for my family. Could you possibly arrange it so that I win the Lottery?' The lottery draw is held, but he wins nothing. He sends another prayer to God. 'My business has gone bust and if I don't get some money soon I'll lose my car and my Christmas will be very difficult. Please fix things so I win the lottery.' Lottery night comes, but he's unlucky. So he prays to God again. 'Please God, I've lost my car and now they're trying to take my house. Please help me to win the Lottery or our Christmas will be ruined.' Come lottery night, he again fails to win anything. 'Undeterred, he prays to God again. 'I am now a bankrupt, my house has been repossessed by the finance company and so has my car. We are now living on the street, but all I need to get my life back together and perhaps enjoy some kind of Christmas is to win the lottery.' Suddenly there's a flash of brilliant light as the heavens open and the man is confronted by the very voice of God himself. 'Hey, do me a favour will you, buy a ticket.'



BASSETLAW FOOD

For most up to date shopping lists
see the weekly newsletter or go to

[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/bassetlawfoodbank)

**There are donation boxes
in Priory
and St Paul's churches**

[www.justgiving.com/
bassetlawfoodbank](https://www.justgiving.com/bassetlawfoodbank)





Mass Times

Sundays

9.30 am Parish Mass with Junior Church at Priory

11.30am Mass at Clumber Chapel

6pm Evening Prayer and Benediction at Priory
(First Sunday)

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