

# Wykeham Benefice News

## December 2025/January 2026

### *The Christmas and New Year Editon*



*A joyful Christmas to you all!*

# *A Christmas message from our Rector*

We are in a time of great anticipation!

It began at the start of Advent (the last Sunday in November) which is a season in the Church where, as Christians, we prepare to celebrate the incarnation of Christ on Christmas Day. The incarnation is the moment when Jesus came to us in human form – as a baby, small and vulnerable. But Advent is also about anticipating the moment when Christ will return in glory. The word Advent literally means ‘coming’. Over these next four weeks, we are encouraged to prepare ourselves, to examine our inner beings and see whether we are prepared for Christ to enter in and transform our lives anew.

Yet our sense of anticipation does not always end at Christmas. After all the festivities around Christmas Day, January can be a time of quiet and recuperation for many of us. It may be that during this month, some of you find yourselves looking ahead to what the new year has in store. You might be making plans, such as holidays, weddings, birthday celebrations, house moves etc, the list goes on!

At the start of any new year we are often filled with anticipation and expectation. Sometimes this can stem from plans you have made for the coming year that you are really looking forward to. Other times, the outgoing year might have been difficult and so we find ourselves looking forward to the new one and hoping it will be much brighter.

On the 1st February we will celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the temple. That is the moment in Luke's gospel (2.22-40) when Jesus is presented in the temple by his parents. It is here that we meet two important characters: Simeon and Anna.

Simeon is described as righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel and the Holy Spirit rested upon him (v25). He had been told that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

Anna, is described as a prophet and widow who never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer day and night.

Both Simeon and Anna are filled with hope, expectation and anticipation. Neither Simeon nor Anna, know when the time will come that they will meet the Messiah but they are examples to us of faithful and hopeful prayer during periods of waiting... Simeon's only insight is that it will be before he dies. But as for Anna, she simply sits and prays and waits.

Is there anything joyful that you know will happen for you this coming year, but you are not sure when? How does the anticipation and waiting feel for you? Does it unsettle you? Does it leave you feeling frustrated?

I think as we begin each new year, and especially 2026, we can take heart in the examples that Simeon and Anna set for us. Their devout faith was rewarded when they met the baby Jesus. They recognised him as the Messiah and the hope, love and salvation he would bring through his life and death.

They put their trust in God and their faith was rewarded. It is my prayer for you all, as you begin this new year and anticipate all that is to come, that you will know Christ as he comes to meet each of you in the low and high moments of your lives. All we need to do is have true faith and hope and rest in the knowledge that God is most definitely always with us.

Blessings to you all, Emily

## Parish News

### TADMARTON NEWS- St Nicholas Church



We held our Harvest Festival service on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October. The church was beautifully decorated and a good congregation sang the well-known harvest hymns with gusto. This was followed by a Harvest Supper in the village hall, a 'bring and share' meal which was a wonderful spread. Thanks go to everyone who helped to decorate the church or provided food, thanks also to Louise Hillman who organised the event and to Mike Hillman for finishing the evening with the traditional auction of produce. A total of £675 was raised from the church collection and supper which was given to Polly to help the needy in Banbury. A very special thank you must go to Edith and Carrie from the Lampet Arms who placed a bottle of wine on each table a very generous gift.

The Remembrance service took place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November lead by Rev. Graeme Arthur. The names of all those men from Tadmarton who gave their lives in the first and second world wars were read out. A cross bearing their name and a photo of each was placed on the memorial.

**SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER:** We are looking forward to the Tadmarton Festive Fiesta on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 12.00 noon until 3pm held both in the church and the village hall. There will be craft stalls, gifts and a raffle, mulled wine, tea, coffee and Carol singing, please come and join us.



**TUESDAY, 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER AT 7P.M.:** Tadmarton's traditional Carol Service with lessons and carols followed by refreshments. Come and sing your favourite carols. We would love to see you.

**CHRISTMAS DAY:** Our Christmas Day service is at 10am, Please join us if you can.

On a lighter note we had visitors from Peru looking round our church. What a small world. We thought of asking if they knew Paddington Bear!

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New year.

## BROUGHTON WITH NORTH NEWINGTON NEWS

It was wonderful to see so many attend the very moving Remembrance Sunday service on Sunday the 9th of November; thank you John for this beautiful service of reflection and thank you to all those who contributed to the service and to Ruth in particular for her musical accompaniment.

**SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER:** we are delighted to host the Benefice Eucharist at St Marys Broughton at 10.30am; we do hope you can join us as this is always a lovely opportunity for worshippers across the benefice to get together.

**SATURDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER:** A reminder that the Church Fayre will take place on Saturday 13th December. Further details can be found on the poster; we do hope you can come along and support us as we raise funds for the church.



**SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER, 6P.M:** We have our Traditional Candlelight Carol Service on Sunday 21st December at 6pm Followed by delicious refreshments.



**CHRISTMAS EVE:** On Christmas Eve, the Crib Service, a service for all the family, will take place at 4pm. This service is always well attended and a joyful time will be had by all as the children help create the nativity scene during the service. **CHRISTMAS DAY:** Then on Christmas Day, we invite you all to celebrate at the 11am Family Communion service.

**SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 10.30A.M.** There will be an extra Benefice Eucharist on the Sunday 28th December at Shutford at 10.30am on the feast of the Holy Innocents, instead of the normal 11am communion at Broughton. We look forward to welcoming you to our services and celebrations in December.

**THURSDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2026, 10.30A.M:** On New Year's Day there will be a communion service in St. Mary's Church to celebrate the new year.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and peace and blessings for the New Year.

## EPWELL NEWS

### Harvest

This year Epwell decided to hold a Harvest Thanksgiving breakfast in the church with money raised going to WaterAid UK. Those who came were treated to a lovely breakfast, traditional prayers and hymns and a talk from Alasdair on the scary amount of water it takes to produce one loaf of bread. Thank you to all those who helped before, during and after the event, especially clearing away and washing up.

**Remembrance Sunday** held all the sincerity of previous years and many joined us in the Village Hall after the service for wine and warm refreshments. We hope this will become a new tradition.

### Travelling Nativity

The Travelling Nativity will hopefully make its way around the village again during Advent. The small wooden scene complete with stable and figures, will move from house to house throughout the village for everyone to enjoy and remember the story of the Nativity. If anyone would like to display the scene in their window or porch, then please contact Alasdair Lowe.

**SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 4.30P.M.** Our Carol Service will take place in St. Anne's Church followed by Mulled Wine and Mince pies, or Tea and Coffee.

**WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 6P.M.: Christmas Eve, Nativity play around the village.** A new theme on the nativity play will take place around the village, with residents participating as we knock on doors and pass the lambs, meet the wise men and find Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus a stable (in Church). We hope everyone will come along or even keen thespians join in.

### Wednesday morning service

The PCC have discussed the Wednesday morning midweek service and agreed that for a variety of reasons, the frequency should be cut back to twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays beginning in January 2026. The Monday Morning Prayer service remains unchanged at 9a.m. St Anne's PCC would like to thank everyone for supporting the church throughout the year and wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

## SIBFORD NEWS

### REORDERING PROJECT AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Everyone will be aware that Holy Trinity Church is currently closed to allow for a major building project to take place. Work on the project commenced in October and this followed an extended planning and fundraising period, conducted by the PCC with the support of Oxford Diocese. The project is



referred to as the 'Re-ordering project' and it covers the redesign of sections of the church's interior as well as providing level access into the church. The work includes an improved design of the kitchen area and the addition of a disabled toilet. The family/fellowship area is also being enlarged.

We expect that the work will complete on 12<sup>th</sup> December so we are planning to hold a Big Clean-up on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December. This will enable us to begin our annual Christmas Tree Festival on 14<sup>th</sup> December on which date there will also be our annual Christingle Service at 5pm.

Whilst the work progresses, we will continue to worship in the Village Hall. Here are some photographs of the ongoing work, further copies of which are on the Sibford Village website



### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

Despite the building work going on in the Church, our Annual Remembrance Service was held on 9<sup>th</sup> November. The congregation assembled in the Village Hall car park facing the War Memorial. Wreaths were laid on behalf of Holy Trinity Church, The Scouts and The Parish Council. The Roll of Honour was read out and the Bugler played the Last Post and Reveille.

The congregation then transferred to the Village Hall where the service continued and was conducted by Revd. Emily Robottom-Scott who spoke of the importance of Memory and of Remembering. During the Service there was a cash collection, as a result of which we were able to forward just over £450 to the Royal British Legion.

We were especially delighted to welcome the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to the Remembrance Service. They presented their Colours and all looked extremely smart.

### SHOE BOXES

Once again, we will be preparing Christmas shoe boxes to give to Polly Preedy who cares for the homeless and needy in Banbury. The boxes will be taken to Polly a few days before Christmas for distribution.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 14<sup>th</sup> December: Church clean-up
- 15<sup>th</sup> December: Prepare church with Christmas Trees  
5pm Christingle Service
- 19<sup>th</sup> December 7pm Traditional Carol Service with Benefice Choir
- 24<sup>th</sup> December 11.30pm Midnight Communion
- 25<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am Christmas Communion

*A very happy Christmas to you all. I won't be sending local cards so please don't send them to me as I will feel guilty. Mary Nash*

## SHUTFORD NEWS

St Martin's Church was beautifully decorated with flowers, fruit, and vegetables for our Harvest Festival. A retiring collection and donations totalling £200 has been given to Katharine House Hospice with fruit taken to Banbury Foodbanks.



An Act of Remembrance was held at the village war memorial at 11.00am on Remembrance Sunday with the annual service at 6.00pm in church. Deddington Brass played in church which made the occasion extra special.



The retiring collection of £150 has been given to Banbury Area Poppy Appeal. Our photo shows the war memorial adorned with poppies made by ladies of the village craft group.

We hope that villagers will share **THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS** by joining us for services during December. The church tower will be illuminated to remember those we continue to love but see no more.

**FROM JANUARY:** There is a change in services with our less formal All Age Family Service moving to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday monthly at 4p.m. – these services will be themed and led mostly by Rev Emily.

**SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY AT 9.30A.M.:** Our Holy Communion BCP service will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 9.30am. We hope that a change of time to the Family Service will encourage younger people with children to come to church.

We wish everyone in our benefice a happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy 2026 – St Martin's Church is open every day and people of all faiths or none are always welcome.

## SWALCLIFFE NEWS

On September 25<sup>th</sup> we were privileged to welcome The News, a terrifically talented close harmony group drawn from the choral scholars of New College Oxford. The College is a patron of Swalcliffe church, with a long history interwoven with our village, including the creation of Swalcliffe Barn. The concert was well attended and the choir didn't



disappoint; treating us to a varied and most enjoyable programme of music from medieval to the Beatles.

### **Harvest Supper**

The village enjoyed a wonderful Harvest Supper in the Village Hall on Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> brilliantly organised by a small team of hard-working villagers who put on a magnificent spread. The event, which included a successful charity auction, raised money to be shared by the Church, the Village Hall and Playpark and the Village Charity. A big thanks to all involved in this tremendous effort.

### **Swalcliffe Christmas Market**



Our highly popular Christmas Market takes place this year on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December in the church. There is an impressive selection of stalls selling locally made gifts and crafts, just in time for your Christmas shopping. You will also be able to buy a beautiful Christmas wreath for your door, as well as other decorations for your festive table. There is a raffle too,

with a chance to win an amazing luxury hamper. And if all that shopping makes you hungry and thirsty, you can refresh yourself with tea and cake or sausages and mulled wine. Please come and join in the fun and get yourself in the Christmas spirit!

Entrance £2.50 with no charge for children under 15. Card payments can be made but please bring cash too. Net proceeds will contribute to essential fabric repair work in our beautiful Grade I listed historic church.

*Please note that the stairclimber will be in action for those with limited mobility.*

### **Swalcliffe Christmas Celebrations**

We are looking forward to our Celebration of Christmas in the church on Monday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm. This will be a lovely way to start Christmas week with traditional carols, readings and other merriment, as well as mulled wine and mince pies. Please come along and bring family and friends.





|                                                                |            |          |                                     |    |                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|-------------------------------------|----|---------------------|
| Sunday 7th<br><b>Advent 2</b>                                  | Broughton  | 10.30am  | Benefice Eucharist                  | ES | Purple              |
| Sunday 14th<br><b>Advent 3</b>                                 | Sibford    | 8.00am   | Holy Communion BCP                  | ES | Purple              |
|                                                                | Shutford   | 9.30am   | Holy Communion BCP                  | JT |                     |
|                                                                | Swalcliffe | 9.30am   | Holy Communion                      | ES |                     |
|                                                                | Epwell     | 9.45am   | Holy Communion                      | BF |                     |
|                                                                | Broughton  | 11.00am  | Holy Communion                      | JT |                     |
|                                                                | Tadmarton  | 11.00am  | St Nicholas Service                 | ES |                     |
|                                                                | Sibford    | 5.00pm   | Christingle N.B. Village Hall (tbc) | ES |                     |
| Tuesday 16th                                                   | Tadmarton  | 7.00pm   | Traditional Carol Service           | ES | Purple              |
| Friday 19th                                                    | Sibford    | 7.00pm   | Traditional Carol Service           | ES | Purple              |
| Sunday 21st<br><b>Advent 4</b>                                 | Sibford    | 9.30am   | Holy Communion                      | ES | Purple              |
|                                                                | Swalcliffe | 9.30am   | Holy Communion                      | JT |                     |
|                                                                | Tadmarton  | 11.00am  | Holy Communion                      | JT |                     |
|                                                                | Epwell     | 4.30p.m. | Carol Service                       | ES |                     |
|                                                                | Shutford   | 4.30pm   | Carol service                       | JT |                     |
|                                                                | Broughton  | 6.00pm   | Traditional Carol Service           | ES |                     |
| Wednesday 24th<br><b>Christmas Eve</b>                         | Broughton  | 4.00pm   | Crib Service                        | JT | White<br>or<br>Gold |
|                                                                | Epwell     | 6.00pm   | Nativity Play around village        | ES |                     |
|                                                                | Sibford    | 11.30pm  | Midnight Communion                  | ES |                     |
| Thursday 25th<br><b>Christmas Day</b>                          | Shutford   | 9.30am   | Family Communion                    | JT | White<br>or<br>Gold |
|                                                                | Sibford    | 9.30am   | Family Communion                    | GE |                     |
|                                                                | Swalcliffe | 9.30am   | Family Communion                    | ES |                     |
|                                                                | Epwell     | 10.00am  | Family Communion                    | GA |                     |
|                                                                | Tadmarton  | 10.00am  | Family Communion                    | BF |                     |
|                                                                | Broughton  | 11.00am  | Family Communion                    | ES |                     |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> (ES away)<br><b>The Holy Innocents</b> | Shutford   | 10.30am  | Benefice Eucharist (JT)             | JT | Red                 |
| Tuesday 30th                                                   | Tadmarton  | 10.00am  | Holy Communion BCP                  | JT | White               |

January 2026

|                                                             |            |         |                         |         |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Thursday 1st<br><b>The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus</b> | Broughton  | 10.30am | BCP Holy Communion (ES) | ES      | White               |
| Sunday 4th<br><b>The Epiphany</b><br>(JT away)              | Sibford    | 10.30am | Benefice Eucharist (ES) | ES      | White<br>or<br>Gold |
| Sunday 11th<br><b>The Baptism of Christ</b>                 | Sibford    | 8.00am  | BCP Holy Communion      | ES      | White<br>or<br>Gold |
|                                                             | Swalcliffe | 9.30am  | Holy Communion          | ES      |                     |
|                                                             | Sibford    | 10.00am | All Age Family service  | Lay led |                     |
|                                                             | Epwell     | 10.30am | Family service          | Lay led |                     |
|                                                             | Broughton  | 11.00am | Holy Communion          | JT      |                     |
|                                                             | Tadmarton  | 11.00am | Holy Communion          | GE      |                     |
| Sunday 18th<br><b>Epiphany 2</b>                            | Shutford   | 4.00pm  | All Age family service  | ES      | White               |
|                                                             | Sibford    | 9.30am  | Holy Communion          | JT      |                     |
|                                                             | Shutford   | 9.30am  | BCP Holy Communion      | BF      |                     |
|                                                             | Epwell     | 9.45am  | Holy Communion          | ES      |                     |
|                                                             | Broughton  | 11.00am | Holy Communion          | JT      |                     |
|                                                             | Tadmarton  | 11.00am | Holy Communion          | ES      |                     |
| Sunday 25th<br><b>The Conversion of St Paul</b>             | Swalcliffe | 6.00pm  | BCP Evensong            | ES      |                     |
|                                                             | Shutford   | 9.30am  | Holy Communion          | ES      | White               |
|                                                             | Sibford    | 9.30am  | Holy Communion          | GE      |                     |
|                                                             | Swalcliffe | 9.30am  | Holy Communion          | JT      |                     |
|                                                             | Epwell     | 9.45am  | Holy Communion          | GA      |                     |
|                                                             | Broughton  | 11.00am | All Age Family service  | ES      |                     |
|                                                             | Tadmarton  | 11.00am | All Age Family service  | JT      |                     |

**Rector:** The Rev'd Emily Robottom Scott (ES)

Mobile: 07561407431

Email: [rev.emily@robms.co.uk](mailto:rev.emily@robms.co.uk)

**Associate Minister:** The Rev'd Canon John Tattersall (JT) CBE LVO

Abingdon House, Park Lane, Swalcliffe, Banbury OX15 5EU

Telephone: 01295 780283 Mobile: 07711733978

Email: [jhtatters@aol.com](mailto:jhtatters@aol.com)

**Assisting Priests:**

The Rev'd Brian Fairbank (BF), The Rev'd Allan Doig (AD), The Rev'd Canon Glyn Evans (GE),  
The Rev'd Graeme Arthur (GA); The Rev'd Hazel Scarr (HS), The Rev'd John Smith (JS),  
The Rev'd Prebendary Olwen Smith (OS)

## READINGS

### December 2025

|                                                       |                   |                    |                  |                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup><br>Second Sunday of<br>Advent  | Isaiah 11.1-10    | Romans 15.4-13     | Matthew 3.1-12   | Purple          |
| Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup><br>Third Sunday of Advent     | Isaiah 35.1-10    | James 5.7-10       | Matthew 11. 2-11 | Purple          |
| Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup><br>Fourth Sunday of<br>Advent | Isaiah 7.10-16    | Romans 1.1-7       | Matthew 1.18-25  | Purple          |
| <b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup><br/>Christmas Eve</b>    | Isaiah 52 v7-10   | Hebrews 1.1-4      | John 1.1-14      | White &<br>Gold |
| <b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup><br/>Christmas Day</b>     | Isaiah 9 v2-7     | Titus 2.11-14      | Luke 2.1-14      | White &<br>Gold |
| Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup><br>The Holy Innocents         | Jeremiah 31.15-17 | 1 Corinth. 1.26-29 | Matthew 2.13-18  | Red             |

### January 2026

|                                                                                 |                 |                  |                  |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup><br/>The Naming and<br/>Circumcision of<br/>Jesus</b> | N/A             | Galatians 4.4-7  | Luke 2.15-21     | White |
| <b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup><br/>Epiphany</b>                                       | Isaiah 60.1-6   | Ephesians 3.1-12 | Matt. 2.1-12     | White |
| <b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup><br/>Baptism of Christ</b>                             | Isaiah 42.1-9   | Acts 10.34-43    | Matthew 3.13-17  | White |
| Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup><br>The second Sunday<br>of Epiphany                     | Isaiah 49.1-7   | 1 Cor. 1.1-9     | John 1.29-42     | White |
| Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup><br>The Conversion of<br>St Paul                         | Jeremiah 1.4-10 | Acts 9.1-22      | Matthew 19.27-30 | White |

*There are so many to pray for during the Christmas season but perhaps you would remember those who are without homes, shelter, heating, or food. Those who are lonely, frightened or grief stricken, all around the world, and those without love, loved ones and live without Jesus Christ in their lives.*

*'In the Bleak Mid-Winter' Lyrics by Christina Rossetti*

In the bleak mid-winter,  
Frosty winds made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter,  
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him,  
Nor earth sustain,  
Heaven and earth shall flee away,  
When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-sinter,  
A stable-place sufficed.  
Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him whom Cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk  
A manger full of hay;

Enough for Him, whom angels  
Fall down before  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.

Angels and archangels  
May have gather there,  
Cherubim and Seraphim  
Thronged the air,  
But only His mother  
In her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped and beloved  
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would give a lamb,  
If I were a wise man  
I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give Him,  
Give my heart.



## Events and Services for Christmas throughout the Benefice

### Christmas Fairs and Celebrations in your church

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>, Swalcliffe Christmas Fair, 2 – 3.30p.m.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>, Broughton Christmas Fair, 2 – 4p.m.

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Swalcliffe Christmas Celebration, 6p.m.



### December Services

- *See Christmas Day services on the December Service Table*

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Benefice Eucharist at Broughton, 10.30a.m.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Sibford Christingle, 5p.m.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Tadmarton Carol Service 7p.m.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Sibford Traditional Carol Service 7p.m.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Epwell Carol Service 4.30p.m.

Shutford Carol Service 4.30p.m.

Broughton Traditional Carol Service 6p.m.

### Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve

Broughton Crib Service 4p.m.

Epwell Nativity Play around the village 6p.m.

Sibford Midnight Communion 11.30p.m.



### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day

*See service Table on previous page for all services*

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Shutford Benefice Eucharist 10.30a.m.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026, New Year's Day, 10.30a.m.**

Broughton, Holy Communion



Please send articles for the February and March, 2026  
edition of the Wykeham Benefice News by 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2025  
to [carolyn.kdeg@zen.co.uk](mailto:carolyn.kdeg@zen.co.uk)

