



*The Parish of
S. Philip & S. James
Up Hatherley*



Parish Magazine

December 2025



ADVENT



CHRISTMAS

*S. Philip and S. James Parish Church,
Cold Pool Lane, Up Hatherley, Cheltenham, GL51 6HX.*

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Father's Mark...

“Put Christ back into Christmas” was the slogan of an advertising campaign of several years ago. It suggested that people had forgotten what Christmas is really about. Even so, it is worth remembering that Christ was originally put by the Church into an already existing celebration which had nothing to do with Christmas.

In AD 274 the emperor Aurelian instituted a feast of the Invincible Sun (*Natalis Solis Invicti*). The day he chose was December 25th. It was an excuse for a party, and it was this date, over a hundred years later, that the Church, realising people were not going to give up their parties, wisely chose for its celebration the birth of Christ.

God came to this world as it was, recognised by only a very few. In this respect at least, today is not so different from the days of Aurelian. The Church's task is the same too: God does not assume all will understand before he will have dealings with us. He came to earth to bring His good news, to change us and through His Son to raise us to heaven.

As we approach another Christmas, we could do worse than to try to understand what it meant and ‘put our feet into the shoes’ of one closely involved. Mary, the mother of Jesus, had a unique part to play in the story of Christ's birth. From the time of the angel's visit when she learned that she was to conceive and bear a son, the Angelus, she gradually became

aware of the extraordinary implications of that message. She was to give birth to the Messiah, the Son of God and in her turn become the Mother of God – in Greek: Theotokos.

It was typical of her that her immediate concern was for her cousin Elizabeth, and so she set off to be with her until the birth of John the Baptist – a visit that was to elicit that remarkable song of praise said daily at Vespers, the Magnificat. Elizabeth welcomes the Christ-child in Mary's womb, while Mary replies with that outpouring of praise and thanksgiving to God as His humble handmaid:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is
his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Soon her moment will come when she gives birth. The sentiments of the Magnificat must once again suffuse her heart as she looks upon the Son of God lying in a manger. What joy fills her soul; as she hears the Angel's choir and receives the shepherd's simple gifts, and realises that this child is acclaimed in Heaven and on earth?

As Mary looks on the world today, what must her thoughts be? Indeed, she experienced opposition to her son from His earliest years, but after over 2000 years would she not expect more evidence of Christmas love, tolerance and peace on earth? More than just the self-indulgent parties and celebrations of Aurelian's day.

As we prepare once again, by the grace of God to celebrate with family and friends the birth of Christ; may it not just be a party but think to appeal to Mary's motherly care and concern for all God's people that she may help us to "Put Christ back into Christ-mas"!

A HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Father Mark



The Parish of Up Hatherley

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

at St. Philip & St. James Church,
Cold Pool Lane.

Sunday 7th
4pm

Christingle Service 1



Sunday 14th
4pm

Christingle Service 2

Sunday 21st
7pm

Carols by Candlelight.
(for Adults & Teenagers)



With the Band of the Gloucester Constabulary.

Wednesday 24th
11:30pm

Midnight Mass.

Thursday 25th
10:00

Christmas Morning.
Mass of the Nativity.



Church Calendar December 2025

Mon 1 st	Feria	Social Justice
Tues 2 nd	Feria	Media & the Arts
Wed 3 rd	S. Francis Xavier Pr.	The Society of Jesus
Thurs 4 th	Feria	Farming & Fishing
Fri 5 th	Feria	Interfaith Relations
Sat 6 th	S. Nicolas B.	Sailors
SUN 7th	ADVENT 2	The Parish
Mon 8 th	Immaculate Conception of the BVM	Expectant mothers
Tues 9 th	Feria	Rural Communities
Wed 10 th	Feria	Mountain Climbers
Thurs 11 th	Feria	The unemployed
Fri 12 th	Feria	Respect for the earth
Sat 13 th	S. Lucy V & M.	The Light of Christ
SUN 14th	ADVENT 3	The Parish
Mon 15 th	Feria	Courtesy & Compassion
Tues 16 th	Feria	Home makers
Wed 17 th	Feria	O Sapientia
Thurs 18 th	Feria	O Adonai
Fri 19 th	Feria	O Radix Jesse
Sat 20 th	Feria	O Clavis
SUN 21st	ADVENT 4	O Oriens
Mon 22 nd	Feria	O Rex Gentium
Tues 23 rd	Feria	O Emmanuel
Wed 24 th	CHRISTMAS EVE	Angels & Shepherds
Thurs 25 th	CHRISTMAS DAY	Nativity of the Lord
Fri 26 th	Stephen, First Martyr	The Permanent Diaconate
Sat 27 th	S. John Apostle & Evangelist	Theologians
SUN 28th	THE HOLY FAMILY	Families
Mon 29 th	In the Octave of Christmas	Financiers
Tues 30 th	In the Octave of Christmas	Young People
Wed 31 st	In the Octave of Christmas	New Resolutions

SUNDAYS: **10:00 Parish Mass**

WEEKDAYS: **Said Mass on Thursdays at 10:00.**

For times of other services please see the church notice board or visit our parish website.

The church is open daily for Private Prayer.

The Years Mind



Every day the Church remembers and prays for the souls of those whose anniversary of death falls during the month. Below are those who we remember this month.

- 1st William Henry Gratton, Joseph Allan Heaton,
Alice Mary Dougal.*
- 3rd Valerie Paddy Leplain, Megan Elsie Iten.*
- 5th William Henry Webb.*
- 6th Eva Kirsti Ovell, Douglas Williams, Ann Dewing,
Glenn Christopher Hands, Stephen Hadland,
Donald William Harmsworth, Edward Fowler.*
- 9th Thomas George Henry Sealey.*
- 10th Francis James Searle, Adrian Grace.*
- 12th Frederick Dodd.*
- 14th Elizabeth Oaker.*
- 15th Frances Whittern, Alan Forster, Mavis Goodwins,
Henry John Rendell Tyler.*
- 16th Barbara Joan Collier.*
- 17th James Arthur Beech, Charlotte Evelyn Hawkes,
Robert John Vick, Rosemary Dorothy Donnelly.*
- 18th Lazlo Kocis.*
- 19th William Alex Knight Munro.*
- 20th Muriel Peggy Beech.*
- 21st Olga Betteridge, Austin Farrer (Pr).*
- 22nd Philippa Dennis Philp, Kenneth Aveyard Peart,
Ben Platt.*
- 24th Jane Taylorson Desmond, Albert Harold Penny Sweet,
Dorothy Victoria Dale, Foster Helm (Peter) Aram.*
- 25th Lena May Williams.*
- 27th Reginald Stanley Challenger, Neville Dyer,
Robert Henry Beamish, Ray Collett.*
- 28th Walter Chew, Estelle Kathleen Wakeman.*
- 29th Frank Alan Middleton.*
- 30th John Lancelot Channon, Olive May Watts, Helen Gibson.*
- 31st Margaret Catchpole.*



**S. PHILIP & S. JAMES,
UP HATHERLEY
CHRISTMAS HAMPERS RAFFLE**

TICKETS £1

NOW AVAILABLE

Contact: cw2811sjl@gmail.com or 01242 704837

Please see either Karen Sargison or Shirley Little for financial donations to purchase items or gifts of biscuits, chocolate, jams, chutney, wine, savoury & Christmas puddings for the hampers.
They would be gratefully received.



SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER 2025
in S. Philip & S. James Church Centre
Up Hatherley at 19:00.

Christmas Quiz Tickets £9.50 max.

Supper: Steak Pie & Mash.

Vegetarian option available on booking)

BYOB. (Soft drinks available to purchase)

£7 Adults & £5 Children.

To enter either:

Sign up in church lobby; call 01242 704837,

or email: cw2811sjl@gmail.com

From the Diocese.



Tuesday 25 November, marks White Ribbon Day. It is followed by a call to 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, part of a powerful call to end violence against women and girls. This cause resonates deeply with me both as a husband and father of daughters, and as a follower of Christ longing for a world where all can flourish without fear and where dignity and respect are not privileges but rights. This is something that sadly, is not yet the reality for many women in this country and across our world. Domestic abuse, coercion, and gender-based violence remain pervasive, and silence only perpetuates harm.

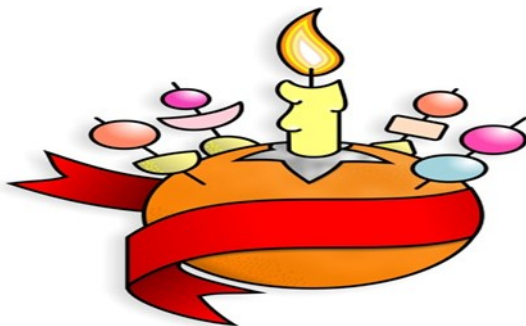
As a bishop, my passion for this campaign springs from the heart of the Gospel. Jesus consistently honoured women challenged systems of oppression, and called His followers to love sacrificially. To stand against violence is thus not an optional extra – it is an expression of faith. Scripture reminds us that every person is made in the image of God; therefore, any act that diminishes or dehumanises is an affront to God Himself. White Ribbon Day gives us a practical way to live out that conviction.

Why should the Church be involved? Because we are called to be salt and light in a hurting world. Churches are often places of trust and refuge, yet too often we have failed to speak boldly on issues of abuse. Silence can be interpreted as indifference. By engaging with White Ribbon Day, we do something practical, we declare that violence has no place in our homes, communities, or congregations. We model a culture where men take responsibility – not just for their own actions but by challenging harmful attitudes and behaviours wherever they occur.

This is not about politics; it is about discipleship. It is about shaping communities that reflect the Kingdom of God, where justice and peace embrace. When we raise our voices, we offer hope to survivors and signal to perpetrators that the Church will not collude with violence. As fathers, husbands, brothers, and friends, we can lead by example – speaking out, educating ourselves, and creating safe spaces.

White Ribbon Day is more than a campaign; it is a commitment to transformation. For me, it is a way of saying to women and girls, “Your safety matters, your worth matters, and the Church will stand with you.” That is what faith in action looks like — it is indeed how we live the command to ‘Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God’ (Micah 6:8).

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a plus sign followed by the name "Robert" in a cursive, stylized font.



CHRISTINGLE SERVICES

at S. Philip & S. James Church.

Families with young children are invited to
a Christingle Service
on

Sunday 7th December at 4pm

&

Sunday 14th December at 4pm

All Welcome.

Please remember to bring your Christingles to the service. If you don't know how to make a Christingle, see our parish magazine online.

There will be a retiring collection.

What Do You Need to Make a Christingle?

An orange.

Red ribbon or sticky red tape.

4 cocktail sticks.

Soft sweets.

A small piece of silver foil.

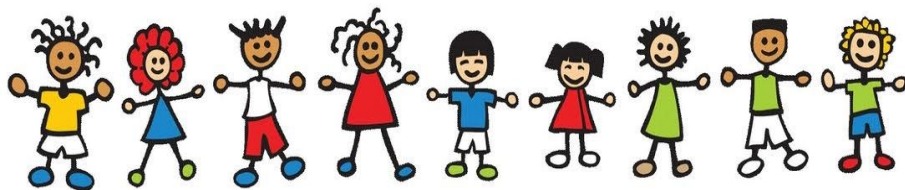
A small candle.

How to Create a Christingle

- 1 Take an orange and make a hole in the top of your orange.
- 2 Wrap your piece of red ribbon or red sticky tape around the middle of the orange.
- 3 Place the small square piece of silver foil over hole, (this is to catch any dripping wax) and wedge the candle through the foil into the hole of the orange.
- 4 Carefully skewer the soft sweets onto one end of the four cocktail sticks.
- 5 Insert the opposite end of the four cocktail sticks evenly into the orange around the middle of the candle.

Having made your Christingle why not attend our Church Christingle Service and enjoy learning what they symbolise?





'STARTERS'

Our Sunday morning children's group

meets on the 2nd & 4th Sundays

at 10:00 in the Church Centre.

Worship & activities before joining
the adults in Church
for the rest of the Mass.

Go to our website:

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14268

for weekly children's activity sheets.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO
WELCOMING YOU.

Puzzle Time

December

E	T	H	L	T	B	E	E	E	E	E	N	S	R	H	I	A
E	S	C	S	S	M	M	A	R	K	E	T	S	B	R	H	N
C	M	T	H	D	T	E	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	B	E
H	O	I	A	R	R	A	E	T	I	B	S	R	P	H	M	H
R	E	T	S	E	I	T	R	A	P	A	H	I	I	Y	E	P
I	E	I	B	H	K	S	L	S	N	S	O	F	A	Y	D	E
S	N	T	B	P	P	B	T	T	B	B	R	N	T	T	M	T
T	E	K	C	E	B	S	A	M	O	H	T	E	N	I	R	S
I	W	M	T	H	A	E	I	X	A	I	E	P	M	V	U	T
N	Y	U	D	S	A	N	I	E	R	S	S	O	R	I	N	S
G	E	N	N	L	C	N	S	I	D	E	T	P	V	T	C	W
L	A	S	T	E	G	E	P	T	G	N	D	D	E	A	X	Y
E	R	H	P	D	E	S	E	D	A	R	A	H	C	N	E	T
P	S	I	A	R	Y	P	A	P	M	L	Y	A	O	K	U	E
R	E	Y	U	L	E	L	O	G	E	N	K	L	R	R	A	N
S	V	N	O	R	E	C	H	E	S	T	N	U	T	S	P	C
M	E	H	E	L	H	T	E	B	I	M	T	N	S	S	H	P

Beanstalk	Christingle	Nazareth	Shepherds
Bethlehem	Christmas	New Years Eve	Shortest Day
Boardgames	Holy Spirit	Open Fires	St Stephen
Boxing Day	Markets	Pantomime	Thomas Becket
Charades	Mincepies	Parties	Turkey
Chestnuts	Nativity	Santa	Yulelog

Up Hatherley Parish Council

We close the year with a full complement of Parish Councillors, with Ann Duignan joining us earlier in the year, and then in November we welcomed back Yvonne Doane, who has served for two terms previously. I know I am biased, but Parish Councils are very cost effective when you get together a group of people who value their community and give their support for free. This year, the Parish magazine was delivered in “record” time, with all the councillors taking rounds and making the most of the fine weather. I was particularly grateful as I am shortly having surgery to install a new knee – and for the first time I can remember, did not have to do any deliveries!



As the Tuesday was Armistice Day, the 2 o'clock club marked the occasion by having a short service in the garden in the morning and then a Remembrance tea in the afternoon, raising funds for SSAFA. We were joined by Stephen Shergold from the Gloucestershire branch, who spoke about the work that is done by this brilliant organisation.

In December, the club is going to be welcoming the Choir from Bournside School who will sing carols and join us for tea.

We are holding our annual Carol Service on Fernleigh Green on Christmas Eve at 6.30. The Salvation Army band will play for us and say a short prayer at the end of the service. Last year, we raised over £700 for them – so important for the work that they do. As is customary, we will be serving hot mulled wine – please bring a cup or mug so we don't have to use disposable cups. The laminated carol sheets were an improvement last year, so we are getting more printed. In the weeks leading up to Christmas, we will be holding our annual competition for children to make decorations for the Christmas tree on the green.

Sarah Bamford (Chair)

Citizens Advice provides an
appointment only advice service on
Thursday morning at the
Up Hatherley Library.

A blue speech bubble containing the text "citizens advice" in white lowercase letters.

**citizens
advice**

**Please call 01452 527202 to arrange an
appointment:**

**Free confidential advice on issues
including:**

A blue speech bubble containing the text "citizens advice" in white lowercase letters.

**citizens
advice**

*Benefits * Employment
*Housing * Debt * Family * Consumer



The winners of the November Draw were

1st Prize = Lesley Catherall
2nd Prize = Angela Gilbert
3rd Prize = Shirley Little

The next Draw will be held on
December 14th 2025

Gardening News



Well, we'd muttered about the slow move to Autumn and rolled up to changing the clocks without serious seasonal collapse and then bang it happened. A few stormy days and the leaves tumbled in a confetti shower, the paths became slick, and the lawns smudged if you ventured across them, although it has been amazing to see grass recovering after the blistering Summer.

One of the joyous things this Autumn has been the colour of deciduous trees surrendering to the advance of the year. It is one of the bonuses that should be considered when selecting a tree or shrub. If you are considering planting, then the dormant months are good. Here are a few ideas to consider, which will give you a modest sized tree or shrub. Amelanchier, Cotinus and Japanese Maples have all been a delight. The real joy for me though has been the Blueberry. Earlier in the summer, I raved about how well ours had done and how we had a bounteous harvest of fruit. My enthusing must extend now to the Autumn colour of its foliage. It has been magnificent, offering some really fiery colour in its surrendering to the Winter. If you are in the mood for planting, then bare root hedging is now available and is great value if you have need for a defining barrier.

With Christmas getting close, pot plants and Christmas trees are everywhere. Do check the calendar before getting carried away. I always feel the need to deliver cautionary guidance at this time. Please don't be too early with taking in the Christmas tree. If you are buying a Norway Spruce (the old traditional tree) it will be dropping its needles if it is in the house for three weeks. The more expensive Nordman is a different beast and some years will hold up for over a month. Whatever you are buying, try to stand your tree in a sheltered spot in a bucket of water for a day or so and ideally after trimming a slither from the bottom of the stem.

And finally, if you haven't done it, you'll still get away with a few over wintering broad bean seeds. You can set them straight to the ground, but if the wet continues get a few into pots or trays for planting later. Just keep an eye open for mice, they love them.

Happy Gardening

Chris Evans

Recipe for the Month

Festive Mincemeat Tart

6 oz plain flour, 3 oz butter, ½ teaspoon mixed spice, 1 egg yolk

For the Filling

2 large desert apples, 1 oz butter, ½ teaspoon mixed spice, 1 orange finely grated, 10 oz mincemeat, 1 beaten egg.

Preheat oven to 375f or 190c, gas mark 5

Sieve the flour into a bowl and rub in the butter until it resembles fine breadcrumbs.

Add the mixed spice, stir in the egg yolk and a little cold water to bind.

Cover pastry and chill for about 15 minutes, before rolling out

Grease 7" flan tin, prick the base and chill again for about an hour (reserve any remaining pastry)

Peel and core apples and thinly slice, melt butter in a frying pan, add mixed spice and the orange zest and stir in the apples. Coat with the butter and cook gently for approx 3 minutes, cover the pastry base with the apple mixture, spoon on the mincemeat.

Roll out any remaining pastry and cut into thin strips, dampen each end and arrange on the flan in a lattice pattern, brush with beaten egg and a light dusting of caster sugar. Cook for approx 30 minutes.

CHURCH CENTRE HIRE



We are pleased to be able to offer the following availability for the regular hire of our Church Centre:

Mondays: from 09:00 – 16:00.

Wednesdays: from 09:00 - 16:00.

Thursdays: from 13:00 – 21:00.

Fridays: from 16:00 – 21:00.

For full details of availability and features please contact Father Mark, Parish Priest, on **01242 704837**.



Cider with Rosie by Laurie Lee 1959

Our book club chose a different book by Laurie Lee – Down in the Valley, which is a portrait of the author's beloved Slad, and decided that we would meet at the Woolpack for book club. This set me on a journey of reading the trilogy of Laurie Lee's works, starting with Cider with Rosie, written the year I was born.

I am progressing quite slowly through the trilogy because reading Lee's words is like reading poetry and it is an amazing experience.

The trilogy opens with Lee's first memories of growing up in a chaotic, fatherless but loving family in their home in Slad. The text bursts with colour, characters and humour and I can honestly say that I have never read anything so evocative.

It's set me on a journey, as the next books cover Lee's departure from Gloucestershire, first to London and then to Spain, with the International Brigade. I am particularly interested in the final book, as my great uncle left the Rhondda valley to volunteer in the International brigade and I have always been fascinated by this chapter in our history.

Laurie Lee saw out his days back in Slad and was a regular at the Woolpack. There is a lovely story about a group of O level students studying Cider with Rosie, visiting the Woolpack and asking Lee (who was propping up the bar) where the author was buried. I can imagine the embarrassment and the humour in the re-telling.....

Sarah Bamford



The Church Centre...



*... is the ideal venue for...
your children's party, work's conference,
friends get together & concert performance
or that extra special occasion ...*

*Wedding breakfast &
Anniversary celebration*

*With fully equipped kitchen,
tables & chairs, disabled access
& outside space.*

*Room for Bouncy Castles, DJs
& Children's Entertainers.*

Free car parking

For further details telephone

01242 704837

What's On at our Church Centre

Mondays: 18:00-19:00 Balance of Life Pilates.

Tuesdays: 09:30-11:30 Child Minders
Pre-School Group

13:30-16:00 Strength & Balance

Wednesdays: 16:15-21:00 Slimming World

Thursdays: 09:30-12:30 Jo Jingles Play Group

Fridays: 09:30-10:30 Balance of Life Pilates.

For further details of all these activities please see
the noticeboards in the Centre lobby or contact
Father Mark on 01242 704837.

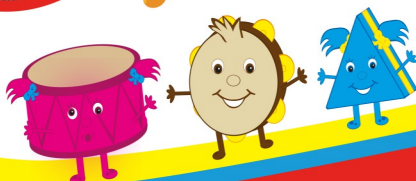


BABY CLASS RE-OPENING!



**Saints Philip and James
Church Centre,
Cold Pool Lane,
Up Hatherley**

**Thursdays
at 11:45am**



Click on the link in the post to book or
contact Gill for more information at
gillb_jojingles@hotmail.com
www.jojingles.com/centralglos



CHRISTMAS IN THE CHURCHYARD

It is always lovely to see people visit the graves of their relatives especially at Christmas here at S. Philip & S. James. To leave Christmas wreaths and other symbols of love for those whom they love but see no longer.

We would like to kindly remind all visitors to please remove Christmas wreaths and other Christmas decoration from the graves by the 31st of January.

Please either dispose of these items in the appropriate green or brown bins provided or take reusable items home.

Please visit our Parish Website for further information on Churchyard rules and regulations

Many thanks & Happy New Year.

MAINTENANCE OF BURIAL & INTERMENT PLOTS

What is permitted:

Permanent stone vases are only those authorized and have permission granted, and only fresh flowers (out of their wrappings), or cuttings from shrubs and bushes, may be placed in them.

Grassed interment plots are enclosed by a band of paving. Vases should be placed on this and not on the grass, both to respect other plots and to facilitate the maintenance of the churchyard.

Small spring bulbs may be planted (from **September to October**), under the grass of a grave with minimal disturbance to the turf.

Poppies (or small wooden remembrance crosses) at the time of Remembrance Sunday. To be removed by **30th November**.

Christmas wreaths of natural foliage are welcome from mid-December. To be removed by **31st January**.

What is not permitted:

No artificial flowers of any kind. The only exception to this is for poppies on Remembrance Sunday.

No trees, shrubs, or roses are allowed to be planted.

No individual gardens are permitted.

Items not allowed because they are dangerous, interfere with grass cutting, will get damaged or are out of keeping with the churchyard, include such items as:

glass or other breakable or sharp items; chippings or gravel; pictures, portraits or photographs; statues or ornaments; lights (candles, solar or battery); plastic bowls, birdbaths; kerbs, railings or chains; windmills, wind-chimes, cards, animal figures, angels, etc.

The PCC retains the right to remove anything from the churchyard which does not comply with these or other regulations.