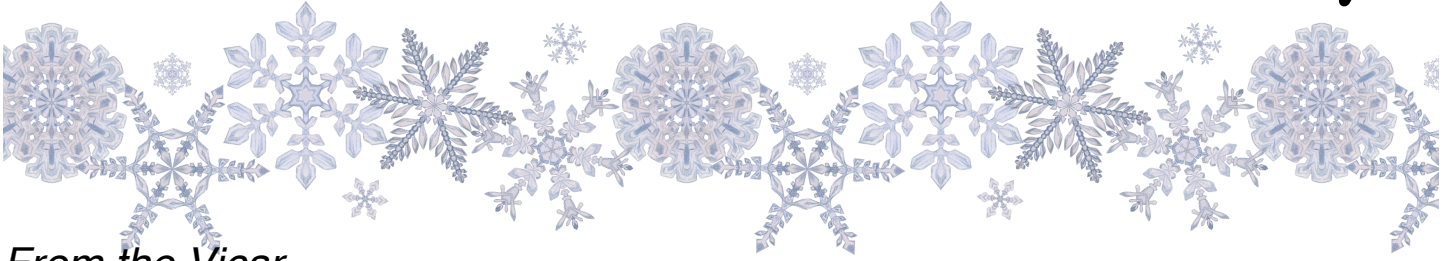


# Pews News for January



*From the Vicar....*

And so another year begins.. and no doubt with a mixture of feelings.. there might be relief that we have survived another year.. or maybe trepidation that we are now one year closer to whatever might lie ahead for us... maybe there has been great joy to treasure and sustain as the new year unfolds, or maybe there is much that we want to let go of and leave behind., crossing thresholds of any kind requires a certain resolve and courage and a New year is no different. 2026 promises to be an interesting and challenging one for the Church of England..

A new Archbishop of Canterbury.. a new Bishop of Taunton (Bishop Fiona).. and a series of elections not least to the General Synod in October.

Closer to home, our two churches are facing challenges around finances and resources which will require creativity, generosity and faith.

So what can each and every one of us do to receive the gift of this New Year?

The Christmas story is full of people who just turn up! The angel Gabriel just turns up one day as Mary goes about her life... Mary and Joseph just turn up in Bethlehem.. without a plan or the resources to find a comfortable inn for the night.. the shepherds in the fields.. just turn up at the stable.. they don't wait to be invited or message ahead..

the Magi also just turn up even if they do get the address wrong first time round..

That is perhaps one of the most important things that you can do in this coming year.. just turn up.. and expect to find Jesus.. even if you don't get to sing your favourite hymns or the sermon is a bit ropery... Jesus is expecting you .. longing for you.. to just turn up.

So if you worship on alternate weeks.. how about trying a different service.. different time, different venue..

Together we encourage, build up and establish the Body of Christ and our place in it.... make turning up to worship and to work together a priority for 2026



# Christmas Round up

Thank you to everyone who was involved with and came along the services during Advent Christmas. It is a really busy time of year and the extra help and company was much appreciated.. most of all by those who came to services and found the lights on and the welcome warm. Thank you!



Carols are an essential part of telling the Christmas story even if sometimes the Victorian sentiments prove tricky.. how many generations of Christian children have been cowed into submission by Once is royal David's city?

As church going decreases so our carol repertoire shrinks and merges with secular songs. This Christmas it has been lovely to sing some of the favourites (lots of times) and to hear some of the less well known carols or the forgotten ones from years ago.

Thank you especially to the Christ Church Singers for their concert and service where the music was as ever superb and £974 was raised for Fair Frome



It was wonderful too to join with other Christians from around the town on the platform at Frome station early in the morning to sing to the commuters.. we even spotted our very own Bishop Michael on the 7.45 to Paddington!



Carols and soup went down well at St. Mary's with a new service especially for those folk living with memory loss and there are plans for another service at the end of February. It was also a great chance to worship and work alongside people from other churches.



Of course, our schools are busy in the run up to Christmas. It was a privilege to join the children at Selwood Academy as they sang their way through the story with gusto and a delightful amount of talent.

Our Open the Book Team helped the children tell the story of Mary and Joseph before they set off to Bethlehem with a wonderful Angel Gabriel and a feisty Mary. The Garden Nursery children brought their own special story to St. Mary's.



Carols amongst the Christmas Trees rounded off another sensational Christmas Tree Festival with more trees and more visitors and more lights than ever. There are already plans for 2026.



In all the busyness there were moments of quiet. A contemplative service at the end of November in the Lady Chapel at Christ Church prepared a welcome for the season and a visual focus. Another contemplative service on New Years' Eve gave space to ring out the old and ring in the New whilst thinking about what gifts we bring to the Christ Child.

Once again, thank you to everyone – it wouldn't have been the same without you!



## From the Registers

Funerals Dec 16<sup>th</sup> Terry Rusbridge at Christ Church



# Marys House Community

## The art of thinking together



Questioning our assumptions and patterns of thought through dialogue  
with others



led by Simon Keyes on Saturday January 10th  
10am-4pm in St. Mary's hall.

The day will comprise a presentation and dialogue, a contemplative practice and some practical outdoor work (weather permitting).

A simple soup lunch will be provided

*Marys House Community is a community for the spiritually curious - a gathering of seekers exploring together what Christian wisdom can teach us about how to live more fully in an uncertain world. All are welcome.*

### Breakfast Club



Due to an administrative oversight (by the Vicar) breakfast club is taking a break



### Coffee Morning

St. Mary's

Saturday Jan 17th

10 -12.30

All welcome

Raising funds to restore the car park



### Christingle

This year, we are celebrating Candlemas with a Christingle Eucharist on Sunday 1 February at St. Mary's. Each year the Children's Society works with some of the most vulnerable children and Christingles are a significant way of raising funds for their work. There envelopes available at St. Mary's if you would like to take one and bring a donation back to the service.





## Morning Praise at St. Mary's



Starting in January, the fourth Sunday (starts at 9am) of the each month will be a Morning Praise Service rather than a Eucharist. The PCC have agreed to try this pattern out for six months as we explore new ways of worshipping and welcoming new people. The service will have music and readings and prayers but will be a little shorter maybe lasting 45 minutes. Come and see ..

## Christ Church Future



The work has begun at Christ Church. The week before Christmas, four of the windows emerged from behind their polycarbonate screens. The difference is astonishing and in the Spring there will be further decisions about removing more and what/if the panels are replaced with.



The Christmas Tree Festival was also a great success and raised £640 which is for the creation of an accessible entrance at the west door. Work on this is hoped to start in the autumn and in the meantime, fundraising experience, help and ideas are



## Joined PCC Meeting



On Saturday January 24, the PCCs of both churches are meeting together. We will be exploring ways of working more closely together as a united benefice as we move forward into 2026. We are also seeking to discern creative ways of answering God's call to our churches. Please pray for the PCC members and churchwardens.

# Contemplating Candlemas



Celebrate the  
Coming of the Light  
on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm  
in Christ Church Lady Chapel.

Using word, music and silence we gather as  
the Christmas season nears it's conclusion.

## Anna Chaplains

Anna Chaplaincy is a way of supporting older people emotionally and spiritually. Anna Chaplains are named after the widow Anna who appears with Simeon in the temple as Mary and Joseph present Jesus as was required of them by the Law.

It is a year since Len Taylor was licensed as an Anna Chaplain working with a team of Anna Friends from churches in the town. Together they have worked hard to establish a regular pattern of services and pastoral care in most of our care homes and there are plans to develop and grow this ministry.

On Monday 2 Feb there is a special evensong at Wells Cathedral at 5.15pm to celebrate Anna Chaplaincy. All are welcome to come along and support our team.

If Anna Chaplaincy is something that you might be interested in getting involved in, please chat to Revd Liz or Len Taylor or Anthea Kemp.



## Hall Bookings

If you are interested in booking either of the halls. Please visit [hallbookingonline.com/frome](http://hallbookingonline.com/frome) where you will be able to check availability, make a provisional booking and access all the booking information and forms that you need.



# Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



In previous years, the week of Prayer for Christian Unity was marked by inviting preachers from other churches to visit churches and share the worship. This year Christ Church will welcome Jim Parsons to their 10.30am service on Sunday 25 January.



## Marys House

Mary's House resumes its regular meeting for contemplative prayers on alternate Tuesdays beginning on January 6 in St. Mary's Hall at 7pm. If you haven't been before, there is usually a social time before with refreshments and a chance to catch up with each other.

Each session is led and there is usually a focus (music/writing/art) which is often scriptural. This is followed by 20 mins of silent prayer after which there might be further conversation and then we leave for home by 8.30pm.

At present we meet in St. Mary's hall but when the weather is better we plan to meet out of doors either in the Giant's Garden or the paddock. Marys House Community are also embarking on a series of workshops holding to the three pillars of the community.. contemplation, dialogue and creation. The first of these is on Saturday 10 Jan in St. Mary's Hall between 10 and 4pm called The Art of Thinking Together .

All are welcome



## EmbraceME

The PCC at Christ Church decided to support EmbraceME this Christmas by donating the collections from the carol service, the Crib service and Midnight Mass. EmbraceME works with disadvantaged people in and around the very places named in the Christmas story and has done so for many years.

Those attending our services gave generously and we are able to send approximately £450 to this great charity.



# Sunday Services in January



	<b>Christ Church</b>	<b>St. Marys</b>
Sunday 4th	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 6pm Choral Evensong	10.30am Parish Eucharist
Sunday 11th	10.30am Sung Eucharist	9am Parish Eucharist
Sunday 18th	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	10.30am Parish Eucharist
Sunday 25th	10.30am Sung Eucharist	9am Morning Worship
Sunday 1st Feb Candlemas	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 6pm Choral Evensong	10.30am Christingle Eucharist

Each Wednesday 10.00am Eucharist at St. Mary's (said)  
 Belmont Villa Holy Communion Tuesday 6th January at 2pm  
 Critchill Court Holy Communion Thursday 8th January at 2.30pm  
 Greenhill Grange Holy Communion Wednesday 28th January at 2.30pm  
 Frome Hospital Service Friday 30th January at 2pm



## Contact Details

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