

# Windsor Church News



December 2025 & January 2026

the online newsletter from  
the Church of England in Central Windsor



**The Revd Canon  
David Dadswell**

Dear Friends

When do you put your Christmas tree up? Is it on the 1<sup>st</sup> December or not until Christmas Eve? You'll often hear grumpy old clergy like me complaining about how much earlier Christmas gets each year - Christmas trees decorated and twinkling in November and how that ruins the special nature of Advent as a distinctive time of preparation and reflection.

I became a bit less doctrinaire about all this during Covid. In the daily hour of

outside exercise we were allowed, in the run up to Christmas I would walk through the terraced streets round where I lived. As the days grew darker and darker, gradually the windows of the houses filled with sparkly lights, messages of joy and snowy stencilling. This seemed a build up just right for where we were. Little by little the expectation of love coming among us became more and more noticeable, the message of the promised, hoped for, desperately needed prospect of peace and healing grew stronger and more widespread. It was an unexpected preparation for the coming of the Christ Child.

Holding back a little on the wholesale stepping into Christmas is an important gift of the Advent season and its various themes. One of these is judgement. We are contemplating and getting ready for Christ's judgement. Think of those Gospel stories in Matthew chapter 25 classically associated with Advent – the wise and foolish bridesmaids and



*continued from previous page*

whether they have enough oil in their lamps, the servants given five, two and one talents respectively and what they choose to do with them, and the sheep and the goats and the care of the hungry, the thirsty, the outsider, the naked, the sick and the prisoner. They're all about choices, the judgements we make about how we act day by day to make the world a better place, a place that shines with that Christmas peace, joy, hope and light. Christ's judgement is a judgement on our judgements. Advent, as it builds towards the great day on 25<sup>th</sup>, gives us an opportunity to reflect. Let's do a review of the quality of our judgements in the light of what God has invested in us to be and do in this world crying out for hope and light. What do we need to reinforce and continue? What do we need to turn away from and change?

You may want to use this lovely Advent prayer by the wonderful Catholic theologian Henri Nouwen, as you wait and prepare in hopeful, joyful expectation:

Lord Jesus, Master of both light and darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparation for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear Your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of Your Kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of Your presence.

We are Your people, walking in darkness yet seeking the light. To You, we say,

"Come, Lord Jesus!"

The Revd Canon David Dadswell

A poster for an Advent event. The background is a warm, bokeh-style image of out-of-focus lights in shades of orange, yellow, and pink. The text is centered and reads:

*Even song*  
*for Advent*  
**Sunday 7 December**  
**5.30pm**  
Tea & cake from 4.45pm  
**All Saints' Church**

A poster for Christmas events. The background is a light cream color with a border of small gold stars. At the top, the word "JOY" is written in large, bold, gold letters, with a white star inside the letter 'O'. Below this, the text reads:

*We warmly invite you to celebrate Christmas with us*

**Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 December**

**6pm** **Carols by Candlelight—Holy Trinity Church**  
Claremont Road & Trinity Place

**Christmas Eve**

**3pm** **Crib Service & Christingle—All Saints' Church**  
Frances Road

**3pm** **Crib Service—St Stephen & St Agnes Church**  
Vansittart Road

**11.15pm** **Midnight Mass—St Stephen & St Agnes Church**  
Vansittart Road

**11.15pm** **Midnight Communion—Holy Trinity Church**  
Claremont Road & Trinity Place

**Christmas Day**

**8am** **Holy Communion—Holy Trinity Church**  
BCP (traditional) Claremont Road & Trinity Place

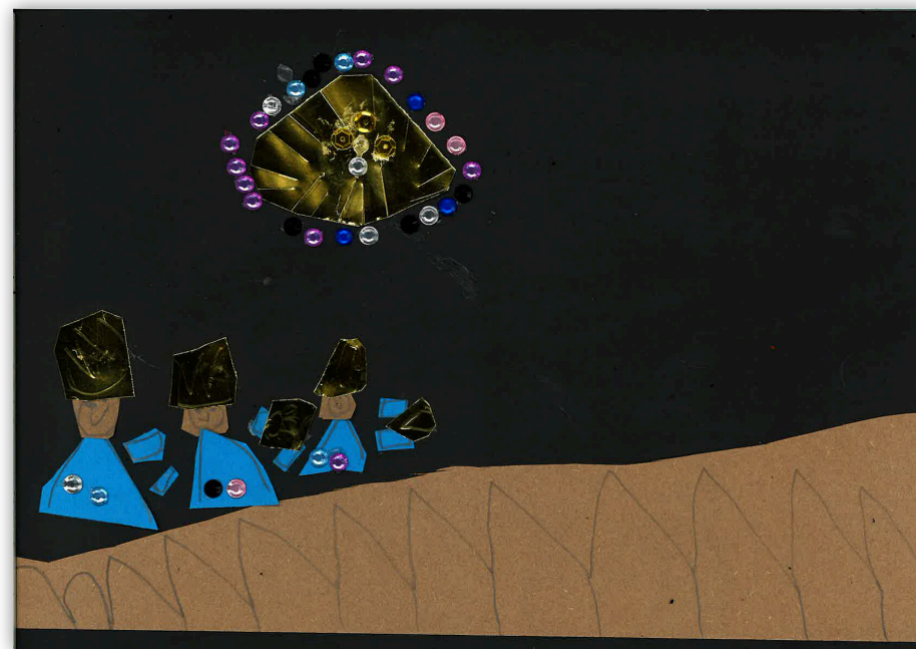
**10am** **Family Eucharist with carols—All Saints' Church**  
Frances Road

**11.15am** **Christmas Morning Praise—St John the Baptist Church**  
with Holy Communion High Street

**Feast of St Stephen (Friday 26 December)**

**10am** **Said Eucharist—St Stephen & St Agnes Church**  
Vansittart Road





## *We three kings*

Thank you to the children of  
Trinity St Stephen First School for  
their collages of very happy kings,  
following the star,  
carrying their gifts.

They also took part in the  
Christmas Tree Festival - with a  
tree full of happy angels.



# Little People, Big Faith

A view from the children's corner



Dear Friends from Church,

One of my favourite things about Christmas is giving presents. I know lots of people like getting presents (and I do too!), but I really like sharing them. Giving gifts makes me feel happy and kind, and it reminds me of how the Wise Men brought gifts for baby Jesus.

I also love the decorations at Christmas. When we walk around our street and see the lights twinkling on the houses, everything feels magical. The sparkly lights make me feel excited for Christmas Day, and they remind me of stars that the Wise Men followed.

But Christmas isn't only exciting. It also makes me think more about Jesus. We

celebrate his birth, but I know his life didn't stay peaceful and happy. When I think about Jesus on the cross, I feel sad, but I remind myself that he came back to life, even though we can't see him now. I like imagining Jesus as our shepherd, gently helping us and guiding us, even if we can't see him with our eyes. Sometimes I ask Jesus for help with things in my life. I ask him to help me sit still in school when I'm fidgety, or to help me feel brave before my kickboxing exam. I also ask him to help me make good choices, like being kind even when I'm feeling tired. When my grandad died, I prayed to Jesus a lot. I asked him to look after my grandad and to give me strength because I felt very sad. When I prayed, I felt like I wasn't alone.

Christmas brings people together - I like seeing everyone singing the same carols at church. It makes me feel like we are all part of one big family. I feel like with these people around me I will live a long happy life.

With faith, hope, and love,

Savannah



## Castle View. Life. But Better.

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**Call Nicky**, our Later Living Advisor on **01753 378127**, to discuss how your lifestyle can flourish here.

Scan the QR code, for further information...



**Castle View Retirement Living, Helston Lane, Windsor, SL4 5GG**  
**castleviewwindsor.co.uk** | General Enquires: 01753 336060 | [info@castleviewwindsor.co.uk](mailto:info@castleviewwindsor.co.uk)



**Follow us...** on our socials for future events, plus hints & tips on how to stay active in later life! Search: **Castle View Windsor**







#### OUR LIVE-IN SERVICES

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\*\*\*\*\*

##### CLINICAL CARE

Varying levels of clinical and personal care

\*\*\*\*\*

##### COMPLEX CARE

Condition led; ie nursing, palliative and rare conditions

\*\*\*\*\*

##### REHABILITATION

Short term care (four weeks or more)

hamiltongeorgecare.com  
0330 470 2866

## HIGH-END CARE IN YOUR OWN HOME

At **Hamilton George Care**, we only work with the very best live-in carers. We take the time to understand the unique clinical and lifestyle needs of our clients and their families. Our outstanding carers and dedicated in-house team provide around-the-clock support, all from the comfort of your own home.



#### CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

*'Hamilton George are not 'just a safe pair of hands', they are proactive rather than reactive. Cannot recommend highly enough.'*

### Church Opening Times

**St John the Baptist Church**  
High Street - daily, all day

~

**St Stephen & St Agnes Church,**  
Vansittart Road - daily, all day

~

**All Saints' Church,**  
Frances Road - Mon-Wed & Sat, all day

~

**Holy Trinity Church,**  
Claremont Road  
- Wed, Thu & Fri, 10am-12pm

### Loving Care (Carers' Meeting)

Do you care for a loved one or friend?  
Would you like to meet up with others in a similar situation?

Join us for tea and biscuits on the second Thursday of each month from 1.30pm to 2.30/3.00pm in the Mountbatten Room at Holy Trinity Church. All are very welcome

### New Pathways

New Pathways is an informal bereavement group, which meets monthly, in the Mountbatten Room at Holy Trinity Church, 2.30-3.30pm, on the last Thursday of the month (except in December). Everyone is welcome.

# Pause for a Poem

In this poem John Clare talks of how quickly one year passes as the New Year arrives. He suggests that the mist in the morning is more tangible than the year that has passed. I'm not sure that I totally agree with that, but it was maybe truer for a man who spent much of his life working in the countryside, which of course forms the subject of many of his other poems.

Michael Bailey

### The Old Year

The Old Year's gone away  
To nothingness and night:  
We cannot find him all the day  
Nor hear him in the night:  
He left no footstep, mark or place  
In either shade or sun:  
The last year he'd a neighbour's face,  
In this he's known by none.

All nothing everywhere:

Mists we on mornings see  
Have more of substance when they're here  
And more of form than he.  
He was a friend by every fire,  
In every cot and hall—  
A guest to every heart's desire,  
And now he's nought at all.

Old papers thrown away,  
Old garments cast aside,  
The talk of yesterday,  
Are things identified;  
But time once torn away  
No voices can recall:  
The eve of New Year's Day  
Left the Old Year lost to all.

John Clare (1793–1864)



Thank you also to Michael for this misty photo of Sutherland Grange

## Bishop Steven: Support our Jamaican family

Bishop Steven has launched an appeal to help the people of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands after Hurricane Melissa devastated the area last month. The campaign will be Bishop Steven's [annual Advent appeal](#).

The storm left thousands homeless and countless buildings destroyed or damaged. Four churches were completely destroyed and 23 other churches and schools need substantial repair.

Bishop Steven said: "As a diocese, we are in regular contact with Bishop Leon

Golding and his team. We are the only link diocese for Jamaica and the Cayman Islands worldwide and this is a moment for us to step up and support disaster relief and ongoing reconstruction.

"There are many, many connections already between our two dioceses and these will grow stronger in the future. There is much that Oxford has to learn from Jamaica. But the need is critical now for our sisters and brothers."

[Find out more](#) and [donate online](#).



*The beautiful candles on the left were created by Sunday Club during the Sung Eucharist on Advent Sunday.*

## Claremont Singers' Christmas Concert

All welcome to come along to this festive concert at 3pm on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at Holy Trinity Church.



## Book Launch on 14 February

Maaiké Gomm-Zaagsma's new novel is being launched at Holy Trinity Church on 14 February. You can pre-order your copy of "Attrickwater" and read more about it [here](#).

## Deanery Confirmation 2026

Bishop Mary is coming to our Deanery to confirm adults and children at a special service on Sunday 1st March at 2.30pm at Cox Green, Maidenhead. If you are thinking about confirmation, please come along to our Confirmation Group on Sunday afternoon (4.30-5.30pm) beginning 18th January and running until 22nd February. Keep an eye on the website and Keeping Us in Touch leaflet in the new year for details of venue and further information.

## Premiere of The Windsor Mass

Congratulations to Carolyn Gower and all involved in the premiere of the Windsor Mass at St John the Baptist in November. If you missed it (or would like to listen to it again!) on our YouTube channel [here](#), with thanks to Robin McConnell for filming it.



*Carolyn Gower, who wrote the mass setting, is pictured in the centre above*

*You are invited to a*

# Coffee Morning

**Friday  
5 December  
10am-12pm**

**Holy Trinity Church**

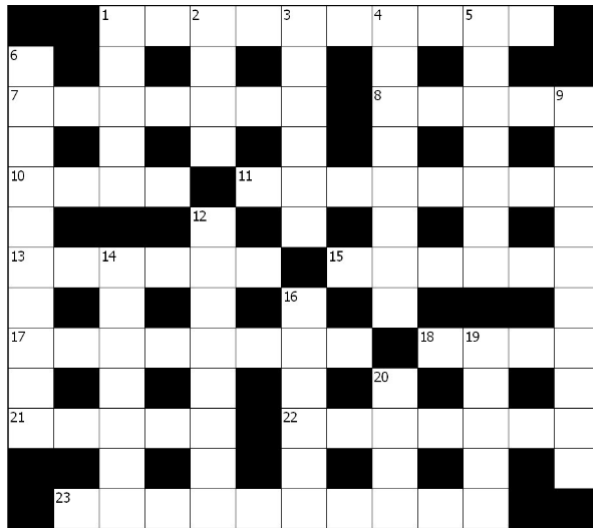
donations  
welcomed for  
**Save the Children**

donations of cakes  
also needed please!

Please contact  
Penny Wells  
if you are able to  
help on the day



# Puzzle Page



## Across

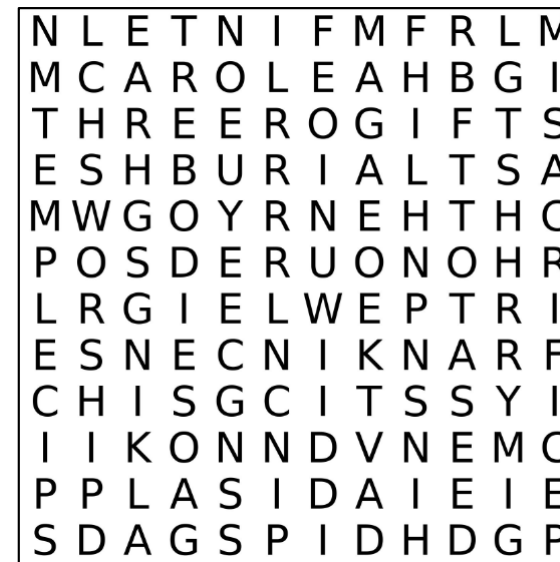
- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith .... (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

## Down

- 1 .... and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 Offer your bodies as living ...., holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) (4)



The Bible used is the New International Version.



## Gifts of the Wise Men

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? One Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote the much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people. The Wise Men were the very first Gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had!

Ancients  
Bodies  
Burial  
Carol  
Die  
Divine  
faith  
Frankincense  
Gentile  
Gifts  
Gold  
Henry  
Honoured  
Hopkins  
Kings  
Myrrh  
Orient  
Sacrifice  
Spice  
Temple  
Three  
Worship

Puzzle solutions are on page 12

The Friends of  
Windsor Parish Church

## St Nicholas Day Coffee Morning & Concert

10am  
on  
Saturday  
6 December

St John the  
Baptist  
Parish Church

All welcome  
~  
No charge



### Journey to Jerusalem - Telling the Story

January is still very much part of the Christmas story in the Church's Year, which culminates in the great and colourful festival of Candlemas. This special day celebrates when the birth of Jesus became more widely known, as very good news for people everywhere!

Candlemas is the story of baby Jesus being brought by Mary and Joseph to the Temple in Jerusalem to give thanks for him and to give him back to God - in a similar way to when we Christen our babies today.

Unbeknown to Mary and Joseph there was a very old man called Simeon in Jerusalem, who had been promised by God that he would not die until he had seen the person who would be the Saviour of the world - which was in a terrible state then, two thousand years ago, just as it is now.

At the very time that Mary and Joseph arrived in the Temple, God had prompted Simeon to be there too and he knew after all his years of waiting, that baby Jesus was the promised one.

The words he said as he took baby Jesus in his arms have been immortalised in what is called the Nunc Dimittis. They are sung or said every day in churches and cathedrals in the service of Evensong, all over the world:

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy will. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people. A light to reveal thy will to those in other lands. To bring glory to Israel.*

A small group of people from our new Parish of Central Windsor have been working on bringing Simeon's story to life by learning the Cantata 'Journey to Jerusalem'. We have had a break in our rehearsals for Christmas, but they resume on Monday 5 January from 7.00 - 8.00 at St Stephen and St Agnes Church, Vansittart Road, Windsor SL4 5EA.

We would love more people to join us in the quiet month of January, each

Monday as we prepare for our performance during the colourful Candlemas Service at St Stephen and St Agnes Church at 10.00am on Sunday 1 February 2026.

Currently in our group's ages range from 9 - upper 70s - so this is for everyone - just like Simeon's proclamation when he held the baby Jesus in his arms.

If you would like to sing uplifting songs and use the wonderful building of St Stephen and St Agnes Church to stage this great story - fully costumed, as well as have great fun for a hour each Monday in January, please come and join us!

Carolyn Gower

### Journey to Jerusalem

Sunday 1 February 2026

St Stephen & St Agnes Church



### Holiday Club

Following the success (and fun!) of last year, we are again offering a Holiday Club for primary school age children, Monday 16th to Wednesday 18th February (Spring Half-term). The theme is Luke the Doctor. Booking and full details will be available on our [website](#) in the the New Year.





## Bishop Steven's Retirement

*Bishop Steven wrote to the diocese on 18 November with news of his retirement.*



I write today to give the diocese notice of my intended retirement as Bishop of Oxford on 31 July 2026, with the permission of His Majesty the King. My final service as Bishop will be on 31 May in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, at 5pm. It has been and remains an immense joy and privilege to serve as Bishop of Oxford, and I am deeply thankful for God's grace in so many different people and communities across the diocese.

My main concern in the timing of my own retirement has been a desire to leave the strongest possible team in place to lead the diocese forward into the future.

Bishop Gavin will be Acting Bishop of Oxford for the vacancy. Bishop Gavin has now been in post as Bishop of Dorchester since 2021 and is very well qualified to lead the team through this

period. By May of next year, Bishops Mary and Dave will have been in post for 15 months and have already been a great blessing to the diocese. We have a remarkable team of heads of department, led by Mark Humphriss, Archdeacons and Associates, and a gifted team in Christ Church, led by Dean Sarah.

My own retirement from this role will come shortly after my sixty-ninth birthday and therefore in my seventieth year. By God's grace, it will mark exactly a decade as Bishop of Oxford and 17 years as a diocesan bishop in two very different dioceses, including 13 years as a member of the House of Lords.

This has been and remains an enormously privileged role in which I have learned so much from so many lay and ordained colleagues, past and present. I am deeply thankful for the ministries of all the people called to sustain the life and mission of churches, chaplaincies and schools across Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. I have appreciated countless opportunities to interact with a variety of civic, university and faith leaders across our three counties.

The wise convention is for retiring diocesan bishops to move away from the diocese where they have served. Ann and I have made plans relocate to St Albans, close to two of our children and their families and within relatively easy reach of the rest of our nine

grandchildren. I'm planning to continue to write, to offer ministry and to work in some capacity, but not at the same intensity as my present role requires.

When the time comes, I will miss the life of the diocese and its people and life very much indeed. Ann and I will particularly miss the city of Oxford, where we met and were married, and where we have lived in three separate and very happy chapters of our lives. We have come to know the churches and people of the city particularly well in my role as Area Bishop for the city. Ann will also miss her parish community in Kidlington and Hampton Poyle and her long-term involvement in Kidlinks, the parent and toddler network.

It will be very much business as usual in terms of the normal rhythms of work for me in the next six months. The process of prayer and discerning the person called to be the next Bishop of Oxford will begin immediately with meetings of the Vacancy in See Committee and a process of consultation. The diocese will publish details of this later this week.

I hope there will be opportunity for many conversations in the coming months. Thank you so much for your prayers and your partnership in the gospel. It has been an enormous privilege to serve in ordained ministry continuously for over 40 years, as Vicar of Ovenden in Halifax, Warden of

Cranmer Hall, Archbishops' Missioner, and Bishop of Sheffield and Oxford.

I have had a growing sense throughout that journey of the call of the Church to be more Christ-like, to be the Church of the Beatitudes, more contemplative, compassionate and courageous. I have held to a deep vision that the Church of England should become again a Church which teaches the Christian faith confidently and well to the people of England, seeing new disciples formed in Christ. I hope as many parishes and individuals as possible will join me in the journey through Lent next year for Come and See as we discover the ways we encounter Jesus in the Eucharist (sign up details are below).

Thank you for all your patience and support across the years. Know that you are loved and called by God perfectly and eternally, and that Christ who calls you will sustain you by his Spirit into all the future holds

With love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Croft". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft,  
Bishop of Oxford**  
[bishopstevencroft.substack.com](http://bishopstevencroft.substack.com)



# CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Thank you to everyone who created a Christmas tree for the Festival, which was held at Holy Trinity Church, at the end of November and beginning of December. This year the theme was angels. There were twenty seven trees, lots of visitors and generous donations totalling over £230 to the Alma Beacon. Trees were created by schools, local businesses, organisations, churches and individuals. Thank you as well to all who stewarded the event and the many who came to see the festival.

Holy Trinity Church was fortunate to host the second “window” of the Windsor & Eton Living Advent Calendar - with many thanks to our organ scholar Michal Peczak who played his harp so beautifully.

If you're not familiar with the Living Advent Calendar, it's held every December evening at 6.15pm until Christmas Eve at local venues. The Christmas Eve Window is at St John the Baptist Church – please do join us if you can.



ALMA  
BEACON

## Cold Weather Night Shelter 2025/2026

This year's Night Shelter is planned to run from **Monday 15th December 2025 to Sunday 29th March 2026**. This is only possible with the help of volunteers. If you would like to know more or volunteer please [see our website for more information](#).



## This December and January it was...

250 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 1775 that Jane Austen, novelist (*Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Persuasion*) was born. Over 30 million copies of her books have been sold, 7,000 of them in her lifetime.

Also 250 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 1776 that E T A Hoffmann, German fantasy/ Gothic horror writer, composer, artist and judge was born. Offenbach's opera *The Tales of Hoffman* is based on his stories. Tchaikovsky's ballet *The Nutcracker* is also based on one of his stories.

200 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 1826 that the Menai Suspension Bridge was first opened. It links the island of Anglesey to mainland Wales, and was the world's first major suspension bridge.

175 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 1851 that French physicist Leon Foucault set up the first Foucault pendulum in the cellar of his home, to demonstrate the rotation of the earth. On 31<sup>st</sup> March he created his most famous pendulum, hanging a 28-kilogram (62-pound) lead weight from a 67-metre (220 foot) wire from the dome of the Pantheon in Paris.

150 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 1875 that Evelyn Underhill, writer and pacifist was born. Best known for her books on religion and Christian mysticism.

125 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1901 that the Commonwealth of Australia was established when the six British colonies of New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia were federated.

Also 125 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 1901 that Queen Victoria died, and was succeeded by her son, Edward VII.

100 years ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 1926 that Michael Bond, children's writer, was born. He created the characters Paddington Bear and Monsieur Pamplemousse.

Also 100 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 1926 that Scottish engineer and inventor John Logie Baird gave the first demonstration of his TV system to members of the Royal Institution.

90 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 1936 that King George V died and was succeeded by his son Edward VIII, who abdicated that December.

80 years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 1945 that The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development were founded. They had been created at the Bretton Woods Conference in July 1944.

Also 80 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 1946 that the United Nations General Assembly

convened for the first time, in Westminster Central Hall, London.

75 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 1950 that the Stone of Scone, the coronation stone of British monarchs, was taken from Westminster Abbey in London by four Scottish students. They transported it to Scotland but broke it. It was later returned to London and used in the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Since 1996 it has been kept in Edinburgh Castle, with the agreement that it will be transported to Westminster Abbey when needed for coronations.

70 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1955 that African American civil rights activist Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in Montgomery Alabama. This violated the city's racial segregation laws, and led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott (5<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 1956) and the birth of the modern American civil rights movement.

Also 70 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 1955 that Cardiff was proclaimed the capital city of Wales.

65 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 1960 that the first episode of the TV soap *Coronation Street* was broadcast on ITV.

60 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 1965 that Richard Dimbleby, journalist and radio-television broadcaster, died. The BBC's first war correspondent, he was one of

the greatest figures in British broadcasting history. Father of the TV presenters David Dimbleby and Jonathan Dimbleby.

30 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 1995 that the British 'rogue trader' Nick Leeson was jailed for six and a half years in Singapore for fraudulent financial dealings which had led to the fall of Barings Bank.

Also 30 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 1995 that Head teacher Philip Lawrence was stabbed to death outside his west London school while trying to protect a student who was being assaulted by a gang of youths.

Also 30 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> Dec that the European Council announced that the new European currency would be called the Euro.

Also 30 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 1995 that the city of Bethlehem passed from Israeli to Palestinian control. On 26<sup>th</sup> Dec Israel also passed dozens of West Bank villages over to the Palestinian authority.

25 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2001 that Swedish football manager Sven Goran Eriksson became the first non-Briton to coach the England national football team.

*from Parish Pump*

## Burns Night

Each year, Burns Night takes place on 25<sup>th</sup> January to celebrate the life and legacy of Scotland's National Bard, Robert Burns. Burns Night is usually a combination of haggis, neeps, tatties, and warming 'drams', accompanied by recitals of some of Robert Burns' famous work. Robert Burns was born in 1759 and died only 37 years later, in 1796, but his life and writing certainly left a rich inheritance behind. Here are some interesting facts:

1. After Queen Victoria and Christopher Columbus, Robert Burns has more statues dedicated to him around the world than any other non-religious figure.
2. American music legend Bob Dylan said that his greatest-ever source of inspiration was Burns' 'A Red, Red Rose'
3. J.D. Salinger's 1951 novel 'The Catcher in the Rye' based its title on the Robert Burns poem, 'Comin' Thro' the Rye'.
4. Auld Lang Syne is a song of friendship in China. Known as You Yi Di Jiu Tian Chang – or Friendship Forever and Ever – the song is played at graduations and other formal gatherings.
5. 'Is There For Honest Poverty' (also known as 'A Man's a Man for a' That') was chosen to open the new Scottish Parliament in 1999 due to its themes of equality and universal brotherhood.
6. 'Auld Lang Syne' is recognised by the Guinness Book of World

Records as one of the top three most popular songs in the entire English language.

7. American fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger claims to be a direct descendant of Robert Burns.
8. In 2009, Robert Burns became the first-ever person to appear on a commemorative bottle of Coca-Cola.
9. A book of Burns' poetry was carried into space by astronaut Nick Patrick during a two-week space mission in 2010. The book completed a 5.7-million-mile trip, managing 217 orbits of the Earth.
10. Burns fathered at least 12 children during his short lifetime. His youngest son, Maxwell, was born on the day of Burns' funeral.

*from Parish Pump*

## Mothers' UNION

### November 2025 Meeting

Utter Silence!! Yes everyone was making angels for our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity Church on the weekend of the 29th December. Penny Wells was in charge and in her usual fashion persuaded us all that we could make angels! And so we did! We sincerely thank Penny for ensuring we had a successful happy afternoon.

Margaret Pettitt led us in Prayers and we prayed for peace in our troubled world, those suffering ill health and trauma and the work of the Mothers' Union helping others in so many countries.

We chatted as usual over a welcome tea and cakes.

Our Advent Service is on Thursday 11th December at All Saints' Hall at 3.30pm.

After our Service we read our favourite Christmas Poems.....religious or secular. Yes! Jill Church will be reciting "'Twas the Night Before Christmas". Followed by Tea and Mince Pies.

**Please** come and **join** us.

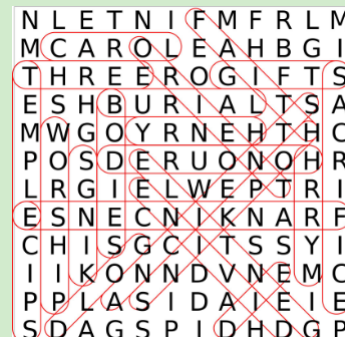
**Everyone** is **welcome**.

**Book** the date **now!**

"Mark the Season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern"

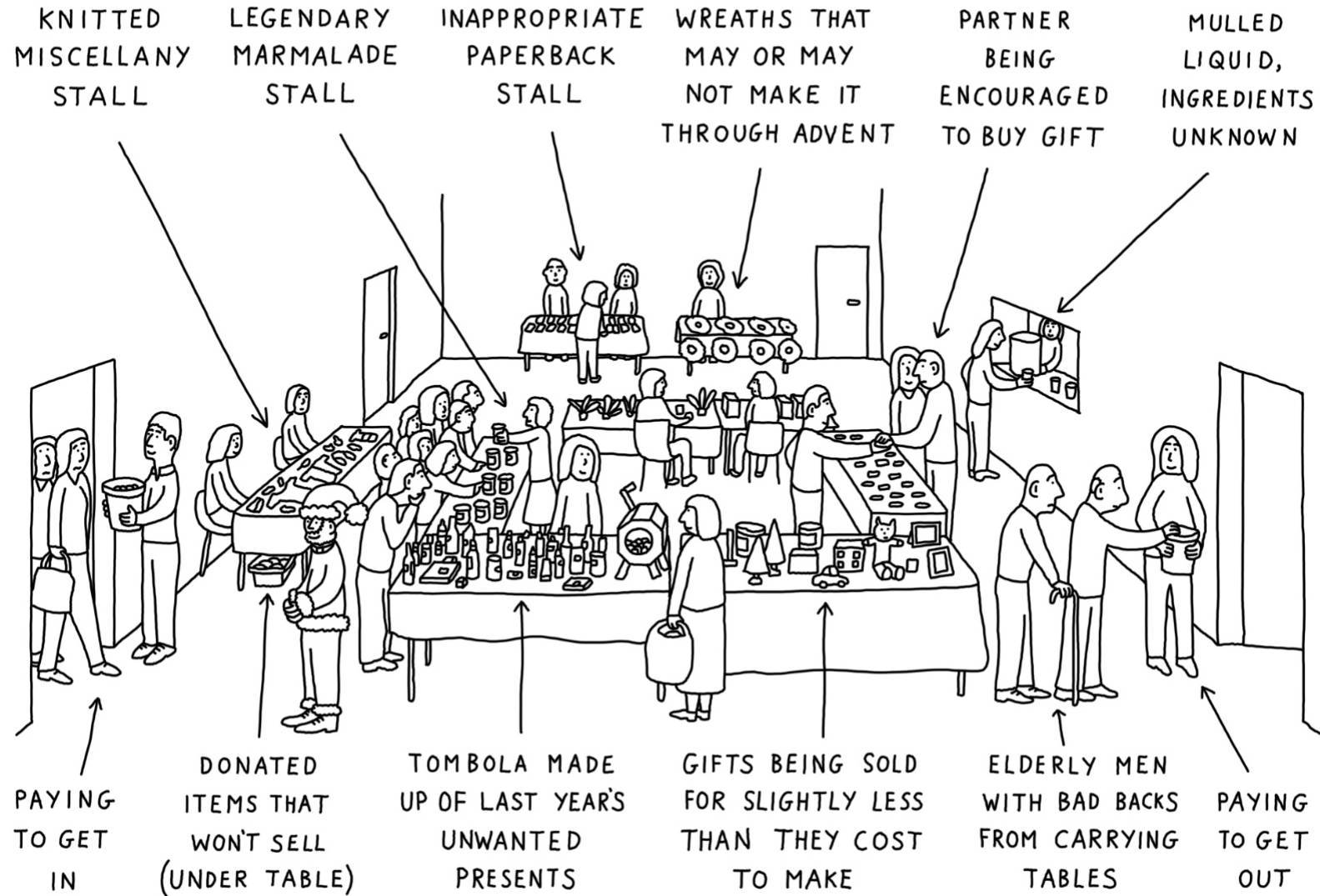
*Estlyn Davies*

## Puzzle Solutions

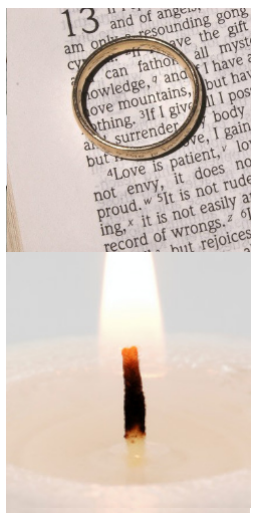




# THE CHRISTMAS MARKET



# From the November registers...



## Weddings

Adam McNamara & Emma Castle  
– All Saints' Church

## Funerals

Sandra Rodbard-Brown

## Morning Prayer

A small group of us meet to say Morning Prayer at gam on weekdays on Zoom and some days also in a church. Please contact [Revd Sally](#) if you'd like a Zoom invitation. You can download the Daily Prayer app with the order of service [here](#) (there are also books available in churches).

Daily  
Prayer



## For your prayers this month

Anne Harding  
Gill Pengilley  
Steve Smith

Alone on Christmas Day?  
or do you know somebody who is

Join us for  
**CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH**  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2024

From 12.30pm to 3.00pm  
St Edward's Parish Centre  
Alma Road, Windsor, SL4 3HJ

Please reserve your place  
(Numbers Limited)  
by contacting the SVP - 07547 514467  
Or email [xmas.svp.ctl@gmail.com](mailto:xmas.svp.ctl@gmail.com),  
Free Transport Available for those who need it



St Vincent de Paul Society and  
Churches Together in Windsor



Helping those in need, of all ages, in our community



## Windsor Decorating Services

All aspects of interior/exterior  
Domestic and Commercial  
Property repairs & maintenance  
Telephone: 01753 867920 Mobile: 07961 949969

# December



- 1 *Charles de Foucauld, Hermit in the Sahara, 1916*  
**4-7pm Christmas Tree Festival – Holy Trinity Church**
- 2 **6.15pm Windsor & Eton Living Advent Calendar – Holy Trinity**
- 3 *Francis Xavier, Missionary, Apostle of the Indies, 1552*
- 4 *John of Damascus, Monk, Teacher of the Faith, c.749*  
*Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, Founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637*
- 5 **10am Coffee Morning – Holy Trinity Church**
- 6 *Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c.326*  
**10am Coffee Morning – St John the Baptist Church**
- 7 **The Second Sunday of Advent**  
**10am Sung Eucharist – All Saints' Church**  
**5.30pm Choral Evensong – All Saints' Church**
- 8 *The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
- 10 *Ember Day*
- 12 *Ember Day*  
**6.15pm CTW Carols on the Hill – Castle Hill**
- 13 *Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304*  
*Samuel Johnson, Moraliser, 1784*  
*Ember Day*
- 14 **The Third Sunday of Advent**  
**10am Sung Eucharist – St Stephen & St Agnes Church**
- 17 *O Sapientia*  
*Eglantyne Jebb, Social Reformer, Founder of 'Save The Children', 1928*  
**7.30pm Standing Committee Meeting – St Stephen & St Agnes Church**
- 18 *O Adonai*
- 19 *O Radix Jesse*
- 20 *O Clavis David*  
**6pm Carols by Candlelight – Holy Trinity**
- 21 **The Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
*O Oriens*  
**10am Sung Eucharist – St John the Baptist Church**  
**6pm Carols by Candlelight – Holy Trinity**

- 22 *O Rex Gentium*
- 23 *O Emmanuel*
- 23 *Ecumenical Light of Peace Service – St Edward's Church, Alma Road*
- 24 **Christmas Eve (Principal Holy Day)**  
**3pm Crib Service – St Stephen & Agnes Church**  
**3pm Crib Service & Christingle – All Saints' Church**  
**6.15pm Windsor & Eton Living Advent Calendar – St John the Baptist Church**  
**11.15pm Midnight Mass – St Stephen & St Agnes Church**  
**11.15pm Midnight Communion – Holy Trinity Church**
- 25 **Christmas Day (Principal Holy Day)**  
**8am Holy Communion (BCP) – Holy Trinity Church**  
**10am Sung Eucharist – All Saints' Church**  
**11.15am Christmas Praise with Holy Communion – St John the Baptist Church**
- 26 **Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr (Festival)**  
**10am Said Eucharist – St Stephen & Agnes Church Patronal Festival**
- 27 **John, Apostle and Evangelist (Festival)**
- 28 **The Holy Innocents (Festival) / Christmas 1**  
**10am Sung Eucharist – Holy Trinity Church**
- 29 *Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170*
- 31 *John Wyclif, Reformer, 1384*

## Regular midweek services

### Mondays

9am Morning Prayer - All Saints' Church

### Wednesdays

9am Morning Prayer - St Stephen & St Agnes Church

11am Holy Communion (BCP) - Holy Trinity Church

### Fridays

9am Morning Prayer - Holy Trinity Church





**Friday 9 January**  
**4-6pm**  
**at**  
**All Saints' Church**  
Frances Road

**Fun for all ages!...crafts, bible stories and a meal**

Please click to book or email  
**windsor.churchbookings@gmail.com**,  
to let us know you are coming

**Children must bring an adult**

**Evensong**

*for*  
*Epiphany-tide*

**Sunday 11 January**

**5.30pm**

**All Saints' Church**

*All welcome*

- 1 **The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus (Festival)**
- 2 Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers of the Faith, 379 and 389  
*Seraphim, Monk of Sarov, Spiritual Guide, 1833*  
*Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop in South India, Evangelist, 1945*

#### **4 Epiphany Sunday (Principal Feast)**

**10am Sung Eucharist – St Stephen & Agnes Church**

#### **6 The Epiphany**

**9 4pm Messy Church – All Saints' Church**

**10 William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645**

#### **11 Baptism of Christ (Festival)**

**10am Sung Eucharist – All Saints' Church**

**5.30pm Choral Evensong – All Saints' Church**

**12 Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167**

*Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689*

**13 Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, 367**

*Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary Bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603*

*George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), 1691*

**17 Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356**

*Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932*

#### **18 Second Sunday of Epiphany**

**10am Sung Eucharist – Holy Trinity Church**

**18–25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**19 Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095**

**20 Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349**

**21 Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304**

**7.15pm PCC Meeting – All Saints' Church**

**22 Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain, 304**

**24 Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622**

#### **25 The Conversion of Paul (Festival)**

**10am Sung Eucharist – St John the Baptist Church**

**26 Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul**

**28 Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1274**

**30 Charles, King and Martyr, 1649**

**31 John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888**

January