



**Celebrating 50 years of working
together in Swindon Old Town**

**OLD TOWN
CHRISTMAS TREE
FESTIVAL**



Starting 1st December 2019

**Christ Church, Bath Road Methodist Church,
Immanuel United Reformed Church
& St Mary's**

For more information:

Visit our website: www.sotpc.org.uk

Christ Church & St Mary's: 01793 617237 or email bookonline@cccswindon.co.uk

Immanuel: 01793 534404 or 01793 535072

Bath Road: 01793 537537



Welcome to the 1st Old Town Christmas Tree Festival.



Christmas Tree Festivals have grown in popularity in recent years. They are community events that bring people and local organisations together by each decorating a Christmas tree.

This FREE event, beginning on 1st December, is a special event to mark the close of the year long celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Old Town Partnership of Churches. It is believed this is the longest active ecumenical partnership in the UK, the key feature being that each church recognises the ministers of the other churches - in preaching, presiding at services of Holy Communion, and the joint confirmation of people into the Christian faith.

The Christmas Tree Festival will be based at our four churches: St Mary's in Commonweal Road (Anglican), Bath Road Methodist Church, Christ Church (Anglican) including the Community Centre @ Christ Church, and Immanuel United Reformed Church in Upham Road.

The idea is that each church uses its imagination to offer a different atmosphere and layout depending on building and site considerations. In this way the churches are linked through a single event.

We have nominated the Mayors Charities (CALM – Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Movement, and Swindon & North Wilts Deaf Children's Society) to be supported by the event.

The programmes at each church are summarised in this brochure, but please check our website for the latest arrangements and opening times on each day. www.sotpc.org.uk

The Partnership Prayer

Loving God, we are one in Jesus Christ.
Help us to live out this unity in our Partnership through mission,
so that those around us may turn to Jesus
who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.
In His name we pray.

Amen



Launch Event and Guided Tours



The event begins on Sunday 1st December with a guided walk (repeated on Sunday 8th December). We will be joined on 1st December by the Mayor of Swindon Kevin Parry who will officially launch the event.

The walks allow time at each church to admire the Christmas Tree displays. The timings are the same for both Sundays. There will be refreshments.

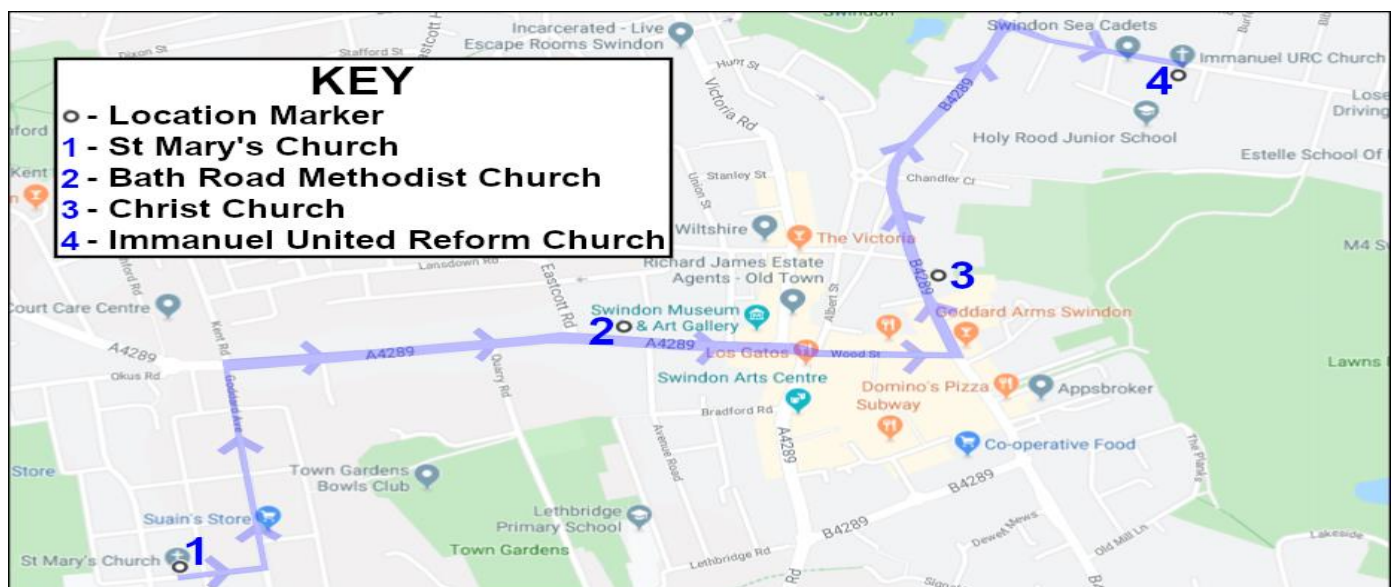
Opening – 6.30pm, Immanuel, Sunday 1st December, by our Mayor.

- 3.45 Meet at St Mary's Church in Commonweal Road for refreshments
- 4.00 The first walk on Sunday 1st December will start the Christmas Tree Festival.
- 4.10 Leave St Mary's
- 4.45 Depart from Bath Road
- 5.45 Depart from Christ Church
- 6.00 Arrive at Immanuel where our Mayor, Councillor Kevin Parry, will officially open the event.

Provision will be made for wheelchair users, please contact one of the organisers to make sure that suitable arrangements are in place.

The total distance of the walk is 1 ¼ miles, all along pavements. Most of the walk will be in darkness, but there will be street lighting. All major roads will be crossed via pedestrian controlled crossings.

In addition, the walks pass through Old Town and we will see the Old Town Christmas lights on our way



CALM – Children’s Cancer and Leukaemia Movement ~ Swindon’s Local Children’s Cancer Charity



- CALM is a registered charity, run by parents who have all experienced what it is like to have a child diagnosed with cancer
- CALM helps families that have a child receiving treatment at the Great Western Hospital in Swindon, Wiltshire
- Most of the families CALM supports are based in the Swindon and Marlborough area
- CALM is a purely voluntary charity with no paid employees
- We aim to keep all expenses as low as possible, so we can ensure money donated can help the families who need it
- CALM receives no funding from the NHS. All funds are raised by our families, with support from the local community.

Swindon and North Wiltshire Deaf Children’s Society



- This charity provides support in Swindon and North Wiltshire to families with children who are deaf or have a hearing loss
- The group was established by parents who have children with a hearing loss over 25 years ago. It is still run by volunteer parents today.
- They organise fun events, provide a great network of families and hold fund raisers. They offer information and support to children who are deaf or have a hearing loss and their families in the Swindon and North Wiltshire area through a free membership scheme
- They also work closely with audiology and other professional organisations involved in the day to day care of our children

**Any funds raised at the Christmas Tree Festival will
be donated to the Mayors Charities (above).**



Christ Church Programme



Christ Church, in Cricklade Street, replaced the earlier Holy Rood Church on The Lawns in 1851 as the Parish Church of Swindon. Adjoining it is the Community Centre @ Christ Church which is used for a variety of community activities such as Parent & Toddler groups, yoga, Tai Chi, dancing and private parties.

Christ Church will be lit up every day between 5-8pm from 1st – 22nd December. As well as a bright trail of light throughout the church grounds and inside the church itself there will always be crafts and refreshments available during this time as well as plenty of extra entertainment to see during the duration of the festival. See below for details:

Date	Time	Activity	Cost
1st	3.45pm-6.30pm	Launch of Festival – Guided Walk starting at St Mary's Church. See page 3 of brochure	FREE
2nd	6-7pm	Strictly Recorders playing Christmas carols	FREE
3rd	6.30pm for 7pm start	Swindon Carers Choir Carol concert in Christ Church (pay on door)	£5
4th	6-7pm	Songbirds – singing Christmas Carols	FREE
6th	6-7pm	John Roe – playing Christmas music on the euphonium and baritone (Brass instruments).	FREE
	7.30pm	Charity Christmas concert in aid of Prospect	£5adult & £3child
7th	6.30pm	Swindon Choral Society – Family Christmas concert (fundraising for the Mayor's charities)	£10
8th	3.45pm-6.30pm	Guided Walk starting at St Mary's Church as per 1 st Dec – See page 3 of brochure	FREE
9th	6-7pm	Swindon Air cadets – band performing	FREE
10th	6pm	Film in Christ Church – Arthur Christmas	FREE
13th	6pm	Film in Christ Church – Elf	FREE
14th	2pm	Cinderella pantomime (touring cast from Bristol pantomime productions)	£5
	6-8pm	Brunel Brass & Great Western Youth band	TBC
16th	7pm	Commonweal Concert – School orchestras and choirs performing Christmas songs	FREE
17th	6-7pm	John Roe – singing & playing Christmas music on keyboard	FREE
	7-8pm	Swindon Town Football Club Carol Concert	FREE
18th	7.30pm	Avebury Vocal Ensemble Christmas Concert (Kids free)	£10
19th	6-7pm	JTP Trust Singers - Christmas songs	FREE
20th	7.30pm	Male Voice Choir Concert – SOLD OUT	N/A
21st	5-8pm	Meet Father Christmas	FREE
	6pm	Film in Christ Church – Miracle on 34 th Street	FREE



Immanuel Programme



Immanuel United Reformed Church was built in 1939, replacing the earlier Congregational Church in Victoria Road. It has an excellent hall and fine site in Upham Road.

Immanuel hope to provide a quiet reflective space to escape the pre-Christmas bustle and to start the Advent period with a touch of fun and wonder. Look out for the interactive nativity scene outside and join us for some simple refreshments.

Please see below for their timings:

Date	Time	Activity	Cost
Sun 1st	12-6pm	Live or recorded music throughout	FREE
Mon 2 nd - Fri 6th	2-6pm		
Sat 7th	10-6pm		
Sun 8th	12-6pm		



Bath Road Programme



Bath Road is in the Swindon and Marlborough Methodist Circuit. Built in 1880, the church was extensively renovated in 1983. Attached to the building is Epworth Court, a sheltered Housing Scheme of Methodist Homes for the Aged.

The Bath Rd church will be open for the Christmas Tree Festival as follows;

Date	Time	Activity	Cost
1st	12-5pm	Tea, coffee and biscuits for visitors	FREE
2nd	10-5pm		
3rd			
4th			
5th	10-4pm		
6th	Closed		
7th	Closed		
8th	12-5pm	Tea, coffee and biscuits for visitors	FREE



St Mary's Programme



St Mary's on Commonweal Road was built in 1978. It is a warm and welcoming ecumenical home not just as Christ Church's 'daughter' congregation, but also the New Apostolic Church, the Church of Pentecost – Swindon PIWC and the Portuguese speaking Assembly of God. During the week, it is used by a number of community groups.

Trees outside St.Mary's will be illuminated daily between 5-8pm throughout the festival. Most of the trees will be displayed inside, and can be visited at the events below and during regular church services. Sunday Service times are: 9am St.Mary's COE; 11am New Apostolic Church; 2pm Church of Pentecost, and 6:30pm Assembly of God. There is a midweek service at 8pm on Thursdays (New Apostolic Church).

St Marys will be the starting point of the two guided walks on Sunday's 1st & 8th December from 3.45-4.10pm with refreshments available inside the church

Date	Time	Activity	Cost
Sun 1st	3.45- 6.30pm	Launch of Festival – Guided Walk starting at St Mary's Church. See page 3 of brochure	FREE
Sat 7 th	4-7pm	Neighbourhood Community Festival , with Refreshments, Children's Arts and Crafts, and live music from the congregations worshipping in St.Mary's. Come and see the lights, and enjoy the fellowship!	
Sun 8th	3:45 – 6.30pm	Guided Walk starting at St Mary's Church as per 1 st Dec – See page 3 of brochure	
Sun 15th	4pm	Ecumenical Carol Service at St.Mary's Celebrate a joyful and eclectic Christmas with all 4 congregations that worship in St.Mary's. Not to be missed!	
Thur 19 th	8pm	New Apostolic Church - Festive Communion Service with District Apostle R. Krause	
Wed 25th	11am, 2pm, 6:30pm	Christmas Day Services by the New Apostolic Church, Pentecostal Church and Assembly of God (in Portuguese).	



Special Christmas Services

Date	Time	Service	Where
Sun 1 st Dec	10am	Advent Communion	Bath Road
	10am	Christingle service	Christ Church
	10.30am	Advent service	Immanuel
	6.30pm	Festival 50 United Advent Service & Launch of the 4 Old Town Churches Christmas Tree Festival	Immanuel
Fri 6 th Dec	12noon	Wiltshire County Carol Service	Christ Church
Sun 8 th Dec	10.30am	Advent Worship	Immanuel
Sat 14 th Dec	11am	Coop Superstore carols Raising money for Action for children.	Co-op
Sun 15 th Dec	10am	Nativity and Gift Service	Bath Road
	10.30am	Gift Service	Immanuel
	3.30-5.30pm	Messy Church	King William Street School
	4pm	Ecumenical Carol Service	St Mary's
	6.30pm	Lessons & Carols by candlelight	Immanuel
Mon 16 th Dec	6pm	Carols on the Carpet	Immanuel
Thurs 19 th Dec	6pm	Carols on the steps	Bath Road
Sun 22 nd Dec	10.30am	Carols by daylight Readings & Poems	Immanuel
	6.30pm	Candlelit Lessons & Carols Followed by mulled wine & light refreshments.	Christ Church
	6.30pm	Carol service	Bath Road
Tues 24 th Dec (Christmas Eve)	3pm	Crib Service with King William St School	Christ Church
	5pm	Crib Service	Christ Church
	6pm	Family Christingle service	Bath Road
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Christ Church
	11.30pm	Communion Service	Immanuel
Wed 25 th Dec (Christmas Day)	8am	Holy Communion	Christ Church
	10am	Family Holy Communion	Christ Church
	10.30am	Family Service	Bath Road
	10.30am	Family Celebration	Immanuel
Mon 31 st Dec (New Years Eve)	11pm	Watchnight service	Christ Church