Christ Church Swindon

Providing a spiritual home and resources for the local community

If you need to contact us, in the first instance please contact the Parish Office on 01793 522832 (Monday-Friday 8.30am-4.30pm) or email parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk

Sunday 29th November 2026
Advent Sunday
Christ Church

8am Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Canon Simon Stevenette

10am Holy Communion – led by the Revd. Daphne Hardwick

Children's Talk: 'Being Ready' – the Revd. Canon Simon Stevenette

Our first Advent Candle will be lit – please join in with the words in bold:

First Sunday - The Patriarchs, Abraham, the Old Testament Ancestors of Jesus

Leader: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ.

God, as we wait for your promise, Give Light, Give Hope.

Sermon 'Wait, Watchers!' – the Revd. Canon Simon Stevenette

Readings: Isaiah 64: 1-9; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 24-37

Reader: Daniel Pitt

Prayers: Verity Brooke-Maples

Download an order of service so you can follow and join in

12.30pm Service of Thanksgiving for Elsie Charlotte-Rae Williams – the Revd. Canon Simon Stevenette

6.30pm Partnership Advent Carol Service – led by the Revd. Canon Simon Stevenette – *further information below.* PLEASE NOTE LATER START TIME

Christ Church will be floodlit this evening for Nellie Wintle with the following message:

Dear Mom, thinking of you today on your birthday. We love and miss you every day. You were a lovely person, a caring and loving mom (with Dad) who gave Ron, Colin and myself a wonderful and happy life. A special Grandmother to Shelley and Stuart who love you dearly. Lots of love ❤️

To find our more about floodlighting the spire, please contact the Parish Office.

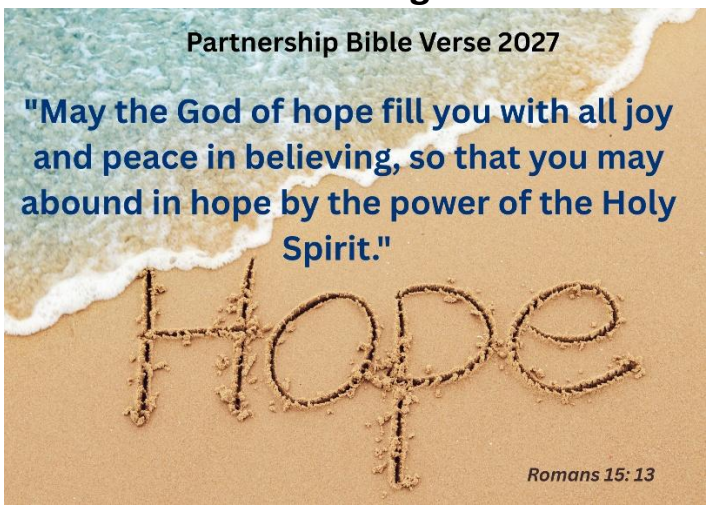
St Mary's

9am Holy Communion – led by the Revd. David Day

Download our Monthly Service Poster

Our Partnership Bible Verse for 2027 launches today

Cards will be available in church for you to take for yourselves or to share with a friend or neighbour.



Our Prayer for Growth

God of mission, who alone brings growth to your church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions and power to our witness.
Help all our Partnership churches to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you and in service to our Swindon Community.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Our vision - To be Christ's Church in the community

Week commencing 30th November	
Morning Prayer	9-9.30am Monday, Tuesday and Thursday Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel 9-9.30am Wednesday & Friday Virtual Morning Prayer Telephone: 0800 2605903 to join by phone Use this passcode 694043607# 7.30am Saturday Morning Prayer & Men's Breakfast
Monday 30th November	3pm Treasure Together Spiritual Reflection group in the Large Meeting Room
Tuesday 1st December	12 noon funeral of Geoffrey Drury in Christ Church
Wednesday 2nd December	10.30am Christ in Quiet 1.30pm Croft Primary School Year 4 visit to Christ Church 6.30pm Evening Worship

	7pm Fellowship of Faith
Thursday 3rd December	9.30am Lainesmead Primary School rehearsal for Christmas Service 4pm 'Where Art Thou' Art Group in the Garden Room
Friday 4th December	7pm The Wessex Christmas Concert with guests Brunel Brass
Saturday 5th December	7.30am Morning Prayer & Men's Breakfast 2pm Great Western Hospital Choir Christmas Concert with Thamesdown Ladies Choir and young piano pupils

Sunday 6th December – Advent 2

Christ Church

8am 1662 Holy Communion

10am All Age Worship

4pm Holy Communion

St Mary's

9am Holy Communion

Plaque unveiling – This Sunday

During the 10.00 service this Sunday, Simon will unveil and bless the plaque remembering Pam Bridgeman's contribution towards the restoration of the "Render unto Caesar" window (W8). A photo will be taken. The restoration project was sponsored by the Friends of Christ Church, using Pam's legacy.

Our Partnership Advent Carol Service is also this Sunday 29th November at 6.30pm. Do come along and invite friends to this beautiful service of readings and music as we begin a new Church year together. The music will be provided by the combined choirs of Immanuel and Christ Church, with Geoff conducting and Tim on the organ. The service will be led by Simon.

Scout Stamps Nicola Stevenette will be selling Scout stamps on behalf of 18th Swindon Scout group after all 10 am services. The price this year is 45p each. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Market – thank you!

The Trustees of The Friends of Christ Church would like to thank everyone who helped and came along to support our 18th Charity Christmas Market including the choir and bell ringers. The weather was just right and the footfall was amazing. The feedback from the stall holders so far has been very positive and they are looking forward to next year!
The raffle did very well for The Friends' funds and thanks go to Barnes Coaches, Tesco Extra, Christine Stratford, Pippa Starr, Suzannah Winsor and

Christine Senior for donating prizes as well as the anonymous donors of a hamper and a bottle of wine. Also to Sarah Garrett who made the Christmas cake for "Guess the weight".

New Theological Discussion Group A new in-depth discussion group will meet for the first time on **Thursday 3rd December 7-8.30pm at the Vicarage**. The Theme is 'What is our Advent Hope for the End Times'. All welcome. Please come with your honest thoughts and questions. RSVP appreciated to Simon please.

Cards for sale in aid of Friends of Christ Church

On **Sunday 6th December** after the 10am service there will be the opportunity to purchase cards of the Virgin Mary and the Child Jesus window, proceeds to The Friends of Christ Church. Pack of 6 for £5 cash only. Please see Christine Senior at the back of the church.

Hampers for EOTAS (Education other than at School)

At EOTAS Fernbrook, Swindon, we're getting organised because we've got some very special hampers to prepare, and we need your help.

Our school supports some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children in our community. Many of our students face challenges linked to autism, ADHD, and trauma, and for some, school is the safest and most supportive part of their day.

Every year, our staff donate items themselves to create Christmas hampers for our families. However, that often means not every child across our organisation gets the chance to receive one. This year, we're going big and reaching out to our amazing local community to help make sure no one goes hungry or unseen over the holidays.

We are now collecting donations to help us fill our hampers, and we would be so grateful for any contributions, big or small.

We are looking for (but not limited to):

- Canned goods and long-lasting foods (beans, pasta, rice, cereals)
- Sweet and savoury snacks, hot chocolate, instant drinks
- Hygiene products (deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, body wash)
- Winter warmers (gloves, scarves, hats)
- Small toys, stocking fillers, and Christmas treats
- School supplies (stationery, pens, notebooks, art items)

If you have something a bit different in mind, please feel free to ask. We welcome creativity and community spirit.

Thank you.
Mae Bailey Mae.Bailey@eotas.swindon.sch.uk
EOTAS Fernbrook, Ferndale Road, Swindon

🎄 Don't Be Alone This Christmas Day – Christmas Dinner at Christ Church, Swindon 🎄

Feeling alone this Christmas? Or simply want to enjoy some festive company? You're warmly invited to join us at **Christ Church Community Centre** for a Christmas Dinner filled with good food, fun and friendship.

What's happening?

- A delicious three-course Christmas meal 🍽️
- Christmas carols and festive cheer 🎶
- *The King's Speech* on the big screen 📺
- Laughter, games and a chance to meet new friends 🎉

Event details

🗓️ **Date:** 25th December 2026
⏰ **Time:** 12 noon – 3:30pm
📍 **Location:** Community Centre, Christ Church, Swindon

Tickets and donations

Suggested donation: **£10**, but everyone is welcome, regardless of their ability to contribute.
To reserve your place, call **01793 267500** or email **chris@christchurchswindon.co.uk**.

Could you help make Christmas Day special?

We're looking for volunteers to help with:

- Food preparation, cooking and washing up.
- Serving food and drinks to guests.
- Providing lifts to and from the Community Centre for those who need help getting there.

Whether you can spare a few hours or the whole afternoon, your help would make a real difference!

Swindon Food Collective Harvest appeal Thank you from the Swindon Food Collective to everyone who donated food and essential items for the Harvest Appeal. As a parish we donated 75.2kg of items which has been donated directly back to those in the community who need it most. There is a certificate on the notice board at the back of Christ Church.

Request for Volunteers to help with the Lighthouse

Shine Pinehurst are now the tenants of the old Pinehurst Gospel Hall and there is still a significant amount of work needed to move the building on to the next stage of its development. The vision is to use it as a base for Shine's catering projects which help to nurture local young people. If anyone in your congregation has practical skills or time, they could volunteer to support this project and bless the young people involved, we would be incredibly grateful to hear from them.

Please do get in touch with Simon Halls if you would like any further information. simon@shinepinehurst.co.uk

St Mary's Carol Service Sunday 13th December will now start at 2pm and not 2.30pm as previously advertised. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Upcoming Events at Christ Church and the Community Centre

Our latest Events brochure is available online now. View it here: https://www.christchurchswindon.co.uk/events/eventsnewsletter

Partnership News

PARTNERSHIP PROJECT 2027

We launched the 2027 Partnership Project to raise money for a school in Madagascar (the David Griffiths School) at Immanuel last Sunday. As for previous partnership projects it is intended that the three churches will hold fundraising events. Many thanks to Christine Senior (Christ Church and St Mary's), Gill Stannard (Bath Road) and Liz Gibney (Immanuel) who are acting as coordinators to ensure events don't clash. Please look out for events over the coming months and support as much as you can - thank you.

A little thought at the start of our Partnership Project

What does love look like?

It has the hands to help others; it has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy; it has the eyes to see misery and want; it has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men and women.

That is what love looks like.

Saint Augustine

PARTNERSHIP MINUTES SECRETARY

The Old Town Partnership of Churches needs a minutes secretary. The role involves:

- Taking the minutes of the Focus Group meetings (usually 6 per year)
- Agreeing the minutes with the Chair
- Circulating the agreed minutes to the Focus Group members (7 people)
- Taking the minutes of the Partnership Council meetings (2 per year)
- Agreeing the minutes with the Chair
- Circulating the agreed minutes to the three churches' representatives for onward distribution within their churches

If this is a role that you think you could take on or might be interested in, please speak to Rach, Barbara or George. Thank you.

For your prayers

† John Webb, Ann Sharpe, Ali Potter, Barbara Sheppard, Gordon Hudd, Ian Handy, Michael Porter, José Humerick, Evie Adams, Annette Holliday, Pauline Cain, Jennifer Miles, Ben Wigley, Camilla Reggimenti, Daniel Hopkins, Susan Keating, Kathy Tomas, Susan Fielder and all those in need of God's healing, including those undergoing long-term treatment of any kind.

† For those who are lonely, anxious, and depressed; those living with long-term medical conditions or mental health issues and all who care for them, that they would all receive strength, support, and peace.

† For the family and friends of Geoffrey Drury, John Capobianco and all those mourning a loved one.

† For peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land and Ukraine, and for those seeking justice and peace in Iran.

† For our pastoral care for members of the congregation and wider Swindon community.

OUR CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar Staff Team	Revd. Canon Simon Stevenette: simon@christchurchswindon.co.uk Staff Team: staffteam@christchurchswindon.co.uk	Tel. 529166
Parish Administrator / Clerk Christ Church Comms and Fundraising	Carol Simmons: parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk Steve Cox: communications@christchurchswindon.co.uk	Tel. 522832
Gifts/Donations	Stephen Grosvenor, Gift Aid Secretary: stephen@christchurchswindon.co.uk Paul Ng, Treasurer: treasurer@christchurchswindon.co.uk Different ways to support us: https://linktr.ee/supportchristchurchswindon	Stephen Tel. 07885 217077
Community Centre @ Christ Church	Chris – 01793 267500 Jenny - 07312 083949 email - ccoperations@christchurchswindon.co.uk	Tel. 617237

To keep in touch, visit us at: https://linktr.ee/christchurchswindon or https://linktr.ee/communitycentrechristchurch
To find out what we are doing to reduce our impact on the environment and improve biodiversity on site, visit:
https://linktr.ee/christchurchswindonecohub

Partnership Advent Carol Service



Sunday 29th November
6:30pm in Christ Church

A Traditional Service of Carols and Readings

All Welcome!

Carol Service at St Mary's

Sunday 13th December
at 2pm

All Welcome!

The Gift of Christmas

St Mary's
Commonweal Road
SN1 4LB

Christingle Service in Christ Church

Sunday
13th Dec
4pm

The Children's Society

Come Share The Light With Us!

Will You Be Alone on Christmas Day?

You're Invited to Join Us for

Christmas Dinner

25 December | 12 noon - 3:30pm

The Community Centre
at Christ Church



Christ Church
Swindon

Christmas Carols

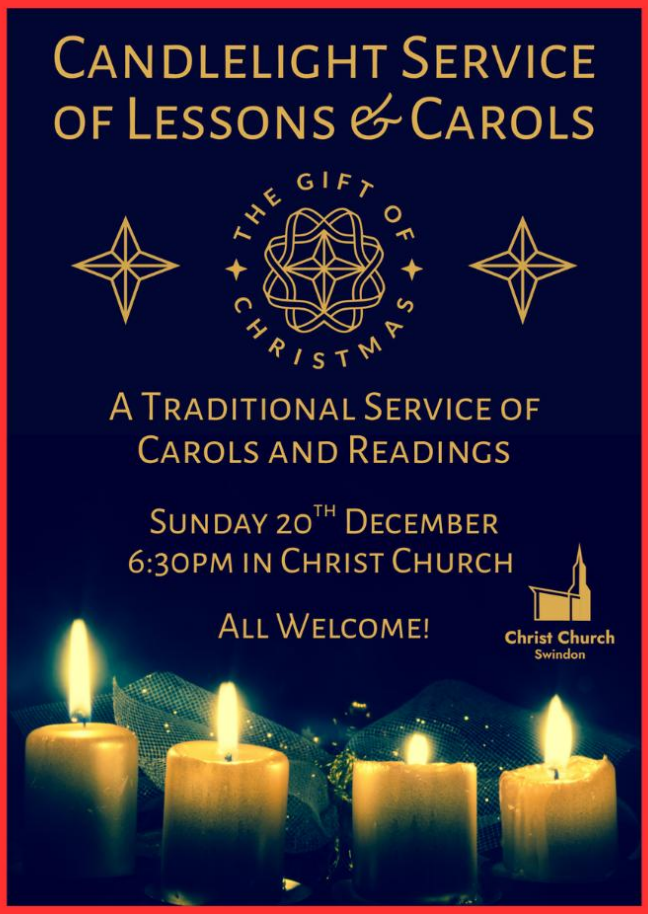
3 Course Christmas Dinner

Fun and Laughter The King's Speech

To reserve a space contact 01793 267500 or email:
chris@christchurchswindon.co.uk

Suggested donation of £10

#NotAlone


Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
The Gift of Christmas
A Traditional Service of Carols and Readings
Sunday 20th December
6:30pm in Christ Church
All Welcome!
Christ Church
Swindon


STFC
Christmas Carol Service
@
Christ Church
Swindon
21 DEC | 6.30 PM
CHRIST CHURCH SWINDON
NON FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS ALSO WELCOME TO JOIN US IN JOYFUL SONG!


Christ Church
Swindon
Blue Christmas Service
A gentle and reflective service for those who find Christmas a difficult time.
REMEMBER | REFLECT | BE STILL | FIND HOPE
Tuesday
22nd December
7:30pm
Christ Church
Swindon


The Gift of Christmas
Crib Service
Christmas Eve 4pm
in Christ Church
Join us to bring the Nativity story to life
Christ Church
Swindon

Midnight Mass in Christ Church



Christmas Eve 11pm

All Welcome!

THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

Christ Church Swindon

Christmas Day Services in Christ Church



8am Holy Communion

10am Christmas Family Service with Holy Communion

All Welcome!

THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

Christ Church Swindon

New Year Watchnight Service in Christ Church





New Years Eve from 11pm

Join us as we welcome in the New year together!

"See, I am doing a new thing!"
Isaiah 43:19

Christ Church Swindon

Volunteering Swindon
A service by VA

Volunteer Passport Fair



Saturday 5th December
10:00am - 3:00pm
Sanford House
SN1 1HE

FREE fun event for the whole family!

Join us for the Swindon Volunteer Passport Fair, a celebration of volunteering and community action bringing Swindon together.





elegia@vas-swindon.org



Our Big Give Christmas Challenge starts next week, running from 1st–8th December. For one week only, every donation made to Christ Church through our campaign will be doubled, thanks to generous match funding from DSNY Wealth Planning and Gel Studios. We're aiming to raise £2,000, which will become £4,000 to help support our church and Community Centre, tackle loneliness and isolation, and build a stronger, more connected community. Your gift will go twice as far this Christmas, at no extra cost to you!

Donate via The Big Give website at: https://donate.biggive.org/campaign/a05WS00000GyMKbYAN from 12 noon on Tuesday 1st December, or scan the QR code in the accompanying image to access the campaign.