

Diary of Church Events in December

Fri 1st to Mon 18th **Edington:** Post box at the church for sending cards to Edington for a donation.

Sat 2nd/Sun 3rd **Chilton Polden** Christmas Tree Festival in the church 11am to 4pm. In aid of St Edward's church. Refreshments and a children's trail. Collection of gifts and goods for the Foodbank. Service at 4.30pm on Sunday 3rd.

Wed 6th **Ashcott:** Coffee morning in All Saints church 10-12. All welcome.

Fri 8th **Chilton Polden:** Christmas Bingo in the Church Hall. Eyes down 7.30pm. £1 per book. Raffle and refreshments. Children can play.

Sat 9th **Catcott** - Spirit of Christmas' Collection for Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal. Children's Gifts & Toys, Baby Clothes, T shirts, Hats & Gloves. (All must be new). Christmas food and treats. Bags that have been delivered to houses will be collected on 9th December if left out by 12noon, or why not drop off at the Church between 10am and 12noon and enjoy tea/coffee mince pies and Christmas cheer.

Sat 9th **Ashcott:** Christmas Coffee morning in the church 10-12. Take-way lunches, pies and puds, crafts, tombola, cakes, raffle etc.

Wed 13th **Ashcott:** Coffee morning in All Saints church 10-12. All welcome

Fri 15th **Catcott:** St Peter's Coffee Morning at Court Farm, Steel Lane, TA7 9HW. 10.30 – 12. Coffee/tea and cake for £2 plus raffle for hamper.

Sat 16th **Edington:** St George's coffee morning and Christmas mince pies at Holywell House, Holywell Road, TA7 9LB. 10.30 – noon. Entry £2. Bring and buy and raffle

Sat 16th **Burtle:** Burtle Silver Band Christmas concert in the village hall at 7pm. Mince pies and mulled wine available. Bar. Tickets £5 from Rosemary on 01278 722321 or Alison.

Wed 20th **Ashcott:** Coffee morning in All Saints church 10-12. All welcome.

Thurs 21st **Ashcott:** Visit All Saints Church, Ashcott to see flower arrangements depicting "The 12 Days of Christmas" from Thursday 21st December.

Wed 27th **Ashcott:** Coffee morning in All Saints church 10-12. All welcome



DECEMBER 2023

Hi folks,

The world around us feels very unsettled at the moment: wars in Ukraine and Gaza (not to mention others in Myanmar and Sudan); climate change; and problems at home with, for example, the NHS struggling to cope with increased demands on it. It would be natural to feel anxious and worried about the global political scene.

It can be re-assuring then to come to the Christmas season – to a familiar tradition, with carols, Christmas trees and turkey. However, none of these traditional things reflect the turbulent world into which Jesus was born.

First century Israel was a very unsettled country: it had an uneasy relationship with the surrounding Roman Empire. In the recent past it had been under Syrian occupation. It did not feel like the God's Promised Land for the Jewish people – anything but.

The ancient promises of a Messiah were a glimmer of hope for an oppressed people: but what they were expecting was a military leader, a new King David, who would lead the nation to overthrow their Roman oppressors. They were not expecting a baby born in a manger who would preach a gospel of peace, heal the sick, comfort the broken-hearted, and end up being crucified. Yet God's answer in the turbulence was not a new King David, but a suffering servant called Jesus.

If you're a Christian living in Ukraine or Gaza, Myanmar or Sudan, you would be able to relate to the turbulent world of first century Israel, the world into which Jesus was born. Maybe, in the 21st century western world, we struggle to understand who Jesus is because we're too comfortable?



Every blessing,
Rich Tweedy

vicar@poldenwheel.co.uk

Carol Services in the Polden Wheel

Ashcott:	Friday 22 nd	7.00pm	Carol Service*
Catcott:	Sunday 3 rd	9.30am	Holy Communion with Carols
Chilton Polden:	Friday 22 nd	4.00pm	Carol Service*
Edington:	Friday 22 nd	7.30pm	Candlelit Carol Service*
	Sunday 24 th	5.30pm	Nativity*
Shapwick:	Wed 13 th	7.30pm	Carols by Candlelight*
	Sat 24 th	4.00pm	Outdoor Carols at the Pavilion

*Followed by mince pies and mulled wine

St George's Edington Nativity Service with Carols

5.30pm Sun 24th December

Mince Pies and Mulled Wine

(Rehearsal 11 am Sat 23rd Dec)



Church Contacts

Vicar:	Rev Rich Tweedy	01458 210260
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Parish Administrator:	Sue Ball	01458 210260
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PCC Treasurer:	Caroline Snell	caroline@thesnells.me.uk
All Saints, Ashcott:	John Harvey	01458 210562
St. Philip & St James, Burtle:	Alison Everett	01278 723736
St Peter's, Catcott:	Martin Melia	01278 722808
St Edward's, Chilton Polden:	Anne Lush	01278 722408
St George's, Edington:	Rosie Tilbury	01278 722208
St Mary's, Shapwick:	Rosemary Hargreaves	01458 210533

Website: www.poldenwheel.co.uk

Church Services

Sunday 3rd December	Advent 1 (Purple)
9.30 <i>Catcott</i>	Advent Holy Communion with carols
4.00 <i>Ashcott</i>	Christingle Service
4.30 <i>Chilton Polden</i>	Christmas Tree Service
Sunday 10th December	Advent 2 (Purple)
9.30 <i>Burtle</i>	Holy Communion
11.00 <i>Ashcott</i>	Informal Worship
4.00 <i>Edington</i>	Holy Communion
4.00 <i>Chilton Polden</i>	Christingle Service
Wednesday 13th December	
7.30 <i>Shapwick</i>	Carols by Candlelight*
Sunday 17th December	Advent 3 (Purple)
10.00 <i>Shapwick</i>	Café Church
10.30 <i>Chilton Polden</i>	Holy Communion
Friday 22nd December	
4.00 <i>Chilton Polden</i>	Carol Service*
7.00 <i>Ashcott</i>	Carol Service*
7.30 <i>Edington</i>	Candlelit Carol Service*
Sunday 24th December	Christmas Eve (Purple)
4.00 <i>Shapwick</i>	Outdoor Carols
5.30 <i>Edington</i>	Nativity*
11.15 <i>Ashcott</i>	Christmas Communion
Monday 25th December	Christmas Day (White)
9.30 <i>Burtle</i>	Christmas Communion
9.30 <i>Catcott</i>	Christmas Communion
10.30 <i>Shapwick</i>	Informal Worship
Sunday 31st December	Christmas 1 (White)
11.00 <i>Burtle</i>	Holy Communion**
Sunday 7th January	Epiphany (White)
9.30 <i>Catcott</i>	Holy Communion (BCP)
11.00 <i>Chilton Polden</i>	Informal Worship

*Followed by mince pies and mulled wine ** Followed by light refreshments

Readings

3rd December: 1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-37
10th December: Isaiah 40.1-11; Mark 1.1-8
17th December: 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24; John 1.6-8,19-28
24th December: Isaiah 9.2-7; Luke 2.1-20
31st December: Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.15-21



Service of Quiet

Tuesday
December 19th
at 7pm in
Catcott
church.



Midweek Holy Communion

Wed December 27th
at 10am
in Edington Church.