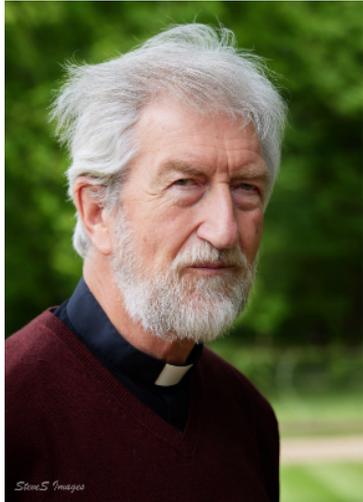


Windsor Church News



The Revd John Quick

Dear Friends,

Once again, the church approaches the seasons of Advent and Christmas. So often the season of Advent, when Christians are reflecting on the meaning of Christ's incarnation and his return to earth; is completely overshadowed by the relentless consumerism that seems to start earlier every year!

Just before Christmas this year (22nd December) the Team celebrates the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the consecration of St. Stephen's



December 2024 & January 2025
the online newsletter from
the Church of England in Central Windsor



Church. The church was originally dedicated to St. Stephen, the first Christian Martyr, with a parish carved out of Clewer Parish. It was a very small parish perhaps reflecting that there were particular needs for a focus for Christian action in that part of Windsor in those Victorian times. Its creation was largely a result of the efforts of Canon Carter (Rector of Clewer) and the Sisters of the Convent of St. John Baptist in Hatch Lane.

In those, now seeming far off days, the Oxford Road area was one of poverty and deprivation, not forgetting the nearby crowded, housing area known as The Goswells. These latterly very poor, overcrowded dwellings were demolished in the 1960s and replaced by Ward Royal. A few older readers may remember the roads before redevelopment!



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The dedication to St. Agnes was added in more recent years. It celebrates another church (now back in Clewer parish) that was also established by the illustrious Canon Carter. The parish area served by St. Agnes was incorporated into St. Stephen's Parish in 1991.

It is worth reminding ourselves that St. Stephen's is an Oxford Movement (19th century) church inspired by the Anglo-Catholic wing of the Church of England. Symbols that appeal to the senses are especially important in worship particularly sight, sound and smell. Thus, in the church the worshipper finds an amazing High Altar, a beautiful Lady Chapel (added later), the use of incense, and lovely stained-glass windows that tell stories of the Christian faith. We need to remember that in those days many could not read, let alone own a Bible.

I hope as many readers as are able, will make the effort to come along on December 22nd to celebrate the sesquicentennial anniversary.

Perhaps a helpful way for Christians to reflect on the season to come, is to take a philosophical view of the constant sound of carols being played in many shops. Christmas is not about carols, carols are about Christmas! Keep in mind that carols are not nursery rhymes but they speak of eternal truths and real events, significant even to our age and remembered still. In the Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity this year each tree is representing a carol.

Indeed, Christmas music can offer a real opportunity for sharing the Christmas message. When in conversation with those we meet singing or listening to carols, it can be so easy just to slip in the phrase, 'Have you ever thought about the words of this carol?' and occasionally someone will ask you to tell them more about Jesus Christ.

It is always worth reminding ourselves and those around us, that many of our Christmas traditions are linked to our Christian heritage. Santa Claus (St. Nicholas) was a real person, who as a bishop saved three girls from virtual slavery by giving them dowries, and so developed the idea of giving gifts to children on his feast day.

continued on next page

**Our churches
welcome**

**People of all faiths
and people of none**

All races

All genders

All abilities

All sexualities

All nationalities

**All are welcome in
these places of prayer**



We warmly invite you to celebrate Christmas with us

Friday 20 & Sunday 22 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—Windsor Parish Church
with Holy Communion High Street

Feast of St Stephen (Thursday 26 December)

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

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St. Lucy (whose Feast Day is 13th December), a fourth century martyr, gave away goods to the poor in a time of Roman persecution of the Christian community.

It is, of course, on the Feast of Stephen, December 26th, that we sing of Good King Wenceslas, who in reality was only a Duke, but displayed virtues of true kingship; of whom a preacher from the 12th century says:

'But his deeds I think you know better than I could tell you; for, as is read in his *Passion*, no one doubts that, rising every night from his noble bed, with bare feet and only one chamberlain, he went around to God's churches and gave alms generously to widows, orphans, those in prison and afflicted by every difficulty, so much so that he was considered, not a prince, but the father of all the wretched.'

May we in this Team Ministry be especially ready to welcome all the visitors to our churches during the Advent and Christmas seasons as we continue to work together to make God's love known in Windsor. The Christmas season continues through to Epiphany (January 6th) when the Church celebrates the coming of the Magi, known to many as the 'Kings' or 'Three Wise Men'.

As a new year dawns, it is a good time to reflect on the past year 2024 and look ahead to 2025.

2024 has been an eventful but not an especially happy year. The world around us still has wars and conflicts that show no signs of peace. The war in Ukraine and the ongoing conflict in the Middle East need to remain in our prayers. On home soil we have a new government promising stability and progress. The result of the presidential election in the USA leaves numerous questions about the future in the minds of many. Let us hope and pray that 2025 will bring peace and a spirit of reconciliation much needed in our world.

For the churches of Central Windsor, a new chapter begins. After many years as a Team Ministry of three parishes, we now become a single parish with four churches. Since the ravages of Covid we have been worshipping together; now this is to be formalised from January 1st 2025.

Perhaps the most important message for our congregations, and all our parishioners is that we need to focus on the future and how we can make our slogan 'Working together to make God's love known in Windsor' more effective!

I am going to end with a little story that was included in a sermon, some years ago by a clergyman at the end of his ministry in Windsor.

The tale goes of a rather zealous nanny who had charge of some children of wealthy parents. She was concerned

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that when she took the children out for walks that they should maintain a brisk pace and follow her lead closely.

Whenever the children dawdled, anxious to keep them moving forward nanny would call out 'Remember Lot's wife'.

I suspect that most of the children had little idea of what nanny was meaning by this exclamation. The Old Testament story about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is not particularly suitable for young children even in those days. Of course, we all know why we need to remember Lot's wife! As Lot and his family fled the destruction of the cities, they were urged by the

angels not to look back. Lot's wife did not heed the message, she looked back and was turned to a pillar of salt! You might like to read the story in Genesis chapter 19.

So, as we move into a new year and a new single parish let us look forward and remember to heed the words of nanny – 'Remember Lot's wife;' and the significance of looking forward in our own Christian lives.

May I wish all our readers a thoughtful Advent and a holy, joyful and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Father John.

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

Join us for
CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH
Wednesday 25th 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 jetbar@live.co.uk
Free Transport Available for those who need it



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No midweek services 25 December - 6 January

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

Parish of Central Windsor is born!

Nearly 25 years after the idea was first conceived, the new Parish of Central Windsor comes into being on 1st January 2025. This new legal parish brings together as one the previous three parishes of New Windsor, Holy Trinity and St Stephen & St Agnes which now cease to exist. Our four churches each have Parish Church status but none has precedence and all are of equal importance. Our vision remains to work together to show God's love in our town of Windsor. We are now able to do this more efficiently and with a renewed sense of collaboration and mutual generosity.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have worked tirelessly to achieve this end, and to encourage everyone to embrace with enthusiasm this new way of working together. I have always been challenged and inspired in my ministry by the words of Jesus in chapter 17 of John's Gospel. This is our opportunity to live out this divine desire for unity, here in this place in this time.

Jesus looked up to heaven and said,

²⁰ 'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²² that they may all be one. As

you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

We worship together as the new Parish of Central Windsor on Sunday 5th January. Our 10am Sung Eucharist is at St Stephen & St Agnes' Church when we will celebrate Epiphany Sunday. We hope as many people as possible will be able to join us as we mark both this important date in the Church year and the birth of our new parish.

*Revd Canon Sally Lodge
Rector of the Parish of Central Windsor*

Windsor Voluntary Car Service

Windsor Voluntary Car Service is looking for another volunteer driver to join its organisation. Ideally a retiree, who is fit and has a car, with time on their hands, is needed. You find out more on its website www.wvcs.co.uk. If you're interested please contact Andrew Taft at mail@andytaft.com.



**Sunday 15 December
3pm-5pm
&
Friday 31 January
4.15-6pm
at
All Saints' Church
Frances Road, Windsor**

**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**

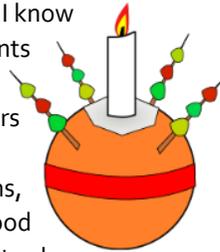
Paws for Thought



Dear Friends,

Oranges seem to be playing a big part in Vicarage life at the moment. Oranges, red ribbon and cocktail sticks to be more accurate. I have been a Vicarage Dog long enough to know that this means it is Christingle season once again. The Boss always seems to enjoy Christingle services (which is a good thing as she seems to do quite a few of them!). I'm pleased that she doesn't take it to the extreme of dressing up as a Christingle orange like one of her vicar friends does. I would never be able to go out in public again if she did that! But she does enjoy telling the children about the meaning of the Christingle and she's told me about how they love the special moment when all the candles are lit.

Because I've been a Vicarage Dog for such a long time, The Boss knows I could do the explanation myself if she were ever out of action. I know that the orange represents the world, the cocktail sticks are the four corners (North, South, East and West) or the four seasons, the sweets are all the good things God has given us to share, and the red ribbon represents the love of Jesus who died for us.



I also know that the best thing on the Christingle is not the sweets! The best thing is the candle which is lit at the end. The candle is the light of Christ which shines over the world even when we can't see it. It always reminds me of one of my favourite hymns which the Boss sometimes sings when she's working. It starts "Brother, sister let me serve you", and then there's a verse about being pilgrims on a journey, before we come to the line "I will hold the Christ-light for you". I love this line because it's about being there for our friends when they need us - sharing their sadness as well as their happiness, weeping when they weep and laughing when they laugh. This is what I have always tried to do for the Boss in my job as the Vicarage Dog.

I hope you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas,

*Barnabas
The Vicarage Dog*

PS

Our Parish Christingle Service takes place at All Saints' Church on Christmas Eve at 3pm. Everyone is warmly welcome. All donations for The Children's Society.

New Daylight

Each edition provides four months of daily Bible readings and comment, with a regular team of contributors drawn from a range of church backgrounds. It is ideal for anybody wanting an accessible yet stimulating aid to spending time with God each day, deepening their faith and their knowledge of scripture.



Some in the Team/Parish have found it useful for many years and the variety of readings and commentary sometimes very stimulating and sometimes less interesting but as they come in two-week sessions it does not become boring. If you would like to try it for a year it costs £15.75. Please talk to me if you would like to look at an old copy or sign up for one.

Jane Burr

Mothers' UNION

Meeting on 16th November 2024

We just didn't want our Meeting to end! We were enthralled by our Rector Sally's story 'My Pathway to the Priesthood'. It was a fascinating story making us very aware that Sally had been chosen by God to tell His Good News. Sally interspersed her story with selections of her eclectic favourite music. Lots of surprises....early years in Devon, move to Northern England, working in London, important support and encouragement of her family. You really missed a special occasion. Thank you Sally for sharing so many treasured moments.

We prayed for Justin Welby and his family, for World Peace and all the work being done throughout the world, particularly in the Congo, by Mothers' Union Members.

Our next meeting on Thursday 12th December is our Advent Service followed by favourite Christmas poems.....yes Jill Church will give her annual rendering of 'T'was the night before Christmas'. Please bring your favourite to share with us, then we will enjoy a chat over Mince pies and Welsh Cakes.

Advent brings us a new Church year, the celebration of the birth of Jesus
Let us Count our Blessings
Please join us on 12th December
Everyone is welcome

Estlyn Davies



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. Among the artists were schools, organisations, churches and individuals. The individual entries were not limited to people – Barnabas (the Vicarage Dog) also created one (his dexterity was no surprise to regular readers of the parish magazine, as he types a letter for each edition). Thank you as well to all who stewarded the event and the many who came to see the festival. It was a joyous event which we hope to repeat again next year!



Holy Trinity Church was fortunate to host the Windsor & Eton Living Advent Calendar on the last evening of the Festival - with many thanks to John Halsey and the Welsh Guards Choir for singing for us. It was a gorgeous, festive, and all too brief trip to Wales! If you missed it you can view their performance on our [YouTube Channel](#). 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. You can find more about it [here](#). The Christmas Eve Window is at St John the Baptist Church – please do join us if you can.

Bishop of Buckingham and Bishop of Reading announced

The following is a press release from the Diocese of Oxford on 27 November 2024.

His Majesty The King has approved the appointments of the Revd Canon Dave Bull as the next Bishop of Buckingham and the Revd Canon Mary Gregory as the next Bishop of Reading.

The announcement today will be followed by an introduction to the Diocese of Oxford communities at Church House, Oxford, before each of the Bishops Designate head off to visit their respective new 'Sees'. Mary will visit Reading Minster and Ranelagh School, to meet faith and civic leaders in Berkshire. While Dave will head to St Mary's Princes Risborough, and Waddesdon School, before closing the day with visits to Bletchley and Milton Keynes.

Responding to today's announcement, Dave said: "It is an exciting prospect to serve Buckinghamshire as Bishop in the coming years. My family have made it our home for the past 13 years and so we have already come to love many of the communities, schools and churches here. I look forward to coming to love all the others in the years ahead.

"This is a significant moment to witness Christ in our culture where so many individuals are seeking identity, hope and purpose for their lives. At the same time, there are many signs of vibrant spiritual life in the villages and towns of Buckinghamshire, as well as in the four main population centres of Milton



Keynes, Aylesbury, Slough and High Wycombe.

"I eagerly look forward to discovering what the Lord has in store for us all and invite the people of Buckinghamshire to join me in praying for God's kingdom to come as we follow Jesus together."

Mary said: "It is a real privilege and a great joy to be joining the Diocese of Oxford as the Bishop of Reading. I'm looking forward to getting to know Berkshire, its towns and villages, and above all, its people. I am keen to understand how I can best lead our church communities in sharing the hope that we have in God, and in all that God is doing amongst us. There is so much for me to discover. I welcome people's prayers at this time of transition, just as I'm praying for all those amongst whom I will live and serve."

The Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft said: "I am delighted that Mary has accepted the invitation to be the next Bishop of Reading. She brings great warmth, humanity and a profound

understanding of the healing power of reconciliation in God's world. Given the tensions and conflicts in the world, this will be a significant area of focus as we all pray for peace in our communities. She is committed to the protection of the environment and the strengthening of our interfaith work."

He added: "I am delighted, also, that Dave has accepted the invitation to be the next Bishop of Buckingham. As he is also our Area Dean for the Wycombe Deanery, I have had the opportunity to observe his strong faith at work in that community in recent years. He is a proven strategic leader, beloved by his congregations across the 4U team in Marlow, with a deep personal sense of discipleship and mission. Dave engages deeply with all forms of theological tradition and will be building on the firmest of foundations as he becomes Bishop."

The Very Revd John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry Cathedral, said: "We are delighted that Canon Mary Gregory has been chosen to be the new Bishop of

Reading. She will bring passion for God and all God's people, along with excellent and imaginative leadership to the Reading Episcopal Area, and the Diocese of Oxford as a whole. Her commitment to making all feel welcome and honoured in the church, both those who are already part of the church community as ministers, members and volunteers and also those who do not consider themselves part of the church family is outstanding.

"In her three years in Coventry Cathedral Mary has led us significantly forward in our journey towards being a welcoming, safe and inclusive place for all people, with arts and reconciliation at its core. We will miss her, but rejoice that her vocation to episcopal ministry in the Diocese of Oxford has been recognised and affirmed in this important appointment."

The See of Buckingham is vacant following the untimely and unexpected death of our dear friend and pastor, Bishop Alan Wilson in February 2024, a year before his planned retirement. Alan served as Bishop of Buckingham for more than 20 years and is much missed across the area and the diocese.

The See of Reading is vacant following the retirement of the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Olivia Graham in September of this year.

Find out more about [Revd Canon Dave Bull](#) and [Revd Canon Mary Gregory](#).



Thank you to the children of Trinity St Stephen First School who have painted some beautiful nativity themed pictures for us on this page and also on pages one and five.



Remembering our clergy 125 years on

I am working to record the memorials at Windsor Parish Church of St John the Baptist and was asked if there were any with a Christmas connection. Here is what I found:

Henry John Ellison M.A. Vicar of Windsor 1855-1875 died in the precincts of Canterbury Cathedral on Christmas morning 1899. This is recorded in the text on his memorial brass, which can be seen on the column in the chancel to the right of the organ:

"To the glory of God and the dear memory of Henry John Ellison M.A. Vicar of Windsor 1855-1875 and Founder of the Church of England Temperance Society.

He became successively Prebendary of Lichfield, Honorary Canon in the Cathedral churches of Oxford and Canterbury, Chaplain in Ordinary to Queen Victoria and Reader to the Queen in Windsor Castle.

During his term as Vicar the nave of this church was restored, the chancel



added, and the Church of All Saints, the Almshouses, and the National Schools erected.

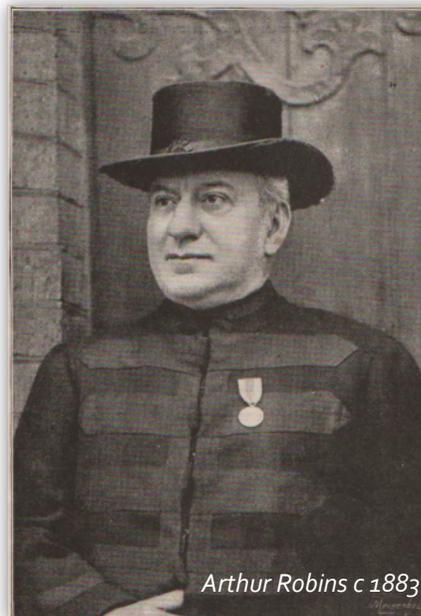
He fell asleep in Christ in the precincts of Canterbury Cathedral on Christmas morning 1899 in the 87th year of his age and rests in the Windsor Cemetery.

His son John Ellison also Vicar of Windsor places this memorial in token of unflinching devotion 1902."

As a Vicar of New Windsor we have a photo of him [please see above]. Henry John Ellison's work is now featured in the display in the museum corner.

Michael Bailey

The Reverend Arthur Robins became Rector of Holy Trinity in 1873 after exchanging his living in Nursling, Hampshire, with Henry Hawtrey for whom the demands of the busy parish had become too much.



He also became Chaplain-in-ordinary to Queen Victoria, Chaplain to the

Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) and Chaplain to her Majesty's Household Troops.

He was appalled by the conditions of the poor and the lot of the soldier. He was so outspoken that he made himself unpopular with Windsor's Corporation (council) and many others. He started the Holy Trinity Parish Magazine primarily to champion the needs of the most disadvantaged and least respected in society (his disgust was not limited to the living but extended to the way the dead were treated). Such was his care for the ordinary soldier, and the affection he was held in, he was known as the "Soldier's Bishop".

Early one November morning in 1899, when seeing the Composite Regiment of the Household Cavalry off to the front, he caught a chill. He died on Christmas Eve, a month short of his sixty-sixth birthday. The baptistry in Holy Trinity is dedicated to him. He is buried in his family plot in Kensal Green Cemetery, London.

Used Stamps

There are boxes at the back of all our churches for used stamps. These are all now sent to [the Bible Society](#) and Jane Burr has received a postcard from them thanking us. Thank you very much also to Jane who collects and sends the stamps for us!



Toddlers @ 10.



Connect with other parents and bring your little one for nursery rhymes, sensory play, books and more.



For Ages 0-3 years

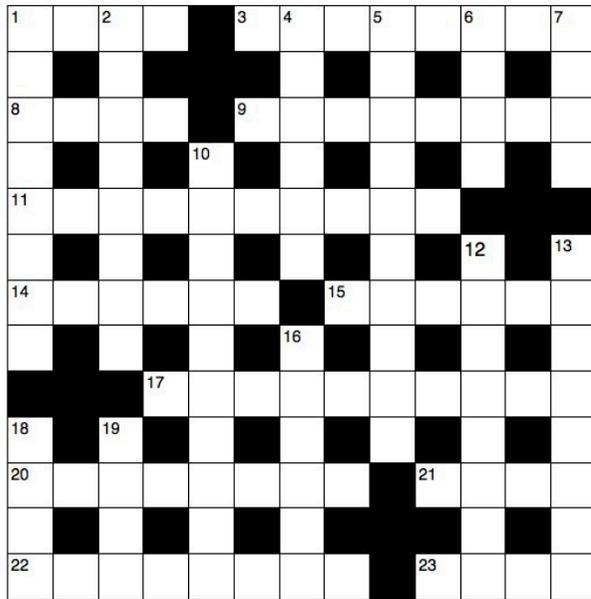
at Holy Trinity Church,
10am-11.30am

on Tuesdays, during termtime

Contact Richard:
windsor.hfdpriest@gmail.com



Puzzle Page



Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
- 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
- 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
- 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
- 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
- 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
- 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)

- 23 'The eye cannot say to the —, "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

Down

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — —, and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
- 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
- 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
- 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
- 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
- 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
- 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
- 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
- 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
- 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and —' (Acts 7:22) (6)
- 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)
- 19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

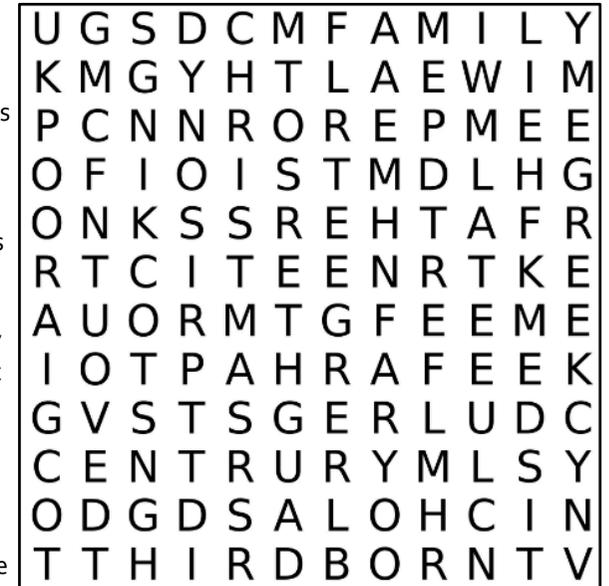


The Bible used is the New International Version.

Father Christmas is based on St Nicholas, who was born in the 3rd century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering, and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop, he suffered in prison with other bishops under the emperor Diocletian's persecution of Christians.

One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight, and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery. The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas - on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.

father	Century	Needy	Poor	money
Christmas	Greek	Sick	Family	Stockings
Nicholas	Village	Suffering	Three	
Born	Devout	Prison	Daughters	
Third	Wealthy	Emperor	Stockings	



Puzzle solutions are on page 17

Looking through our December diary you will notice daily headings from 17 to 23 December which start with "O". A quick internet search by the editor didn't entirely answer why. She turned to the Rector who was happy to explain and indeed decided to preach about the Advent "O"s at our Advent Sunday eucharist at Holy Trinity Church. For those who missed it but would like to know more...

Sermon for Advent Sunday 1st December 2024

I love Advent, it's possibly my favourite season of the Church year. The liturgical colour for Advent is purple and that's one of my favourite colours so that's a good start but it's more than that. I love the feeling of anticipation, the gradual buildup of excitement, the knowledge that something wonderful is about to happen. Stirring the Christmas pudding, decorating the tree, writing the cards, cinnamon, spices and tangerines. There are some wonderful hymns too, even more special because they are only sung once a year. One of my favourite hymns is O Come O Come Emmanuel with its rousing refrain *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

The text of O Come O Come Emmanuel was originally written in Latin in the 12th century, and was translated into the hymn we now know by John Mason Neale in 1851. It is based on the Advent Antiphons.

The Antiphons are special prayers which are prayed in the days before Christmas. They cover the special period of Advent immediately before Christmas, sometimes known as the Octave, from 17th to 23rd December. They have been part of liturgical tradition from the very early days of the church and are still included today in the form of Evening Prayer for Advent in Common Worship. They can be used each day as a form of private prayer and devotion in the days leading up to Christmas. You can find them on the Church of England website or in the Common Worship App. The full version of John Mason Neale's hymn uses all seven antiphons although only 5 usually appear in our hymnbooks.

Each one of the antiphons highlights a title, a name, for the Messiah, using an Old Testament prophesy of the coming of the Messiah. "The days are surely coming says the Lord" in our reading from the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah. All our readings today are about being watchful as the day approaches; Jeremiah refers to the first coming of the long awaited Messiah and the passage from the apostle Paul's Letter to the Thessalonians and the gospel from Luke are about being prepared for the second coming of Jesus.

The readings focus on our need to avoid the things in life which take our focus away from our faith. So with this as our background theme today, it seems a

good opportunity to me to consider the Advent Antiphons especially as we are singing John Mason Neale's great hymn as our offertory hymn later in this service.

So, each of the Antiphons focuses on a title of the coming Messiah. The first antiphon is **O Sapientia**, O Wisdom. We're not singing this verse today but if we were the words would be *O come, thou Wisdom from on high! Who madest all in earth and sky, Creating man from dust and clay: To us reveal salvation's way.*

The second Antiphon title is **O Adonai** which in Hebrew means Lord. We find this Antiphon in the final verse of John Mason Neale's hymn version as "Lord of Might". It's the Exodus story of the Lord God appearing to Moses in the fire in the burning bush, and giving him the Law on Mount Sinai.

The third Antiphon, which is used on 19th December, is **O Root of Jesse** which you'll see is verse two. **O Root of Jesse** comes from that wonderful passage from Isaiah – a shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse and a branch shall grow out of its roots. That wonderful vision of a world where the calf and the lion are led together by a little child.

On 20th December we have **O Key of David**, opening the doors of heaven for us – Verse 4 in our hymn version. This

again is from Isaiah (22.22) "The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; so he shall open, and no one shall shut; and he shall shut, and no one shall open". Open wide our heavenly home says the hymn.

21st December is **O Oriens**, morning star, or Dayspring in the hymn. Perhaps the most famous words in the whole of Isaiah...the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light (a morning star); those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them has light shined. "Disperse the gloomy clouds of night" says the hymn, "and death's dark shadow put to flight".

The 6th Antiphon title for the Messiah is **Rex Gentium** which means King of all nations, the cornerstone, upon whose shoulders all authority rests. It's not in our hymn today but if you were praying it, the words would be O King of all nations, and their desire: the cornerstone making both one. Come and save the human race which you fashioned from clay.

The final seventh Antiphon is for 23rd December. It's used as the first verse in the hymn. **O Emmanuel**. Which means God with us. A title which comes once again from Isaiah, a young woman shall bear a child and he shall be called Immanuel.

So we have seven titles for the Messiah but perhaps the seventh is the most

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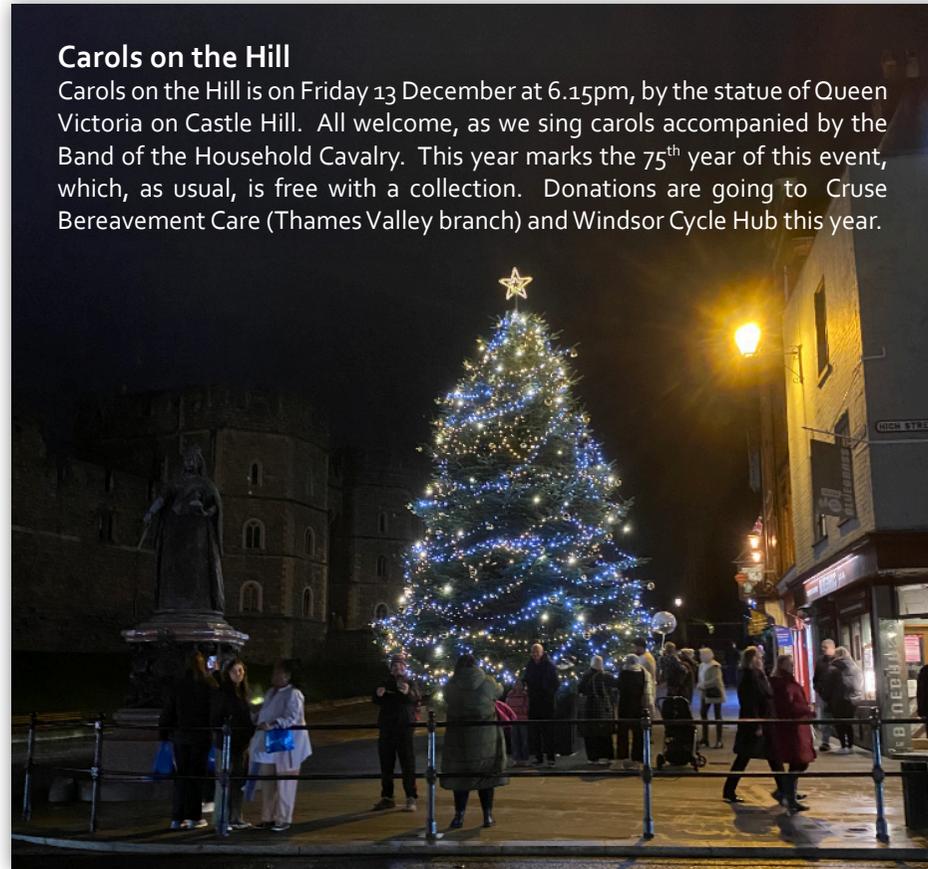
well-known and to many of us the most special, Emmanuel, our God with us.

The Early Church had great difficulty in finding the words to describe Jesus. That's probably not surprising. They used the seven titles we've just been thinking about but many others as well - the Second Adam, the Word, the Light of the World, the Great High Priest, the Lamb of God, and the list goes on... The many descriptions give us a myriad of ways to relate to Jesus. Maybe some speak to you more than others; maybe it depends on where you are today, how you are feeling about life.

These many titles help us to understand, because Jesus is not comparable to any leader in the past, not comparable to Abraham or Moses, or to the great King David or indeed to any great leaders in more modern times. He is not comparable because he is God's Son, God with us, Emmanuel. Jesus does not merely point to God, he is God and on Christmas Day we recall both a day more than 2000 years ago and at the same time rejoice in the presence of God with us.

Jesus whose coming we prepare for once again this Advent, will come again to us. Advent is about waiting and about prayerful preparation. Preparing ourselves in heart and mind to receive again the gift of Christ at Christmas. May we use this time wisely.

Amen



Carols on the Hill

Carols on the Hill is on Friday 13 December at 6.15pm, by the statue of Queen Victoria on Castle Hill. All welcome, as we sing carols accompanied by the Band of the Household Cavalry. This year marks the 75th year of this event, which, as usual, is free with a collection. Donations are going to Cruse Bereavement Care (Thames Valley branch) and Windsor Cycle Hub this year.

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).



Pyjama Donations

Thank you to everyone who generously has donated pyjamas to our collection for [Children's Hospital Pyjamas](#). The pyjamas will bring a little joy and comfort to children spending this Christmas in hospital and similar settings, where they may be missing the comforts of home. There will be a proper update in next magazine.



Windsor Parish Church of St John the Baptist: The Next 200 Years



The Parish Church of St John the Baptist occupies a prime town centre site where a church has stood since the twelfth century. The 200th anniversary of the current building was celebrated in 2022 and the PCC has now set up a "NEXT 200" committee to lead an exciting project to restore and develop the church and grounds. The committee includes representatives from the church congregation and more widely across the community. The church has wonderful acoustics and a high capacity to hold events for our community. We have the opportunity to create and develop a valuable space, fit for purpose for Christian worship, the wider local community and visitors alike.

Please help set the agenda for the next 200 years by [responding to the survey](#).

This December and January it was...

1750 years ago, on 25 Dec 274 that the Roman Emperor Aurelian founded the cult of Sol Invictus as an official religion. He erected a temple and declared 25th December a national holiday, to be known as the Feast of the Unconquered Sun. In 336, after the conversion of the Emperor Constantine, 25th December began to be celebrated by the church in Rome as the birthday of God's Son.

500 years ago, on 24th Dec 1524 that Vasco da Gama, Portuguese explorer, died of malaria. He was the first European to reach India by sea.

200 years ago, on 21st Dec 1824 that James Parkinson, British surgeon and politician, died. He was the first person to describe Parkinson's disease, in 1817.

150 years ago, on 14th Jan 1875 that Albert Schweitzer, German theologian, philosopher, physician, musicologist, writer and humanitarian, was born. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952.

125 years ago, on 5th Dec 1899 that Henry Tate, British sugar merchant and philanthropist, died. He established the Tate Gallery in London.

Also 125 years ago, on 16th Dec 1899 that Noel Coward, British playwright, composer, director, actor and singer, was born. His plays include *Hay Fever*, *Private Lives*, and *Blithe Spirit*.

Also 125 years ago, on 14th Jan 1900 that the premiere of Italian composer Giacomo Puccini's opera *Tosca*, took place in Rome.

100 years ago, on 3rd Jan 1925 that Benito Mussolini declared himself dictator of Italy.

90 years ago, on 8th Jan 1935 that Elvis Presley ('The King') was born. An American rock and roll singer, guitarist and actor, he died in 1977.

80 years ago, from 16th Dec 1944 to 16th Jan 1945 that the Battle of the Bulge (Belgium) took place. German forces launched a surprise assault on the Allies in the Ardennes Forest – their last major counter-offensive operation of the war.

Also 80 years ago, on 27th Jan 1945 that the Soviet Red Army liberated Auschwitz Concentration Camp in southern Poland. It was the largest Nazi concentration camp and at least 1.1 million prisoners died there.

75 years ago, on 23rd Jan 1950 that Israel declared Jerusalem was its capital city. Palestine also claims it as its capital.

70 years ago, US President Dwight D Eisenhower gave the first televised presidential news conference. It was filmed in the morning and broadcast that evening. The first live conference was given by John F Kennedy in January 1961.

60 years ago, on 19th Dec 1964 that the first coordinated nationwide protests against the war in Vietnam were held in the USA.

60 years ago, on 31st Dec 1964 that Donald Campbell broke the world water speed record, and became the only person to break both the land speed record and the water speed record in the same year.

Also 60 years ago, on 4th Jan 1965 that T S Eliot, American-born British poet, playwright, literary critic and editor died. He won the 1948 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Also 60 years ago, on 24th Jan 1965 that Winston Churchill died. He was Prime

Minister 1940-45 and again in 1955, and one of the greatest wartime leaders of the 20th century. He was named as 'the greatest Briton of all time.' He won the 1953 Nobel Prize for Literature "for his mastery of historical and biographical description as well as for brilliant oratory in defending exalted human values."

50 years ago, on 5th Dec 1974 that the last episode of the TV comedy series *Monty Python's Flying Circus* was broadcast in the UK. It had begun in October 1969.

Also 50 years ago, on 24th Dec 1974 that British politician John Stonehouse was arrested in Australia (on suspicion of being Lord Lucan). He had faked his death on 20th November by leaving a pile of clothing on a beach in Miami Florida.

40 years ago, on 3rd Dec that the Bhopal disaster took place in India. A poisonous gas leak at a Union Carbide pesticide plant killed thousands of people and left at least 120,000 with long-term health problems.

Also 40 years ago, on 19th Dec 1984 that the Sino-British Joint Declaration was signed by Britain and China. Britain agreed to return Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty on 1st July 1997.

Also 40 years ago, on 31st Dec 1984 that the Bank of England stopped producing one pound notes. They remained legal tender until 1988.

Church Opening Times

Windsor Parish Church of St John the Baptist,
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

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Also 40 years ago, on 1st Jan 1985 that the first mobile phone call in the UK was made by comedian Ernie Wise. He rang Vodafone's head office in Newbury from St Katharine Docks in London.

Also 40 years ago, on 23rd Jan 1985 that a debate from the House of Lords was televised live for the first time.

30 years ago, on 9th Dec 1994 that Sinn Fein held its first formal talks with the British government. This eventually led to the IRA ceasefire, the Good Friday Agreement, and the establishment of the Northern Ireland Assembly in 1998.

Also 30 years ago, on 1st Jan 1995 that the World Trade Organisation was established.

25 years ago, on 1st Dec 1999 that an international team of scientists working for the Human Genome Project announced that they had mapped an entire human chromosome (number 22). In April 2003 they announced that they had mapped all human chromosomes.

Also 25 years ago, on 2nd Dec 1999 that the UK devolved political power in Northern Ireland to the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive Committee.

Also 25 years ago, on 31st Dec 1999 that the London Eye – the world's tallest Ferris wheel at the time, was officially opened on the banks of the River Thames. It opened to passengers in March 2000.

Also 25 years ago, on 1st Jan 2000 that the calendar switched over to the year 2000, with no major computer problems from the Y2K 'Millennium Bug'.

20 years ago, on 26th Dec 2004 that the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami (also called the Boxing Day Tsunami) took place. A massive undersea earthquake near Sumatra caused a devastating tsunami that swamped coastal areas in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and East Africa. It was one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history, killing more than 230,000 people in 14 countries.

15 years ago, on 4th Jan 2010 that the Burj Khalifa in Dubai opened. It is the world's tallest structure, standing 2,722 feet (829.8 metres.)

Also 15 years ago, on 12th Jan 2010 that the Haiti earthquake took place. The capital, Port-au-Prince, was devastated and at least 100,000 people were killed and buried in mass graves.

10 years ago, on 7th Jan 2015 that the Charlie Hebdo shooting in Paris took place. 12 people were killed and 11 injured.

adapted from Parish Pump

Pause for a Poem

I found this little-known sonnet in a search for poems about this time of year. I like the contrast between the rather down-beat first few lines, which reference to the glories of spring, summer and autumn does little to relieve, and the last section celebrating the coming of Jesus! Rebecca Hey was botanical artist and poet.

Michael Bailey

December

As human life begins and ends with woe,
So doth the year with darkness and with storm.
Mute is each sound, and vanish'd each fair form
That wont to cheer us; yet a sacred glow—
A moral beauty,—to which Autumn's show,
Or Spring's sweet blandishments, or Summer's bloom,
Are but vain pageants,—mitigate the gloom,
What time December's angry tempests blow.
'Twas when the "Earth had doff'd her gaudy trim,
As if in awe," that she received her Lord;
And angels jubilant attuned the hymn
Which the church echoes still in sweet accord,
And ever shall, while Time his course doth fill,
'Glory to God on high! on earth, peace and good will!"

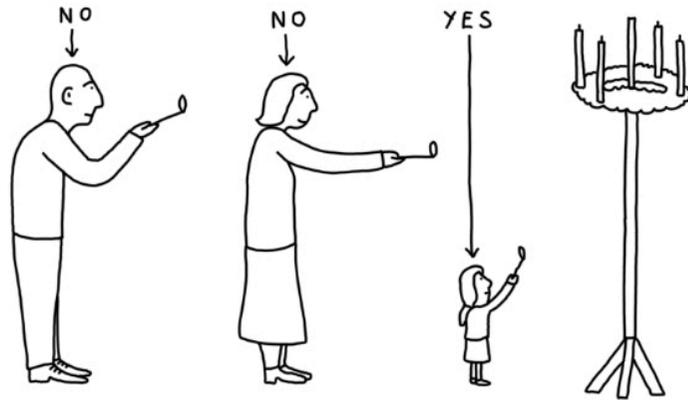
Rebecca Hey (1797 – 1859)



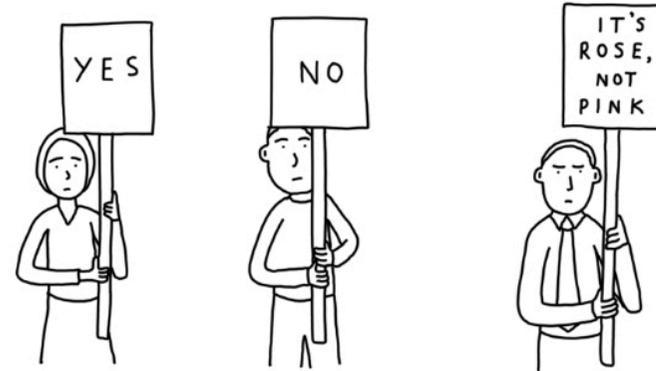
*Plate from Sylvan Musings
or The Spirit of the Woods
by Rebecca Hey (1837)*

ADVENT

CONTROVERSIES

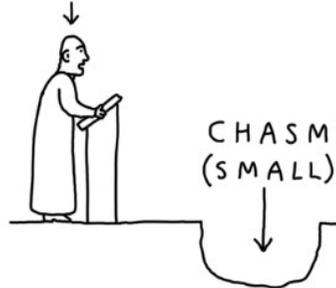


WHO WILL LIGHT THE CANDLES ON THE ADVENT WREATH?



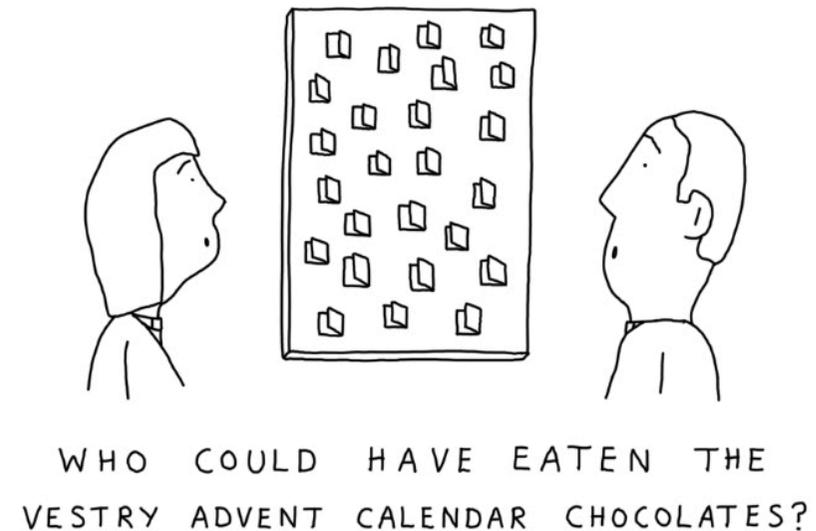
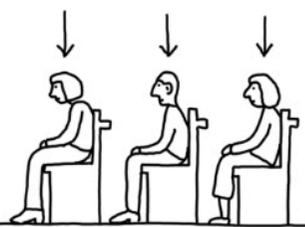
SHOULD THE WREATH HAVE ONE PINK CANDLE?

SERMON ABOUT PENITENCE AND JUDGEMENT



WHETHER TO PREACH ON CHALLENGING ADVENT THEMES

SHALL WE PUT THE TREE UP THIS AFTERNOON?



From the November registers...



Baptisms
Tobias Steer (All Saints')



Funerals
Diana Bolt (Windsor Parish Church)
Sandra Ebohon
Malcolm Swann

New Pathways

An informal bereavement group for anyone who has lost a loved one

We meet for tea, cake and conversation on the last Thursday of each month (except December)
2.30pm—3.30pm
in the Mountbatten Room at Holy Trinity Church

Everyone welcome

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St Stephen's Church
celebrating

150
1874 2024
years



22nd December 2024

10am

Festal Sung Eucharist

All welcome

Vansittart Road, Windsor SL4 5EA

1 Advent Sunday

10am Sung Eucharist – Holy Trinity Church

12-7pm Christmas Tree Festival – Holy Trinity Church

2 5-7pm Christmas Tree Festival – Holy Trinity Church

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

6 Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c.326

7 Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith, 397

8 The Second Sunday of Advent

10am Sung Eucharist – All Saints' Church

13 Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304

Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784

14 John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher of the Faith, 1591

15 The Third Sunday of Advent

10am Sung Eucharist – Windsor Parish Church

3pm Messy Church – All Saints' Church

17 O Sapientia

Eglantyne Jebb, Social Reformer, Founder of 'Save The Children', 1928

18 O Adonai

19 O Radix Jesse

20 O Clavis David

6pm Carols by Candlelight – Holy Trinity

21 O Oriens

22 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

O Rex Gentium

10am 150th Anniversary Sung Eucharist – St Stephen & St Agnes Church

6pm Carols by Candlelight – Holy Trinity

23 O Emmanuel

24 Christmas Eve

3pm Crib Service – St Stephen & Agnes Church

3pm Crib Service & Christingle – All Saints'

6.15pm Windsor & Eton Living Advent Calendar – Windsor Parish Church

11.15pm Midnight Mass – St Stephen & St Agnes Church

11.15pm Midnight Communion – Holy Trinity Church

25 Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion (BCP) – Holy Trinity Church

10am Sung Eucharist – All Saints' Church

11.15am Christmas Praise with Holy Communion – Windsor Parish Church

26 Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

10am Said Eucharist – St Stephen & Agnes Church Patronal Festival

27 John, Apostle and Evangelist

28 The Holy Innocents

29 First Sunday of Christmas

10am Sung Eucharist – Holy Trinity Church

31 John Wyclif, Reformer, 1384

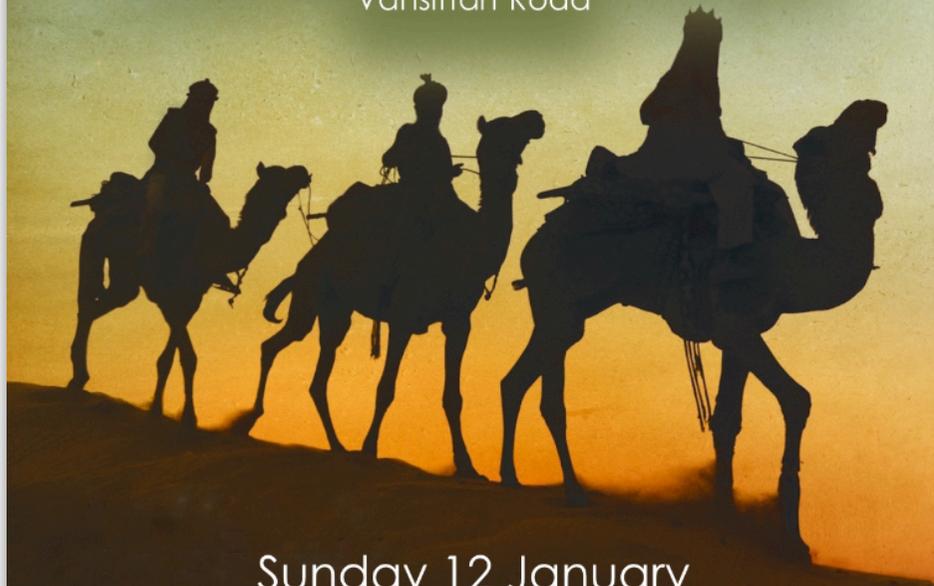


Epiphany

Sunday 5 January

10am Sung Eucharist

St Stephen & St Agnes Church
Vansittart Road



Sunday 12 January

5.30pm Choral Evensong

All Saints' Church
Frances Road

All welcome

January 

1 The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

Parish of Central Windsor comes into being

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

5 Epiphany Sunday

10am Sung Eucharist – St Stephen & Agnes Church

6 Epiphany (Principal Feast)

10 *William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645*

11 *Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915*

12 Baptism of Christ (Festival)

10am Sung Eucharist – All Saints' Church

5.30pm Choral Evensong for Epiphany– All Saints' Church

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

18–25 *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*

18 *Amy Carmichael, Founder of the Dohnavur Fellowship, spiritual writer, 1951*

19 Second Sunday of Epiphany

10am Sung Eucharist – Holy Trinity Church

11.30am Annual Meeting of Parishioners (Election of Churchwardens)

– Holy Trinity Church

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

21 Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304

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

26 The Third Sunday of Epiphany

10am Sung Eucharist – Windsor Parish Church

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*

4.15pm Messy Church – All Saints' Church