Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down Parish Magazine



December 2026

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This magazine is available on the web at www.fosmw.com or www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk . Some paper copies are available in the Winkfield churches on or after the last Sunday of each month. The printed magazine has 20 pages this month. The web version has 24 pages.

Reprinted 21-Nov-26

Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down Parish Magazine – December 2026

A message from Revd Andy Medlicott

It's that time of year again!



Our family tradition is to order a real Christmas tree for the beginning of December. We have fun decorating it, and it fills the living room with a lovely pine smell. It also confuses the dogs for a few days – why has their space been invaded by this tree thing? The year we got our puppy, Tilly, she decided to leave a little 'present' behind the tree! Not such a nice pine smell!

For many, Advent and Christmas are a wonderful time, as we look forward to celebrating Christ's birth. I am conscious, though, that some find this time of year difficult for a variety of reasons. Over a decade ago I lost my father in mid-December, and I still miss him at midnight services, although it does get easier. And I find being with others helps lift my spirits.

I am impressed with all the things going on over the Christmas period, starting with the Music and Merriment concert on 5th December at 7:30pm. This concert may be the last of its kind so please do get a ticket and come if you can. [Andy is taking part in the performance as a reader, so support him there, too! Ed.] I am also looking forward to coming to the Christmas Tree Festival on the 12th December, from 10am to 4pm at St Mary's. I am planning on bringing Tilly - she will be well-behaved!

There are a variety of Christingle and Crib services too. [Details later in this mag.]

We have Carol Services at St Peter's, St Martin's and St Mary's, and "midnight" services at midnight (St Mary's), at 6pm (St Martin's) and at

8pm (St Peter's). So, if you cannot stay up late you can still celebrate. There are also services on Christmas morning at all three churches!

As we enter Advent, I wish you all a blessed time and look forward to seeing many of you at the various services over the Christmas period.

Take care & God bless,

Andy

From the parish registers for September 2026

No baptisms have been reported

Confirmations

Hanna Kincses, Poppy Scott and Harry Sawdon were confirmed by Mary, the Bishop of Reading in St Michael's and All Souls, Sunninghill on Tuesday 6 October.

Funerals etc.

The interment of the ashes of the late James Hodson was led by Revd Andrew Medlicott in St Mary's Churchyard on Thursday 15th October.

A memorial service for the late Rosemary Haworth-Booth was led by Reverend Patrick Mukholi on Friday 23rd October followed by the interment of Christopher & Rosemary in St Mary's Churchyard.

No weddings or blessings have been reported

Notices

Advertising in the Parish Magazine

Our monthly parish magazines like this one carry no commercial advertising at present. At the discretion of the editor, we may carry promotion, without charge, of charitable events and activities that are of value and interest for our church and local community. We will normally not respond at all to any other proposals for promotion or advertising.

Safeguarding in the Parish

The Parish safeguarding details are at:
www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk/safeguarding.htm

Safeguarding is part of our core faith and is an integral feature of Christian life. Please be alert to the fact that Safeguarding concerns arise in many

different guises. So, we should always have faith to question, especially when something does not feel right.

Should you have any Safeguarding concerns, please contact the Church Office at safeguarding@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk (please begin the message with 'SAFEGUARDING'), or on 01344 882933.

St. Martin's Church Hall

St Martin's Church Hall is available for hire, Weekday Evenings & Weekends:

£17.50 per hour (community/charity rate also available). Sorry – no 'bouncy castles

For enquiries, please contact Amanda Carter at churchhallstmartins@gmail.com

The Parish of
Winkfield Cranbourne & Chavey Down

Winkfield and North Ascot Good Neighbours Scheme

Since 1993, we have been providing a vital, low cost, community transport service. The Scheme is run entirely by volunteers, and its aim is to provide a helping hand to our neighbours. We provide door to door transport to essential medical appointments for our less mobile residents. For over 30 years we have made a huge difference to many of our neighbours who would have had to travel alone, take expensive taxi journeys, or struggle using public transport.

Should you need help to attend an appointment, simply call one of our friendly coordinators to discuss your requirements Monday to Friday, giving two days' notice:
Brenda - 01344 882975 Pat - 01344 886144

Local events and reports

Music and Merriment 7:30pm on Saturday 5 December

The annual Music and Merriment Christmas concert will take place at 7:30 on Saturday 5 December 2026 at St Mary's church, Winkfield. This concert raises funds for the PCC to help maintain this beautiful 700 year church. The concert is a community concert with items to please everybody, and it is unique in celebrating high quality local talent. Performances include two superb local teenage musicians, St Mary's handbells, a well-trained choir of children from local schools, a celebrated local brass group, local readers and singers, a fine local organist and the opportunity to sing familiar carols. There will be free mulled wine and mince pies at the interval.


Music & Merriment
A Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church, Winkfield
Saturday 5th December 7:30pm
An evening of festive music, community spirit and seasonal cheer
FEATURING
Sarah – Violinist
Sergey – Pianist
5T's Brass Quintet
Harmonious Handbells
Junior Concert Choir
Solo singers, readers and audience carols
Complimentary mulled wine and mince pies
Tickets: £14 Adults | £7 Under 13s
Available at: fosmw.com
Scan to book tickets



Tickets are £14 for adults and £7 for children 13 and under. You can purchase tickets at the door, or online (see below) or by going to www.fosmw.com

and pressing the [MandM Online Tickets] button.

Our teenage musicians are both international performers: Sarah aged just 18 and Sergey aged 13, who this year was the youngest musician to be auditioned for the BBC Young Musician of the year.

We welcome as first-time performers Kiaya Carter-Brace, who is also mum of one of the Junior Choir children, and Alison Foster of CADS fame, who will be dramatising a humorous apocryphal letter by Mrs Wenceslas, not to mention a reading by Revd Andy Medlicott. The Junior Concert Choir is an all-girls choir from four local schools, and this year they are directed again by Lucy Head, a local professional musician, who started the Junior Choir years ago when she was the concert's director.

Other old friends include the popular Alan Rapley, our organist, the local 5Ts Brass quintet under Len Tyler, who add a lively new touch to Christmas music, and the ever-more-ambitious St Mary's handbell ringers under Jill Glennerster.

The concerts is the result of the work of a large team of Winkfield parish volunteers. Please have a wonderful time supporting their great efforts!

Concert tickets

Online concert tickets will be available from www.fosmw.com and press the [MandM concert online tickets] button or scan the QR code to right. Paper tickets will be available at services at St Mary's church at Sunday services.



St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival

Taking place on

Saturday 12th December

10.00am until 4.00pm

Sponsored and decorated Christmas trees displayed both inside and outside the church until the **27th December**

Come and enjoy stalls, entertainment and refreshments

Entrance is free but donations will be warmly welcomed

St Mary's Church, SL4 4SF

Ascot Horticultural Society

Christmas Show

and Social Evening



King Edward's Hall, King Edward's Rd, Ascot, SL5 8PD

Wednesday 9th December '26

Staging of exhibits 7.30pm-8.00pm Meeting commences 8.00pm
Entrance: Members £1 Visitors £3 (Includes refreshments)

For more information contact :
Wendy Sivyer (Show Secretary) on 07999513263 or wendysivyer@aol.com

www.ascothorticulturalsociety.co.uk
facebook.com/groups/276880418187911

Ascot Horticultural Society

The Ascot Horticultural Society will be holding their Christmas Show on Wednesday 9th December in King Edwards Hall, King Edwards Road, North Ascot commencing at 8pm. Not only is it a show but you will be able to purchase Christmas presents, e.g. honey, jams, Christmas pickles, knitted buddies, knitted items with triangles of good quality sweets inside.

For more information phone 07999513263.

Wendy Sivyer, Show Secretary.

St Mary's Choirs and service

The Remembrance Service was led once again by John Kimbell. The RBL attended and presented their banner. A Union Jack was also presented on behalf of St Mary's. There were 4 readers and both Junior and Adult choirs performed. The Handbell Ringers rang 'O Valiant Hearts'. After the Royal British Legion and Council had laid their wreaths at the Memorial, two wreaths from the church were laid.

Family Praise and Crafty Church

These services take place every month with more and more children joining the reader's list. Logan Williamson, organist and choir master, attends these services and encourages all to sing, with the Junior Choir often having their own slot.

St Mary's Guild

A celebration of the life of Margaret Blackburn took place in the Owners and Trainers Lounge at Windsor Race Course on Thursday 12 November. This would have been Margaret's 94th birthday. Four members of the Guild and Revd Andy Medlicott attended the celebration.

Many photographs of Margaret and her family were on display around the room and several of her Red Cross uniforms were also displayed. There was a most enjoyable buffet to start the proceedings. A video was available showing many of Margaret's interests including the horses!!

Margaret's daughter, two of her sons and a friend of many years spoke of her achievements. The friend who spoke told us all that they shared the birthday. So applause and congratulations were passed to her. There were many guests including several from the Racing World. A most interesting and memorable occasion.

Friends of St Mary's Winkfield

The Friends are again sponsoring the Music & Merriment Concert to take place on Saturday 5 December. Children's choir, readers and talented soloists are all participating. Do come along to enjoy the entertainment and of course the refreshments!! See also the article on page 4.

Christmas Tree Festival

This will open on Saturday 12 December. There will be stalls, entertainment from the children and refreshments. Please do come along and support the church.

Royal British Legion: Cranbourne &Winkfield Women's Section Branch

In October we celebrated the 106th birthday of our President Violet Jones at Oaktree Cafe. Violet for many years lived at Bracken Bank and Fernbank Place. She then moved to Basingstoke to be near to her daughter Beverley. They never miss a meeting.

For our Christmas fund raising we are attending the Christmas fairs At Ranelagh School from 12-2pm on the 5 December. The following day at the Newtown Pippin in Harmanswater from midday – 4pm. On 13 December we have a stall at Carnation Hall, when Carols Round the Tree takes place. All proceeds are spilt between The Royal British Legion Benevolent Fund and the charity Research into Brain Tumours.

Wendy Sivyer, Secretary

St Mary's Bellringers: Bells on Remembrance Sunday

As well as our usual ringing commitments, the ringers were delighted to play their part in the Remembrance Sunday service.

The tower bells were rung half-muffled, in remembrance of those who lost their lives in both World Wars and subsequent conflicts. This gives the bells an incredibly haunting and poignant sound, which we hope many of you noticed and appreciated. We kept the muffles on for our Monday practice too, as it was still before the 11th November.

If you would like to see the muffles, or have a closer look at the bells themselves, do speak to Tony, who will be very happy to show you around and explain how they work.

Continued on page 13

Services in the Parish December 2026

NB. All content in these lists may be subject to change

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH **Common Worship Services**

Date	Day	Time	Service
6	2nd Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Carols & Christmas Readings
		4pm	Christingle 🕯
13	3rd Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Crib & Gift Service 🎁
19	Saturday	4pm	Chavey Down Village Carol Service
20	4th Sunday of Advent	10am	Community Coffee Morning – in *the Church Hall*
24	Christmas Eve	6pm	Christmas Eve Celebration Service
25	Christmas Day	9.30am	Christmas Holy Communion
27	First Sunday of Christmas	*Please join us in St Peter's Church for an 11am Holy Communion*	

ST MARY'S CHURCH **Book of Common Prayer Services**

Date	Day	Time	Service
6	2nd Sunday in Advent	10am	Advent Family Communion *led by the Bishop of Reading*
13	3rd Sunday in Advent	10am	Family Matins, Nativity & Crib Service ✦
20	4th Sunday in Advent	9.30am	Family Praise with Christingle
		11am	Holy Communion
		3pm	Nine Lessons & Carols
24	Christmas Eve	2pm and 3:30pm	Carols & Candlelight ♫
		11:45pm	Midnight Communion

25	Christmas Day	11am	Christmas Matins *followed by* Said Communion
27	First Sunday of Christmas	*Please join us in St Peter's Church for an 11am Holy Communion*	

ST PETER'S CHURCH **Common Worship Services**

Date	Day	Time	Service
6	2nd Sunday of Advent	11am	Christingle & Gift Service ↳ 🕯
13	3rd Sunday of Advent	11am	Carols & Christmas Readings
20	4th Sunday of Advent	11am	Morning Prayer & Carols
24	Christmas Eve	4pm	Carols & Candlelight ♬
		8pm	Communion by Candlelight
25	Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Family Praise
27	First Sunday of Christmas	11am	Holy Communion

. Key

↳ **Gift Service** will collect donations of new and sealed items for distribution locally, please ***do not*** gift wrap these items;
A new toy for a child
Toiletries for an adult
Christmas biscuits or sweets for the Foodbank

🕯 **Christingle Service** collection is shared between the Church and the Children's Society

✦ **Nativity Play**

♬ **Carols & Candlelight** entry by reservation only

Tickets can be booked at www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

Group booking no larger than 10 please

Also keep an eye on:

https://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk/services.htm


St Martin's Church
Chavey Down
Sunday 6th December
9.30am Carols & Christmas Readings
4pm Christingle
Sunday 13th December
9.30am Crib & Gift Service
Saturday 19th December
4pm Chavey Down Village Carol Service
Sunday 20th December
10am Christmas Community Coffee Morning
Christmas Eve
6pm, Christmas Eve Celebration Service
Christmas Day
9.30am, Christmas Holy Communion


St Mary's Church
Winkfield
Sunday 6th December
10am Family Communion
Sunday 13th December
10am Nativity & Crib Service
Sunday 20th December
9.30am Family Praise & Christingle
11am Holy Communion
3pm 9 Lessons & Carols
Christmas Eve
2pm Carols & Candlelight *
3.30pm Carols & Candlelight *
11.45pm Midnight Communion
Christmas Morning
11am Christmas Matins
followed by Said Communion
* reserve your seat at
www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk



St Mary's Bellringers – continued from page 10

The handbell ringers also contributed to the service by playing Meditation on 'O Valiant Hearts'. This beautiful hymn honours those who fell in the First World War. The words are based on a poem by Sir John Stanhope Arkwright (1872–1954), set to the hymn tune 'The Supreme Sacrifice', composed by Revd Charles Harris (1865–1936).

The melody is regularly heard at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday and on other occasions when tribute is paid to those who have died in war and conflict.

It is a particularly beautiful and moving piece of music, and one that we always enjoy ringing. We were pleased to be able to share it as part of this year's act of remembrance.

Jill Glennerster 07821 131303

Thoughts of all sorts

A Christmas prayer

Let your goodness, Lord, appear to us, that we, made in Your image, conform ourselves to it. In our own strength we cannot imitate Your majesty, power and wonder; nor is it fitting for us to try. But Your mercy reaches from the heavens, through the clouds, to the earth below. You have come to us as a small child, but You have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love. Caress us with Your tiny hands, embrace us with Your tiny arms, and pierce our hearts with Your soft, sweet cries.

By Bernard of Clairvaux 1090 – 1153

Crisis at Christmas Appeal 2026

Each year Crisis at Christmas opens its doors to thousands of homeless people by providing hotel rooms and day care centres across the UK.

It says: "This Christmas over 330,000 families and individuals across the UK are experiencing the worst forms of homelessness." They are rough sleeping, sofa surfing or in unsuitable temporary accommodation like B&Bs.

"Prime Minister Andy Burnham has set out a plan to get everyone off the streets in England. It's a once-in-a-generation moment to push forward our work to end homelessness – but we need your help. Because getting someone off the streets is only the start.

"Our Christmas services work alongside the specialist support we provide all year, which includes helping people facing homelessness to find their own stable home, to access education and training. To donate: https://www.crisis.org.uk/get-involved/donate-to-crisis-at-christmas/

An All Saints' Day sermon for 2026

A sermon with the beatitudes in mind: "Blessed are the …", preached by Bishop Michael Colclough. Bishop Michael was, until recently retired, the chaplain of the Mercers Company, London's premier Livery Company, connected to st Mary's church by the tombstone at the foot of the chancel steps.

Writing to his brother Theo in 1888, Vincent van Gogh said, "I want to paint people with something of the eternal about them which the halo

used to symbolise, and which **I** seek to convey by the radiance and vibration of my colouring".

I understand van Gogh's concern. The history of Christian art reveals a catalogue of plaster statues and paintings of seemingly perfect people with their haloes and dreamlike gaze towards heaven. It has given sainthood something of an unhelpful reputation. Let's face it, some of those rather limp and characterless portrayals of humanity could do with a good dose of van Gogh's 'radiance and vibration'.

The danger is, of course, that I, Mr Average Humanity, shrink back from both the insipid and the radiant. On the sanctity stakes I fear being insipid but don't believe I have it within me to be radiant. So what about me?

In today's Gospel we heard Jesus talking of nine different examples of blessedness including meekness, mercy, purity of heart, peace-making: but what does Jesus mean by 'blessed'?

I believe He's talking of a deep goodness within us that overflows, in different ways, in care for others. I'm sure it's there in all of you here this morning. And a blessedness which overflows into the lives of others leads us to a sense of happiness that is God-given and doesn't depend on our emotions, our comfort or wealth, but simply on knowing that we live in the ever-present and everlasting love of God. God's love for me taking flesh in my relationships with others.

This joy, or happiness, or blessedness, becomes part of us and isn't forgotten, be life rough or rosy. It's part of our being in Christ and, Jesus's words "no one will take your joy from you". Jesus isn't describing a future state of being, of blessedness, that **will** be ours in the future.

No, this blessedness, joy, happiness is for the here and now: St John tells us in today's second reading, "we should be called children of God, and that is what we are". What **"we are"**, not what we shall or might be, "children of God": you and me, now. Wonderful!

Jump forward eight chapters in St Matthew from today's Gospel reading and, talking to our forebears, the first disciples, Jesus says "blessed are your eyes because they see and your ears, for they hear". Though our blessedness, our ultimate joy and happiness are not dependent on the fickle changes and chances of this life, our blessedness can be inspired, refreshed, renewed by what our eyes see. That's where, for me, the saints come in: in many different ways they

display, reveal, real joy and blessedness in the ordinariness of their daily lives.

We all know the saying, "beauty is in the eye of the beholder": I want to suggest that blessedness, holiness lies also in the eye of the beholder: "blessed are your eyes because they see", said Jesus and our seeing, our blessedness must begin by looking at Jesus himself. Jesus who, in his life, his death and resurrection reveals the eternal yet intimate love of God for us.

Jesus, in St Paul's words, "the image of the invisible God". Jesus, the human face and voice of God, reveals what God is like in language that we can understand and invites us to be "like him" because, yes, we are "children of God". To be "like him", that is our vocation, yours and mine.

Saints are those whose eyes can see this, people again like you and me who have seen God in the face of Jesus and have understood their calling to be like Jesus. It's God's ancient Old Testament call, "Be holy, because I the Lord your God am holy". Our patron, St Paul, puts it like this to his converts: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ". Notice that Christ is central, Christ the 'Image of the invisible God' who reveals the fulness of God in human flesh, yours and mine. Jesus is the one those called to be saints must imitate.

As I wrote this sermon, my mind went back years to a lad named Peter. His primary school teacher brought his class to look round our parish church. For Peter, like some of the other children, it was a first and they were overcome by the difference of the building. Nothing like home or school or local shops.

I took the children to the font, the pulpit, lectern and altar, explaining simply what they were for. And as we went round the church, I also pointed out the characters in the stained-glass windows and explained that they were Christian heroes and heroines of the past, people we call 'saints'.

A couple of weeks later, I met the teacher who had brought the children to church and she told me that, when Peter arrived home after the visit, his mother asked him, "What have you seen today?" "Saints" was the reply. "What are saints?" asked his mother. "Saints are people who let light shine through," said Peter. A good answer: saints are people who "Let light shine through" – what better definition could we have?

We are celebrating, on this feast of All Saints, the great company of people, you and me included, who let the light of Christ shine through our lives. People who have heard that call ancient of God to "Be holy because I the Lord your God and holy". People who have realised the truth of what St Paul calls "the mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory".

Yes, the call to blessedness, to be the saints of God, is simply discovering the truth that Christ is in you and, having discovered that reality, to walk with confidence in the footsteps of Jesus.

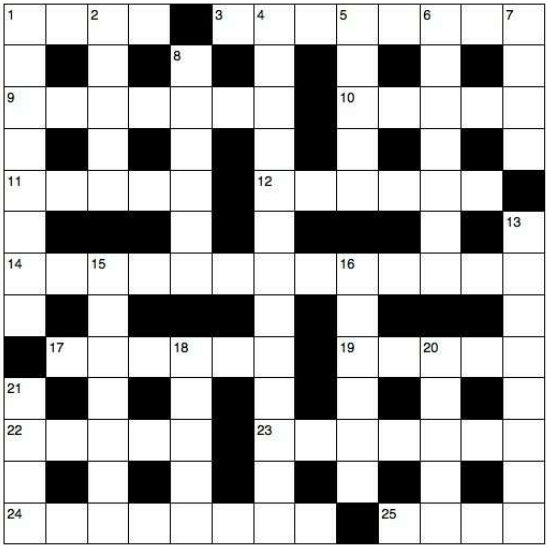
It is not ours to know the effect of the radiant and vibrating colours of our lives on others: that is for them and for God. We simply set out to reveal Jesus in our own way today and tomorrow in blessedness. We step forward, not alone, but in the vast and varied company of all God's saints. We set out along the sometimes winding but joyful path of eternity.

Serial Memoir

There will be no serial memoire episode this month

Crossword puzzle

Across



— your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore'(Hebrews 13:13) (8)
9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)
10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)
14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)

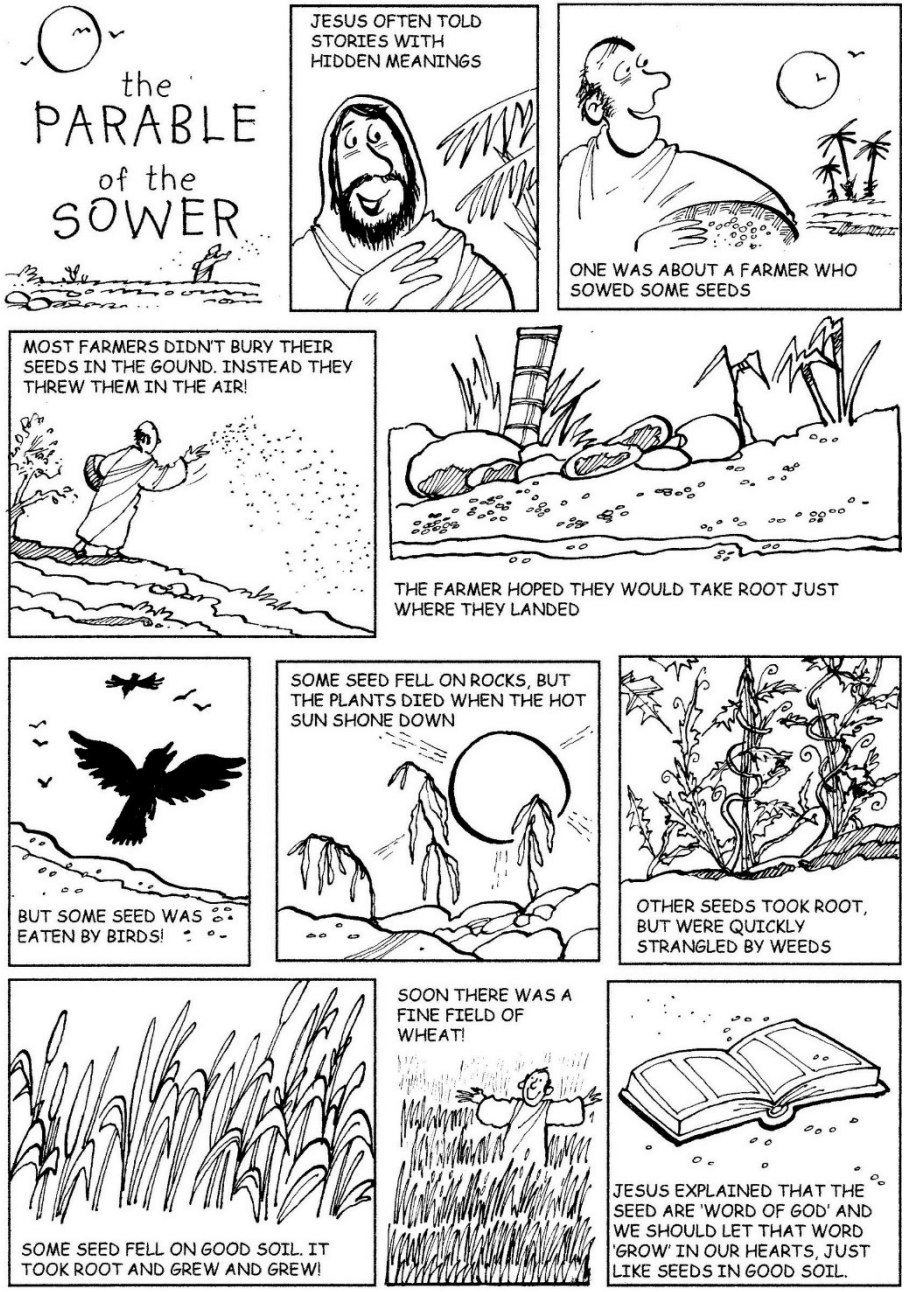
19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)
22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

Down

1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
5 'We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)
6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)
20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)

ACROSS: 1, Hide. 3, Disgrace. 9, Sonship. 10, Oaths. 11, Tutti. 12, Ignore. 14, Foreknowledge. 17, Ashram. 19, Men or. 22, Aroma. 23, Nineveh. 24, Amethyst. 25, Trod. DOWN: 1, His staff. 2, Do not. 4, Imprisonments. 5, Groan. 6, Altered. 7, Easy. 8, Shrink. 13, Searched. 15, Restore. 16, Lament. 18, Reach. 20, Never. 21, Jada.

Children's Corner



Annex

Parish Christmas season occasions

6 December







13 December

Carols & Christmas Readings

As a start to this festive time, follow the Christmas story through short readings, each followed by a well-known carol

Whether you're new to the area, visiting family or just feel like coming along, our St Peter's family will be there to give you a warm welcome

Please join us afterwards for mulled wine & nibbles

Sunday 13th December at 11am
St Peter's Church, Cranbourne

Crib & Gift Service

Sunday 13th December at 9.30am
St Martin's Church, Chavey Down



We welcome donations of:
a new toy for a child *(not wrapped)* or
sealed toiletries, Christmas biscuits/sweets
for Bracknell Foodbank

19 December

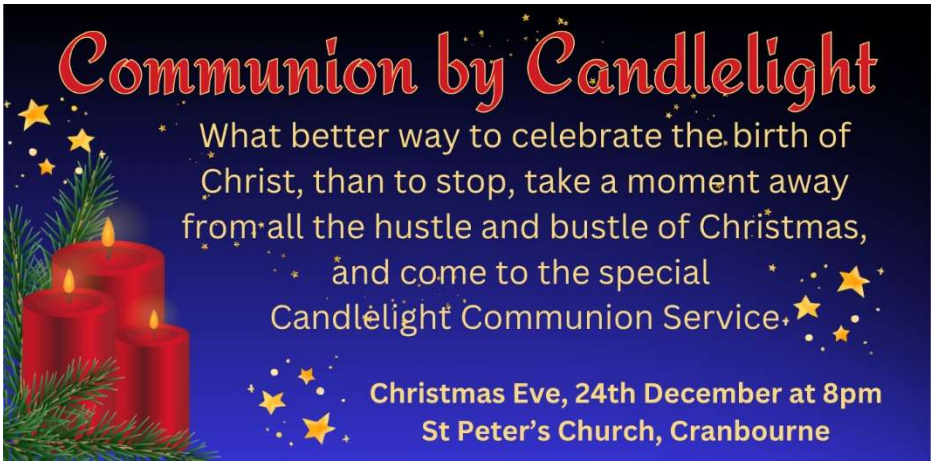


24 December Christmas Eve









Parish churches for Christmas



Woodley Concert Band Christmas Concert 20 December

The Woodley Concert Band, some whose musicians support Winkfield's Music and Merriment concert, celebrates Christmas with their own two brilliant concerts.

In the afternoon, there is the ever-popular children's concert, and in the evening the main concert takes place:

https://www.woodleyconcertband.org.uk/christmas-concert-2026/

Tickets at https://www.ticketsource.com/wcb/e-kmlmdlj