

**Calendar for 14th to 21st
December 2025**

Sunday 14th December – Advent 3 / Gaudete Sunday

- 8.00am** Said Eucharist (BCP) – **St Peter and St Paul**
 Readings: Isaiah 35.1-10 (OT Pg. 608); James 5.7-10 (NT Pg.220) ;
 Matthew 11.2-11 (NT Pg.11). (All Page Nos. refer to the Pew Bible.)
- 10.00am** Family Eucharist, including Christingle and Christmas Jumper Competition – **St Peter and St Paul and live online**
- 6.00pm** Sung Compline – **St Peter and St Paul**

Wednesday 17th December

- 9.30am** Holy Communion – **St Peter and St Paul**
10.30am Coffee 'n' Share - **St Peter and St Paul**

Friday 19th December

- 6.00pm** Carol Service – **Little Hampden**

Sunday 21st December – Advent 4

- 8.00am** Said Eucharist (BCP) – **St Peter and St Paul**
 Readings: Isaiah 7.10-16; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-end.
10.00am Sung Parish Eucharist – **St Peter and St Paul and live online**
6.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols – **St Peter and St Paul**

Future Dates for your Diary (at St Peter and St Paul unless stated)

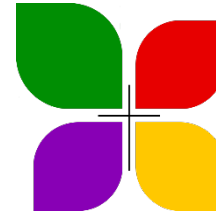
- Christmas Eve, 3.00pm:** Christingle Service at St Mary's, Ballinger.
Christmas Eve, 4.00pm: Crib Service
Christmas Eve, 9.00pm: Said Eucharist with Carols at St Mary's, Ballinger.
Christmas Eve, 11.00pm: Midnight Mass
Christmas Day, 8.00am: Said Eucharist
Christmas Day, 10.00am: Sung Family Eucharist



The Chiltern Foodbank is currently looking for donations of...
 Instant Coffee; Kitchen Roll; Squash; Tinned Macaroni Cheese;
 Tinned Ravioli; Washing Powder.
All items must be within BBE date, please.
chiltern.foodbank.org.uk

STAFF AVAILABILITY:

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St Peter and St Paul, Great Missenden
St Mary's Church, Ballinger
Little Hampden

**Helping one another to Know, to
Serve and to Share God's love**

Sunday 14th December – The Third Sunday of Advent / Gaudete Sunday

Please include in our prayers:

- for all our school children as they break up this coming week, that they and their families might be kept safe and well;
- for our Archbishop of Canterbury Elect, The Rt Revd Dame Sarah Mullally;
- for peace throughout the world, especially as we approach Christmas;
- for those involved in the appointing of a Youth Worker in our Benefice;
- for our Christmas Services and those who will attend them.

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”
 Matthew 11.10

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Collect words – © Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000)

News and Events

The Vicar writes...

We are with John the Baptist again this week, but in a very different context. John is in prison, having paid the price for questioning the behaviour of those in authority – another way in which he is a forerunner of Christ. But now he seems uncertain about what Jesus is up to: is he the Messiah John was expecting? Jesus gives a report of the marginalized among whom he is working; he praises John up to the hilt, and then says, 'yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he'. No wonder John asked his question: this is a most surprising Messiah that we are meeting.

(Based on Matthew 11.2-11.)

Christmas Tree Festival: Thank You. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who rallied around to help us organise, run and clear up the Christmas Tree Festival. A fabulous team effort! Paula and Chloe.

There are transactions still to process but a net surplus of just over £4,000 net is anticipated, for which many thanks.

Luxury Raffle Winner Mystery. All the raffle winners have now been contacted but there is one whose phone number is invalid. If someone happens to know an Emma Tucker, please could they speak to me or ring me and give me a functioning telephone number so that I can contact her about the prize she has won. Many thanks, Karen (07879 427 370).

Thank You from Hilltops Ukrainian Support Community Singers to everyone at St Peter and St Paul's for inviting us to the Christmas Tree Festival. It was hugely appreciated by everyone in the group. I'm sorry some people had to rush off afterwards, as it was Saint Mary's School Amersham children's Christmas concert half an hour after the end of our carols and the mums needed to be back in time to see their children.

Coffee 'n' Share. On 17th December, we will meet in the church as usual at 10.30am. There will then be a break over the festive period before Coffee 'n' Share re-commences on 7th January at Abbeyfield.

Christmas Giving. Each year, our Christmas giving is shared with those in need, and this year we are supporting Missenden Walled Garden, Embrace the Middle East and the charity that supports our own Parish of Great Missenden with Ballinger and Little Hampden.

Christmas Postcards. If you are able to share our Christmas postcards with your friends and neighbours, please pick them up from the back of the Church. As well as sharing Christmas greetings from the Church family, they also detail some of the special events taking place in all three Churches this Christmas and provide a warm invitation to join us.

Old Tea Warehouse Christmas Gifts. I'm really pleased to report that we have met our target of 64 wrapped Christmas gifts for the residents of the Old Tea Warehouse this year – in fact, we have exceeded it. Ian Dodwell will be delivering

the usual monthly shopping from three sets of people in the congregation to the hostel later this month, along with 65 wonderful presents for the residents to open on Christmas morning and a number of other items supplied by our community. Thank you all so much for your generosity, once again. It's good to know that we have had other, more disadvantaged people, in our hearts as we've gone about Christmas shopping and that not one of them has been left out. Karen Butler.

Churches Together Invitation. Don't spend Christmas Day alone! Come and join us for lunch at Great Missenden Baptist Church Hall. To book a place, please phone Mary Spooner on 01494 862 431. Thursday 25th December, 12.30pm for 1pm, return home about 3.20pm. Local transport can be arranged. No charge.

Friends of Great Missenden Parish Church (Regd. Charity No.: 1067435) raised £1,402 over the Christmas Tree Festival weekend, to help with future repair grants to this historic Parish Church. Warmest thanks to everyone who helped and contributed to our stands in the Lady Chapel and at the Library. The enthusiastic team of Young People did a brilliant job with sales and are experts with pricing and using the Sum-up bank card readers! Several people plan to become members of our charity which will be an enormous help to our fundraising. If you are not a member, we'd welcome your support and there are joining forms near the door.

There is a large store – and variety – of marmalades, jams and chutneys if you wish to choose some as Christmas presents. All proceeds are for several planned repairs to the church! Please contact Vivienne: 01494 891 312 / avd@davis.f9.co.uk. Warmest thanks, as ever, for all your kind support of our work.

Did you know that our wonderful church will celebrate its 900th anniversary in 2033, in just seven years' time?!

Blister Pack Recycling. In memory of Chris Nickless, we are re-starting our medicine blister pack recycling. If you have empty blister packs, please add these to the box at the back of the Church and these will be taken to Boots in Amersham for recycling. Many thanks, Vivienne Davis.

Eco Tip for December. As Advent begins, let us turn our gaze to the true meaning of Christmas – God with us, Emmanuel. The humble birth of a child in a stable may seem distant from the way we celebrate today, but it offers a profound reminder of simplicity. This season, let's reflect on the story that we wish our actions and choices to tell. Consider A Rocha UK's blog on journeying towards a zero-waste Christmas (<http://www.arocha.org.uk/journeying-towards-a-zero-waste-christmas>). May our hearts and our celebrations align with the simplicity and beauty of the Christmas story.

Please note, you can subscribe to the online version of the Newssheet by contacting the Church Office by email: office@missendenchurch.org.uk