

# ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDFORD ON THAMES

December 2025

[www.sandfordchurch.org](http://www.sandfordchurch.org)

**THERE'S STILL TIME** to make a donation to help more local families enjoy Christmas.  
Gifts for all ages, new or nearly new and unwrapped, can be left at Talking Shop  
during open hours until noon on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### CHRISTMAS EVE:

4.30 p.m.

### CHILDRENS' CRIB AND CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

for parents, grandparents,  
children, friends.

11.30 p.m.

### MIDNIGHT MASS

### CHRISTMAS DAY:

10.0 a.m.

### PARISH COMMUNION

6.30 p.m. **Evening prayer**

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We are delighted to  
welcome back the well-  
known Oxford choir  
**CHOROS CONSORT**  
to sing Christmas music  
in St Andrew's on  
**Saturday 13th December**  
**at 2.0 p.m.**

**FREE** 45-minute informal  
performance  
Donations invited in aid of  
the church



## Carols by Candlelight

A traditional  
carol service  
on  
Sunday  
December 14<sup>th</sup>  
at  
6.30 pm

## CAROLS AT THE KING'S ARMS

Join us to sing  
carols at about  
7.0 p.m. on  
Wednesday  
17<sup>th</sup> December



*Paul and Angela write:* A big **THANK YOU** to all who  
came to celebrate our sixtieth wedding anniversary  
on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> November, not only for the  
splendid array of food, but also for the kind words,  
flowers, cards and good wishes we received. We  
were both very touched.

And we would like to thank them (and those  
responsible for the really delicious food) for sharing  
this great occasion with us. We look forward eagerly  
to their 70<sup>th</sup>.

## PCC MEETING

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December**  
**at 7.30 p.m.**

## Talking Shop

**Christmas Food Market**  
**7<sup>th</sup> December**

Come along for delicious food  
and unique gifts

## Wreath making

with **Natalie Ellett,**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 6.0 – 7.30.**

Natalie will bring along the basic  
materials (cost £3) and you can  
bring any greenery or 'extras'  
you'd like to add.

## Asylum seekers' social event:

Seasonal party on Friday 5<sup>th</sup>  
December, probably 6.30 - 10pm  
Help very welcome: offers to  
[sarah.grylls@btinternet.com](mailto:sarah.grylls@btinternet.com)

## 'Green Sandford' calendar and postcards

are for sale in  
Talking Shop

**AFTERNOON TEAS** in Village Hall  
on the first Wednesday of the month

**NEXT ONE: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2.0 – 4.0**

Cost £4. Book at [pruereynolds96@gmail.com](mailto:pruereynolds96@gmail.com)

**No tea in January – back in February**



**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 11 -2 pm** at John  
Henry Newman Academy, Grange Road.

## Littlemore Christmas Day Lunch 1.0 – 4.0

To book or to  
help phone  
07398 599430  
or email [admin@littlemorechurch.org](mailto:admin@littlemorechurch.org)

## SUNDAYS in December 2025 Year A

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December Advent 2

#### 10.0 a.m. Parish Communion

Isaiah 11.1-10 *A prophecy of the Messiah, Son of David/Jesse.*

*The Spirit of the Lord will be permanently ('rest') on him – cf. Luke 4.18 quoting Isaiah 61, and John 1.32b-34). He will be wise, strong, will know God and work for justice, especially for the poor. The animal kingdom will respond to him as it did to St Francis. There will be joy, not hurt.*

Romans 15.4-13 *Paul quotes four OT passages which prophesy the inclusion of Gentiles into God's people. And God is the God of hope who fills us with joy and peace in trusting him, inspired by the Holy Spirit.*

Matthew 3.1-12 *John the Baptist was in the wilderness of Judaea calling on people to repent because God's rule is near, as Isaiah 40.3 prophesied. He was dressed and ate like Elijah and attacked religious hypocrites, and predicted the coming of Christ.*

#### 6.30 p.m. Evening prayer

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December Advent 3

#### 10.0 a.m. Parish Communion.

Isaiah 35.1-10 *A prophecy of the new messianic age. The natural environment will proclaim God's glory (beauty). So we should be ready, strengthening weak knees etc. Cf. the Wesley hymn, O for a thousand tongues to sing, verses 3 and 4, in old redbook 125, free to all wanting one. There will be joy and gladness – sorrow and sighing gone.*

James 5.7-10 *We should patiently await the coming of the Lord (cf. John 14.3). Look for role models.*

Matthew 11.2-11 *John Baptist in prison asks if Jesus is the One. Jesus replies with what's happening in his ministry, and tells us how vital John B is (cf. last week's gospel).*

#### 6.30 p.m. Evening prayer

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December Advent 4

#### 10.0 a.m. Parish Communion

Isaiah 7.10-16 *A young woman is pregnant. He will be called Emmanuel = God with us.*

Romans 1.1-7 *Paul quotes an early creed about Jesus, Son of David and Son of God, risen from the dead.*

Matthew 1.18-25 *The gospel quotes Isaiah 7 above and applies it to Jesus whose name, Jesus, means God will save, and Emmanuel (God with us). Joseph abstained till Jesus had been born.*

#### 6.30 p.m. Evening prayer

### Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve 4.30 Crib and Christingle

#### 11.30 p.m. Midnight Mass

Isaiah 52.7-10 *Good News: God reigns*

Hebrews 1.1-4 *God spoke through prophets now by a Son, at his right hand above all angels.*

John 1.1-14 *The Word of God that made the world became a human being in Jesus, full of grace and truth.*

### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day

Titus 3.4-7 *God's goodness and kindness has come to save us, renewing us with his Holy Spirit, giving us hope.*

Luke 2.8-20 *Last night there were the shepherds and angels.*

#### 6.30 p.m. Evening prayer

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December Holy Innocents Day

1 Corinthians 26-29 *God has chosen the weak to shame the wise. We have no reason to boast.*

Matthew 2.13-18 *The evil ruler in Jerusalem murders all the babies he can.*

#### 6.30 p.m. Evening prayer

He will come like last leaf's fall,  
One night when the November wind  
has flayed the trees to bone, and earth  
wakes choking on the mould,  
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.  
One morning when the shrinking earth  
opens on mist, to find itself  
arrested in the net  
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.  
One evening when the bursting red  
December sun draws up the sheet  
and penny-masks its eye to yield  
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,  
will come like crying in the night,  
like blood, like breaking,  
as the earth writhes to toss him free.  
He will come like child.

*Advent Calendar by Rowan Williams*

Among the many we know who need our prayers, please especially keep in mind  
Gina Ashburner, Carole Grant-Garwood, Rhona Bunce, Gwen Beaver, Jennie Tinson, Ruth Tuckwell,  
and also John Bardwell and the residents, staff and trustees of Vale House.