

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDFORD ON THAMES

December 2025

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 7th.

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 14th
at
6.30 pm

CAROLS AT THE KING'S ARMS

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



Paul and Angela write: A big **THANK YOU** to all who
came to celebrate our sixtieth wedding anniversary
on Sunday the 16th 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 70th.

PCC MEETING

Thursday 4th December
at 7.30 p.m.

Talking Shop

Christmas Food Market
7th December

Come along for delicious food
and unique gifts

Wreath making
with Natalie Ellett,

18th 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 5th
December, probably 6.30 - 10pm
Help very welcome: offers to
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: 3rd December 2.0 – 4.0

Cost £4. Book at pruereynolds96@gmail.com

No tea in January – back in February



**Saturday 6th 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

SUNDAYS in December 2025 Year A

Sunday 7th 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 14th 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 21st 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 24th 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 25th 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 28th 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.