



CONTACT MAGAZINE



November 2025 – January 2026
ST MARY'S KINGSWINFORD
& CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION WALL HEATH

There is no charge for the magazine but a donation to cover costs would be appreciated **Thank you.**

The views expressed in the article in this publication are not necessarily the views of the PCC of the parish of Kingswinford.



Welcome to the November to January edition of
CONTACT

I am hoping that you enjoy reading the articles.
If there is anything you would like to see included in the next edition,
or any comments you like to make about this edition, just drop me an
email. I can only make it **your** magazine if I know what you want to
see in the magazine.

The copy date for the next edition is

22 January 2026

Please send your articles to Chris Knight
knightchristine2059@gmail.com





Father Adam writes

Dear friends



At our patronal festival in September, we were fortunate to have the Diocesan Secretary, Fr Andy Todd as our preacher. In a deep and insightful sermon Andy quoted the fourteenth century theologian and mystic, Meister Eckhart, and his thoughts on the Blessed Virgin Mary. Somehow over the years Eckhart's views on the Mother of Jesus had passed me by but when Andy quoted them, I found something deeply profound and challenging and something which speaks into the church around the world today and the church we belong to here in Kingswinford and Wall Heath. The quote was this:

“What good is it to me if Mary gave birth to [Jesus] fourteen hundred years ago and I do not also give birth to [Him] in my time and in my culture? *We are all meant to be Mary.*”

What struck me with this wisdom and insight from Eckhart is that all too often the life of Mary is seen as a fixed historical event, 2000 years ago for us, a fixed historical event which starts off in a Bethlehem stable and concludes at the Cross where the Biblical narrative of Mary ends. And because of Mary's life being seen as something historical, something fixed in time, we don't reflect deeply on what our response to her life and witness should be. For me, this is what Eckhart did. He looked at the life of Mary, especially her carrying and giving birth to the Christ child and thought about what that meant for him in his own time, in his own world and community. The interesting challenge is for us to then do the same.

Through Mary God became incarnate in the world, living and breathing with us. Because of Mary doing this Jesus grew in an adult and at 30 years old he started his public ministry. We don't really know what took place before that moment, but Mary would have been at the heart of it. Raising a child, watching him grow, giving him opportunities to try different things, seeing him develop until he was ready to take up his ministry and change the world forever in the process.

As we head towards Christmas and use Advent as a time of preparation, I encourage us all to reflect on what Eckhart's challenge means for us today. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, as we give thanks to Mary for being willing to do this, this event must result in a response from us and the response must be how do we give birth to Jesus in our time, in

our context, in our community? How do we give space and time for Jesus to grow today? How do we give birth to Jesus today so that others can get to know him and his ministry can be shared and transform our communities today?

I've been inspired by this idea from a fourteenth century mystic and challenged to think about how we give birth to Jesus today in our worship, in our outreach (especially to the new housing estate in our parish) and in our common life together. As we approach Christmas 2025 I want us all to think and pray deeply about how, in amongst the much loved Bible stories, carols and liturgies, we can use this Christmas to give birth to Jesus today and move into 2026 ready to share what his birth means for Kingswinford and Wall Heath in the future and not just the past.

This Christmas, BE Mary.

With love and prayers for the forthcoming seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Fr Adam



Mother Sarah writes...

There's something about the start of a new school year, after the lull of the summer break, with fresh notebooks, new stationery and a completely new timetable that makes many want to start new things.

For our children and grandchildren that might be joining in a new after school club or learning a new skill, and for those of us who've seen a good many new terms it can be that return to a rhythm of the weeks or months again, as we get back into a routine, perhaps incorporating something new into that too.

And so it is with the launch of New Worshipping Communities alongside our established worship across our churches. The new alongside the routine...and here's a taster of some of what that new has looked like this autumn.

Hearts on Fire

Some of you might have remembered in a previous edition of the magazine that I'd written about the impending launch of our charismatic mass, held monthly at S. Mary's. Our first service was held in September and it was a really promising start to this, new for here, style of worship, supported by our own worship band leading our sung praise.



Many folk spoke of how they weren't sure what to expect, but they were glad they came and how they could think of someone they'd bring along. You can't beat a personal invitation - it's much more powerful by far than any publicity we can put out!

In October, Rev Paul Wilcox, a great friend of both churches came and preached for us, and this will be a regular feature of Hearts on Fire as we invite guest preachers each month. Keep a look out on the notice sheets and on social media, and come along and give it a try!

Choir church

September, with the start on term was the natural timing choice to begin laying the foundations for choir church at S. Mary's school, with Sian and myself going in weekly to do whole year singing with year 4, 5 & 6, learning a wide range of repertoire from folk songs, hymns and some Isingpop songs too.

This is foundational because soon we hope to launch an optional *choir church* at the school, which will become another NWC and in which the young people will take a greater role leading and planning outreach, as they deepen their faith through understanding what they are singing.

Pet service

The feast of S. Francis, with stories of him preaching to the birds and caring for creation is a natural time in the church's year to offer a pet blessing service, and it was a joy to be able to hold this outside in October in the garden at Ascension. We have beautiful spaces outside of our



church buildings and it's great to take worship beyond the walls and out into the community.

The canine congregation were really attentive and some even joined in singing, and their human companions spent some time reflecting on seeing God's fingerprints in creation, with the help of modelling clay. Messy but fun!



It's already in the diary for next year and I'll be more than happy to pray for and give thanks for a whole range of pet friends once again (but I have to say, I'm holding out for someone to bring an alpaca!)

It's been good to get these new services and initiatives going, and I'm really excited to see how they develop. As always, there needs to be continued prayer behind all we offer as a church and so I ask you to commit to pray for all that is happening across the parish, both inside, and out of our church buildings.

Blessings, Mthr Sarah

New Archbishop of Canterbury announced



His Majesty The King has approved the nomination of the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, as the next Archbishop of Canterbury, Downing Street has announced. The 106th Archbishop of Canterbury since Saint Augustine arrived in Kent from Rome in 597, Bishop Sarah will be the first woman to hold the office.

She will be installed in a service at Canterbury Cathedral in March 2026. Sarah Mullally has been the Bishop of London since 2018, the first woman appointed to that role, and before that was Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter. Prior to her ordination in 2001, she was the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England – the youngest person ever to be appointed to that role at the age of 37 – having previously specialised as a cancer nurse. Bishop Sarah has described nursing as "an opportunity to reflect the love of God".

The most senior bishop in the Church of England, the Archbishop of Canterbury's ministry combines many roles including serving as the Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of Canterbury, Primate of All England and Metropolitan, as well as primus inter pares – or first among equals – of the Primate of the global Anglican Communion, which consists of around 85 million people, across 165 countries. In the House of Lords, the Archbishop of Canterbury is one of 26 bishops who comprise the Lords Spiritual.

Bishop Sarah said: "As I respond to the call of Christ to this new ministry, I do so in the same spirit of service to God and to others that has motivated me since I first came to faith as a teenager.

"At every stage of that journey, through my nursing career and Christian ministry, I have learned to listen deeply – to people and to God's gentle prompting – to seek to bring people together to find hope and healing.

"I want, very simply, to encourage the Church to continue to grow in confidence in the Gospel, to speak of the love that we find in Jesus Christ and for it to shape our actions.

"And I look forward to sharing this journey of faith with the millions of people serving God and their communities in parishes all over the country and across the global Anglican Communion.

"I know this is a huge responsibility but I approach it with a sense of peace and trust in God to carry me as He always has."

Bishop Martin commented on the appointment saying:

"I am delighted to welcome Bishop Sarah as the next Archbishop of Canterbury. She is a proven leader, with a passionate commitment to Jesus Christ, who longs to see her church and country grow in faith, hope, love and joy. She can be assured of our prayers and support in Dudley and Worcestershire as she prepares to begin her demanding new role."

On 28 January 2026, there will be a Confirmation of Election at St Paul's Cathedral in London, at which Bishop Sarah will legally become the Archbishop of Canterbury.

In March there will be an Installation (sometimes referred to as an 'enthronement') at Canterbury Cathedral, which denotes and marks the start of the new Archbishop of Canterbury's ministry.

Save the date - Saturday 17 January 2026

Installation of Bishop Hugh



Bishop Hugh Nelson will be the 114th Bishop of Worcester.

He is currently the Bishop of St Germans in the Diocese of Truro, a position he has held since 2020, serving as the Acting Bishop of Truro from Sept 2023 until May this year. He is also Bishop to the Armed Forces, providing spiritual and pastoral leadership to Anglican Chaplains serving in the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force, a role which he will continue to hold as Bishop of Worcester.

Ordained in 2008, Hugh served his curacy in six rural parishes in East Kent before serving for eight years as the parish priest of Goudhurst with Kilndown, two village churches in the Diocese of Canterbury. Before ordination, Hugh spent 13 years living and leading the community of L'Arche London, part of an international network of ecumenical Christian communities where people with and without learning disabilities share life together.

He is married to Lizzie, who is UK Director of Search for Common Ground, an international NGO which works to transform conflicts and build peace. Hugh and Lizzie have four children in their teens and twenties. Hugh loves hanging out with his family, gardening, and playing and watching football, rugby, and cricket. He is delighted that he will be living opposite New Road Cricket Ground!

Please pray for Bishop Hugh

Gracious and loving God,
through your Son Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd,
you have called us into the fellowship
of your universal Church:
we thank you for calling your servant Hugh
to be Bishop of Worcester;
sustain him by your love,
strengthen him in faith
encourage him in hope
and grant him the needful gifts of grace;
that through his ministry among us
we may live and grow as Kingdom People
sharing faith, hope and love in Jesus' name. Amen

Remembrance Sunday

Many thousands fell on battlefields.
The churned-up ground brings poppy yields.
Poppies as red as the blood they shed.
Poppies we now wear to honour the dead.
“We will remember” is what we say.
Then listen to the bugler play.
Memories bright in many an eye.
Of friends who marched off ...to die.
‘It is your duty to defend the Crown.’
From break of day until sundown.
Drop the bomb, fire the gun,
Fight until the battle's won.
Only then we count the cost,
Record the number of lives lost.
Their names recorded on the plaque,
Of those who never made it back.
Back across the Channel's foam,
To sit in their favourite chair at home.
They are saluted by those who march on by,
Reading those names cause some to cry.
And many more to question why?
Did so many have to die





Unexpected Treasures

By the Diocesan Secretary, Fr Andy Todd.

What things do you most treasure? I wouldn't be at all surprised if they have little value in financial terms – things like a first painting or drawing brought home from school by a child, a letter from a loved one, or an irreplaceable photograph. Treasure is where your heart is.

The story is told of a prosperous businessman seen hurrying to a butcher's shop on Christmas Eve during the Depression of the 1930s. 'Buying your Christmas turkey?' a friend asked. 'No, hot dogs,' answered the businessman. He explained how a bank failure had suddenly wiped out his fortune. He faced Christmas with no money for gifts and less than a pound for food. Next day, he and his wife and small child said grace before dinner and then ate hot dogs – a whole kennel of them, in fact: his wife had given each frankfurter toothpicks for legs and dental floss for tails, ears and hair. Their child was enchanted, and her infectious delight spread merriment among them all. After dinner they gave thanks again for the most loving and festive time they'd ever had. 'Now it's tradition,' the man said. 'Hot dogs for Christmas – to remind us of that happy day when we realised that we still had one another and our God-given sense of humour.'

Christmas can be many things, but it is certainly an invitation to rediscover the treasure of being really human. What gives life meaning is not the accumulation of ever more material comforts, but a willingness to be open to those around: and that includes - unexpectedly perhaps - the vulnerable and marginalised in our society, not just family and friends. That kind of openness is risky, but our model and inspiration is the God who comes in the form of a defenceless baby. No centre stage, crowds or applause for him. Just a scruffy outhouse and a few oddball visitors. This king, it seems, needs to be looked for in unexpected places; but when anyone welcomes him, and in him all the world's vulnerable and defenceless, they find the greatest treasure of all.

So, look for treasure in unexpected places, and may you find unexpected joys this Advent and Christmas season.

Bob's Boys! Churchyard World

Well rain has started after that beautiful hot period when we could not mow the grass. However, the hot period did give us time to cut down brambles which covered graves. The grass is now growing with a vengeance. We cut the grass one week, it grows to the same length as before and must be mowed again the following week.

As you will have seen we have cleared out the weeds and moved a bush in the garden in front of the church centre. We have now planted 330 spring bulbs so look out for the display next year.

One of biggest problems we face is getting rid of the green rubbish we produce so we must burn it periodically. We couldn't do this during a very dry spell and we had to wait for a south, south-easterly wind. The rubbish had accumulated and with favourable conditions the big burn could commence. With the use of the leaf blower, we managed to encourage the fire and the rubbish is now a heap of ash.

Timber Tim is now in the churchyard tending to our trees.

We will continue mowing, strimming, and clearing up the leaves through the Autumn season to ensure the churchyard is a beautiful and restful place to visit.

Bob Green



Notes from the Vicarage Garden, October 2025

I have a trick which I perform every year in late summer to keep the colour in the borders going well into autumn. I grow several Rudbeckias and Aster frikartii (two of the best plants for late summer and autumn) in large pots which I place in gaps amongst the permanent plants, in positions where the pots are hidden by foliage. Only careful scrutiny can spot the deception and this year it has worked particularly well, because the plants in the pots have grown much taller than those in the border, as they have been much easier to water. It is very difficult to persuade water to penetrate the very dry soil you get in the kind of drought we experienced this summer, and many herbaceous plants in the borders were stunted, but when you water a plant in a pot, the water seeps down right to the bottom. Mind you, you do have to water them frequently.

I feel very slightly apologetic about this practice, with a vague sense that it is, in some way, cheating. I don't really know why; some people grow all their plants in pots. But it is, I suppose, an example of instant gardening and as a rule, gardeners have to exercise patience, especially in autumn, when many of the jobs we do won't bear fruit for several months. Planting bulbs is an obvious example of this, but there are also other jobs which I like to do in autumn or winter when the rhythm of the garden slows and there seems to be more time. I always sow my sweet peas in October. They germinate within two weeks and grow slowly over the winter, as long as you can keep the slugs off them, and they need protection only from the very harshest of winter weather. I will plant them out towards the end of March and expect to pick the first flowers at the end of May, seven or eight months after sowing. And the plants are much stronger than those sown in spring and produce large flowers on long stems which look lovely in a vase. Autumn is also a good time to sow hardy annuals such as Love-in-a Mist, cornflowers or poppies direct in the border. They will usually germinate quite quickly and overwinter as seedlings before bursting into growth in spring and flowering early on plants that, again, are much stronger than those sown in spring.

There is also time to do those jobs which no one will ever notice you have done. I have recently been getting down on my hands and knees pulling ivy seedlings up from underneath a yew hedge. No one will look at that hedge in a few years time and say, "Look, that yew hedge isn't being throttled by ivy!" But that is what would have happened if I hadn't taken that preventative action. Likewise, cleavers, or goosegrass, germinates in the autumn to get a head start over other plants and by early spring they are

already romping their way up hedges and shrubs. Before you know it, they are shedding their sticky seeds all over the garden and getting rid of them is quite a task. If you can pull them up in the autumn, when they are still small, you will save yourself a lot of work.

Collecting leaves to make leaf mould is an even greater act of faith; they can take two years or more to break down sufficiently to use as a mulch or soil-conditioner.

But gardeners are constantly looking to the future. When I do these autumn jobs I think of the passage in Matthew's Gospel about storing up treasures in heaven. In this case it is the heaven of next spring, when, of course, we will have just enough rain and just enough sunshine and no late frosts and everything will be perfect!

Simon Daniel, October 2025



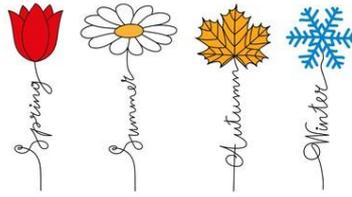
Rudbeckias and
Asters

The Seasons

As I came out of church the abundance of colours from the fallen leaves caught my eye and warmed my heart. Autumn has clearly crept up on us once more; its beauty is spectacular. It is a strange time where dark nights and cold mornings give us the impression hibernation is in order. So that we can sleep till the weather is warmer, and mornings and nights are lighter once more. Our spiritual lives have similar pattern, while one thing finishes and another begins. Each season has a beauty of its own, just like our faith. We too experience a sense of loss yet remember all of the beauty it gave us. Living in a time of transition, transforms our lives and enriches our hearts, allowing us all to be filled with gratitude that we have those moments to treasure. Deep within ourselves, spiritual seeds have been planted, waiting for those times where the Spirit will awaken our souls and enrich our walk in faith. Just like Autumn, nature when scatters the seeds that will bring new growth.

As I browsed through previous magazine articles to jog my memory, it came to my notice that I had already talked about seasons. I waited and then thought I believe it is very important to recall what we have written before, because it's a healthy reminder that through the difficulties of past years , we have managed to come , due to the support, strength and love we have received from God. So, there is a time where the same words can give comfort, bring a smile or awaken our senses once more. Autumn is a time of remembrance, a time of anticipation and time of joy. Losing loved ones and dear friends has brought to each one of us sadness, yet despite all of that we still can celebrate new birth, alongside signs of joy and hope. Just like Jesus, the trauma, and hardships that it brought as we look back at Easter, yet new beginnings as we await that Christmas morning and the coming of his birth. Creation has provided us with the many wonders of world, through the transformation of the seasons, the richness of colours each one holds, and the beauty provided by God its maker. Our lives follow the same pattern, God gives us his love, comfort and strength that feeds us and allow us to move forward with every beat of our heart and breath we take on our onward faith journey. Whatever or whoever has planted those seeds in our lives, let us allow God to nurture them so that we can move forward safely surrounded by the arms of our Lord who is our protector and friend.

God Bless, Karen Whitehouse



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*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8***



iSingPop

During the first week of August, Kingswinford parish hosted an exciting iSingPOP holiday club at St Mary's Church, using both the church hall and surrounding grounds. The club proved hugely popular, with attendance peaking at 53 children. Central to the club was iSingPOP's signature blend of high-energy, feel-good worship music. Over three days, the children enthusiastically learnt a selection of iSingPOP songs and dance-moves, culminating in "the main event" on the fourth day with a concert held at St Mary's Church, where parents gathered to watch their children perform and showcase what they'd learnt. Beyond music, each day offered a rich mix of creative activities, storytelling, competitions, drama, and games. 28 staff and volunteers facilitated the club, and a great time was had by all!



Thou Art God

Thou art the peace of all things calm.
Thou art the place to hide from harm.
Thou art the light that shines in the dark.
Thou art the heart's eternal spark
Thou art the door that's open wide.
Thou art the guest who waits inside.
Thou art the stranger at the door
Thou art the calling of the poor
Thou art my Lord and with me still
Thou art love, keep me from ill.
Thou art the light, the truth, the way
Thou art my Saviour this very day.

Thank you, Audrey, for this poem.

Harvest at Church of the Ascension

✨The Mainly Music preschool group at Church of the Ascension had a wonderful time celebrating Harvest! 🍁🍂

Together we collected donations for Brierley Hill Baby bank and the Food Bank, helping to support families in our community. 🍷

The children loved singing songs about all the amazing animals and creatures God created 🦋🐦, and we ended the session with our favourite song – the one that reminds us just how special we are! 🎵🎶
We're so thankful for everyone who joined in and gave so generously.



Our Harvest Festival Café Church was on the theme of eco church. Adam told us the story of Noah, reminding us of our responsibility to be active in conserving our world. We made wildflower seedballs and bug hotels, coloured floral bible verses, and pondered on some Biblical quotes. Sian and her girls led us in an iSingPop song with lots of actions, globes were available to pray over in church, and we all shared the Eucharist.



Harvest Supper 2025 at St Mary's Church

On Saturday Evening, 4 October, 33 of us gathered in the church hall to enjoy a sumptuous Ploughman's supper, followed by apple pie and cream and all served with a glass of wine or fruit juice to celebrate Harvest Festival. We followed our lovely meal with games of bingo and beetle and the traditional raffle. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, despite some of us becoming a little bit over competitive when it came to playing beetle!! Prizes a plenty were won throughout the evening. Many thanks to everyone who helped organise the evening and special thanks to Marj for her delicious homemade apple pies – once again a big hit!

Our next social event will be on Saturday 6 December – Christmas Quiz Night – see the flyer for more detail.

And then on Saturday 13 December we have our Wreath making workshop – again see the flyer for details.

We are also looking for volunteers to join the social committee to help organise events in 2026. If you would like to join the team, please speak to Helen Moren – thank you.



Ising Pop Up

Sian led our first iSingPop pop-up service in October: 8 children learned three songs, saw a video about Jesus' first disciples, did some colouring and worked out who would say which parts of the service, all in an hour and a bit! Then we enjoyed drinks and biscuits with the congregation and the children's families before going into church for the short service led by the children. All the families joined in the songs, and Sammy ran the IT, thank you.



Quiet Day at Holland House

Mother Sarah ran a very restful Quiet Day at Holland House, the diocesan retreat house near Pershore. We said morning and early evening prayer as well as a Mass in the beautiful chapel and otherwise enjoyed the peace of the library and the gardens. We had a great lunch too! 18 people from the parish attended.



Light Festival

This year the Church of the Ascension will be having a Light Festival. At Christmas will celebrate the coming into the world the most important light in our world of darkness **Jesus**. The church will be decorated with both stars and candles. Stars because they have been given us by God to beautify the night sky and candles because for many years they provided light in our homes and candles are used in church to signify the presence with us of Christ, who was, is and always will be , **The Light of The World**.

On the open day members of the church community will be in the square opposite the church giving out stars that they have made.

Each star will have a card attached which will read,
“This star is given you with love. From all at the Church of the Ascension. It represents God’s light, healing and hope. Please take it home with you and hang it on your tree. Or give it to someone who you know needs praying for at this time”.

For further information see the poster towards the back of the magazine



Avin a Bostin Christmas!

Soon after they was married, Joseph cum in an told Mary: "Arv ad a letter from the tax mon, and that Ceasar of own says as we've got to goo to wheer we was born to be taxed. So we've go tto traipse all the way to Bethlehem next wick."

Mary cut sum sandwiches an packed a few cairkes an opples. Then er med a bottle a tay, (then the thermoses then) an when they'd ad a daysent breakfast, Joseph got the donkey out, put Mary on, an away they went. "Cheer up, our kid. It ay far now," Joseph told er.

"Yo can see teh lapms in Bethlehem down the road. We'll soon av a rest. I shore be sorry neither. I keep gettin bricks an sond in me sandals."

When they got into town, Joseph knocked on the door of an inn an asked for a double room. The bloke what answered said: "I cor elp yer,. There's that mony on em eere they'm avin ter sleep in the passage."

The next un was like it an all, but Joseph said to the chap: "Aint there anywhere we can goo? My missus is out theer on a donkey, an er's gooin ter av a babby soon."

The chap scratched his yed, then ee ad an idea. Ee said: "We cleaned the stable out after tay, so it ay mucky. If I shift a couple of osses an a camel, you could kip down theer."

Joseph day even bother to ask Mary. Ee said: "We'll tek it," straight off.

In the noight, Mary woke Joseph up an said: "The babby's ere." So Jesus was born, an they wrapped im up tight an put im in the manger what the osses et out on. Mary an Joseph wor arf proud.



Thank you to Mary Green for this article.



‘While Shepherds watched their flocks by night.’

The key to this carol’s enduring popularity must lie in its universality and its simplicity. It is about ordinary people and ordinary things, sheep, fields and men sitting on the ground. Then suddenly, they find themselves caught up in the Christmas story. It is engaging, characterful and full of joy. When we sing this carol, the shepherds are us.

It tells its familiar tale in language which is simple yet direct. There are no words longer than two syllables and even those tend to be clear, expressive adjectives, adverbs and nouns, colouring the narrative in bright primary colours ‘mighty’, ‘meanly’, ‘troubled’, ‘glory’.

The poem ‘Whilst shepherds watched their flocks by night’ is usually ascribed to Nahum Tate who was the Poet Laureate at the end of the seventeenth century. Noteworthy is that it was the only Christmas carol that could be legally sung in churches for the majority of the eighteenth century which is partly why it caught on as well as it did. However, another reason is its simplicity. Many carols have been changed by subsequent editors and arrangers but not this one. Apart from the first word that has over the years changed from ‘whilst’ to ‘while’ it is the very first English carol which we still sing in its original version. So, the cheery message it portrays of goodwill really looks like as if it might ‘begin and never cease.’



Pause, Pray, Ponder Praise

This will be a service held at Church of Ascension, held on the third Sunday of each month. It will be a reflective service in which there will be time set aside to just sit quietly with God, time to let the worries concerns of everyday life fall from our shoulders as we allow God to speak to us in the quietness.

Pause our busy lives to be alone with God.

Pray about what is heavy on our mind, allowing God to lift the burden and help us move forward.

Ponder more deeply on a passage from the Bible, considering what message it contains for us.

Praise God in quiet song that gives us a word, phrase, a message that we can take forward into the coming week.

The first of these services will be held on the 18th of January 2026 at 4pm.

I would be delighted to see you there.

Love to you all.

Chris Knight



From the registers at St Mary's

Baptisms

27 July	Hugo Harley Humphries	son of Adam and Carolann
27 July	Poppy Jayne Lewis	daughter of Daniel and Abigail
10 August	Brody Leonard George Gresswell	son of Nickolas and Rachel
10 August	Jacob Reynolds	son of Christopher and Natasha
10 August	Holly Reynolds	daughter of Christopher and Natasha
14 September	Albie Jay Lawrence	son of Lewis and Lauren
28 September	Aria Theia O'Sullivan	daughter of Thomas and Katie
12 October	Isaac Benjamin Woodall	son of Ben and Nicola
12 October	Leo Michael Woodall	son of Ben and Nicola

Marriages

9 August	Mark Beddard and Kerry Louise Dunn
4 September	Bradley Smyj and Gemma Toni Jukes
13 September	Richard Michael Southan and Paula Beddard

Funerals

31 July	Irene Bishop
13 August	Melvyn Bailey
20 August	Susan Deakin
22 August	Arthur Harman
9 September	Betty Holden
2 October	Jill Nicholls

From the registers of Church of the Ascension

Baptisms

10 August	Nima Pouya Zahra Khalili Daniyal Pouya Sara Abbasi Narinabad Bitra Baghayeri Khashayar Ahari Ghazal Hemmatian Mohammad Mahan Dastzlaf Elmira Taheri	son of Nima Pouya and Zahra Khalili
17 August 2025	Penelope Daisy Jones	daughter of Rebecca and Brendon
5 October 2025	Nathanael Khai Lamb	son of Ryan and Lori

Renewal of Marriage Vows

27 August 2025	Pete and Sue Middleton
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Funerals

26 August 2025	Beverley Wood
30 September 2025	Sarah Blackford



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US AT EITHER
CHURCH FOR OUR CHRISTMAS SEASON.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

30 NOV @ 4PM: ADVENT CHORAL EVENSONG

7 DEC @ 8:45AM: SOUL FOOD ALL-AGE WORSHIP

14 DEC @ 2PM: CHRISTINGLE

@ 4PM: HEARTS ON FIRE

EXPECTANT, CHARISMATIC WORSHIP

17 DEC @ 7:30PM: COMMUNITY CAROLS FEAT. WADS

18 DEC @ 6PM: ISINGPOP COMMUNITY NATIVITY

21 DEC @ 8:45AM: SOUL FOOD ALL-AGE WORSHIP

@ 4PM: 9 LESSONS AND CAROLS

CHRISTMAS EVE:

@ 4PM: CHILDREN'S CRIB SERVICE

@ 10PM: FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS DAY: 10AM

JOINT TEAM SERVICE @ ST. MARYS





CHRISTMAS SERVICES

YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US AT EITHER
CHURCH FOR OUR CHRISTMAS SEASON.

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION SERVICES

7 DEC @ 4PM: CHRISTINGLE

9 DEC @ 5PM: SOUL FOOD ALL-AGE WORSHIP

14 DEC @ 10AM: LIGHT FESTIVAL EUCHARIST

20 DEC @ 6PM: OUTDOOR CAROLS ON THE LAWN

21 DEC @ 6:30PM: BLUE CHRISTMAS - THE LONGEST NIGHT

*A SERVICE FOR ANYONE WHO IS FINDING THE
CHRISTMAS SEASON A DIFFICULT TIME OF YEAR.*

CHRISTMAS EVE:

@ 4PM: CHILDREN'S CRIB SERVICE

@ 11:30PM: MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY: 10AM

JOINT TEAM SERVICE @ ST. MARYS





Light Festival

Craft and lunch

6 DECEMBER 2025

10AM-1PM

Open Day

13 DECEMBER 2025

10AM-4PM

14 DECEMBER 2025

*The festival concludes with
a celebration of Holy Communion*

10AM



**WWW.CHURCHOFTHEASCENSION
WALLHEATH.ORG.UK**

COME AND VISIT OUR

Christmas Tree Festival

29TH AND 30TH NOVEMBER 2025



Plus stalls
and cafe in
the church
centre

OPENING TIMES:

29TH Nov: 10AM-3PM

30TH Nov: 11:30AM-3PM

4PM: ADVENT CHORAL

EVENSONG

St Mary's
KINGSWINFORD

WWW.STMARYSKINGSWINFORD.ORG.UK



St Mary's
KINGSWINFORD

COME AND JOIN US!

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, KINGSWINFORD



Wreath making workshop

13 DECEMBER, 2025
1:30-3:30PM

WWW.STMARYSKINGSWINFORD.ORG.UK

£15

to include hot drinks and
mince pies, wreath making
demonstrations and all the
materials needed to make
your own wreath!



www.stmaryskingswinford.org.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/stmaryschurchkingswinford>

For Baptisms, Weddings and General Enquiries:

Please contact the Parish Office
Every Saturday 10am-11am (in the church centre next to church) or
admin@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk

**For end of life ministry or pastoral care please contact one of the clergy
in the first instance**

Children are fully welcomed at all our services.

SUNDAY 10am WORSHIP

10am Every first, third and fourth Sunday of the month - Sung Eucharist
 Every second Sunday of the month - Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 6.30PM WORSHIP

6.30pm Every second Sunday of the month – Evensong
 Every fourth Sunday of the month – Either Benediction with
 Taizé music or a Memorial Service for those who have died
 (to find out which, see our website)

MAINLY MUSIC

10am Every Monday during term time.
 Pre school worship with music, dancing, bubbles, play time and cake!
 Contact Sian Morgan for more information.

SOUL FOOD

8.45am Eat food, make friends, explore the Bible and worship.
 All ages, all together.
 7 & 21 December
 4 & 18 January
 1 & 15 February
 1 & 15 March
 Contact Fr Chris or Sian Morgan for further information.

HEARTS ON FIRE

4pm

Every second Sunday of the month.

A Charismatic Mass with modern worship songs, healing ministry and traditional liturgy. Incense is used at this service.

COFFEE MORNING

Every second and fourth Thursday of the month between 10am and 12noon. Everyone is welcome to drop in for a cuppa.

BELL RINGERS

Our bells date from 1687 and are rung for Sunday Services and on Tuesday evenings for practice.

Anyone can learn – no special skills or strength needed!

For information, email our Tower Captain Daniel Clewes
danielclewes@yahoo.co.uk

Ringling takes place on Tuesdays 7.15pm-8.45pm and
Sundays 9.30am – 10am.

SERVERS

The team of Servers play a key roll in the smooth running of most services at St Mary's. For more details contact one of the clergy.

MOTHERS' UNION

Afternoon group meets on 1st Wednesday of the month in the Church Centre at 2.00pm.

For more details contact Mary Thompson, Liz Green or Eve Hamblett.

Evening Group for the working women or those unable to get to daytime meetings, contact Helen Moren or Adele Hurst.

CHOIR

The choir is a vital aid to the worship of our church.

If you are interested in church music, you will enjoy all the choir has to offer.

For more information ring Emily Vivash on 07814 284725.

CHURCH CENTRE

To hire the Church Centre please contact Lindsey Poulding on 07729 092973.

CHURCHYARD TEAM

We have a dedicated, friendly group of volunteers who meet each Monday between 9am and 12.30pm to maintain our beautiful churchyard. We are always after new people to come and join in with this important work.

For more information contact Bob Green on 01384 270228.



www.churchoftheascensionwallheath.org.uk/
<https://www.facebook.com/CofAWallHeath>

**For end of life ministry or pastoral care please contact one of the clergy
in the first instance**

SUNDAY 10am WORSHIP 10am each Sunday. The first Sunday is Morning Prayer and the second, third and fourth Sundays are Eucharist services. Children are fully welcomed at all our services.

MAINLY MUSIC 10am-11.30am each Thursday. Pre school worship with music, dancing, bubbles, play time and cake! Please contact Sian Morgan for more information.

SOUL FOOD Eat food, make friends, explore the Bible and worship. All ages, all together. Meets at 5pm on 11 & 25 November, 9 December, 6 & 20 January, 3 & 17 February and 3 & 17 March. Contact Fr Chris or Sian Morgan for further information.

CHURCH CLUB Primary age children's worship with craft/games/Bible stories alternate Tuesdays after school, in term-time, contact Sheila Freeman on 01384 357921. Permission slips in the school office.

MOTHERS' UNION First Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm in the Church Hall. Any changes will be announced on the news sheet. Contact Jane Lamb on 01384 274604

WORSHIP BAND Contact Debbie Filgate on 01384 287711

HALL BOOKING Available for private parties or regular bookings contact Lindsey Poulding on office@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk 07729 092973

FLOWER ARRANGING For festivals and special events. If you would like to join the team contact Jane Lamb on 01384 274604.

SOCIAL EVENTS We aim to offer social events throughout the year. Contact Becky Jones on 07521 739404 for forthcoming events.

Church of the Ascension is a member of the Inclusive Church Network
<https://www.inclusive-church.org/>

**WHO'S WHO
ST MARY'S KINGSWINFORD
CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION WALL HEATH**

PRIEST IN CHARGE

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MISSION PRIEST

Mthr Sarah Roberts-Malpass

mthr.sarah@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk

07976 965275

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTER

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

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sian@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk

07729 092972

CURATE

Fr Chris Smith

fr.chris@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk

07562 949395

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR & CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

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07729 092973

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Grace Wrigglesworth

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07562 955888

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01384 270045

Debbie Filgate

01384 287711

Chris Knight

07546 159813

AUTHORISED LAY MINISTERS

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Children and Young People

01384 271662

Bill Hazelton

Worship Leader

01384 250366

Helen Moren

Worship Leader

01384 270757

Neil Oliver

Worship Leader

07720 783330

Jenny Stewart

Pastoral

07723 535740

Karen Whitehouse

Worship Leader

01384 864709

CHURCHWARDENS

Helen Moren	St Mary's Church	01384 270757
Neil Oliver	St Mary's Church	07720 783330
Jean Blakemore	Church of the Ascension	01384 270828
Jenny Stewart	Church of the Ascension	07723 535740

CHURCH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Sheila Abrahams	St Mary's Church	01384 271662
Jean Blakemore	Church of Ascension	01384 270828

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DIRECTORS OF MUSIC

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Emily Vivash	St Mary's	07814 284725

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High Street, Wordsley,
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