CONTACT MAGAZINE



November 2026 to January 2027

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 greatly 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 hope you enjoy reading the articles.
If there is anything you would like to see in the next edition or any comments you would like to make about this edition, just drop me an email or speak to me when you see me.
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:

21 January 2027

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





Fr Adam writes....



One of the joys of ministry over the last few years has been working with people who are exploring a call to ordination. This has been with people on the Auxiliary Pathway (those who will remain in the parish where they have been for many years), those who will be self-supporting clergy and those who will be stipendiary clergy. As an Associate Diocesan Director of Ordinands, I have heard people's stories of how they feel God has called them to offer themselves to be ordained. It has been a great privilege to journey with these people and prepare them for national selection conferences. As ministry changes this is a role I've recently laid down but it has shaped my time in Kingswinford and Wall Heath as I've felt well equipped to discern vocations in our own parish and then encourage them.

And this is what I feel called to write about in this edition of our magazine. Since I've arrived, I've seen all kinds of vocations bubble up across our two churches. From more obvious ones around Authorised Lay Ministry to Licenced Lay Ministry (Readers) and more recently people exploring ordained ministry. I've also seen it in what might seem less obvious ways with people putting themselves forward to support Mainly Music or Soul Food, people standing for DCCs, PCCs and Deanery Synod. Most recently Jane Price has offered herself to be the Parish Safeguarding Officer, a critical role which requires deep commitment and drive and I'm extremely grateful for Jane stepping into this role.

When Jesus was ministering, he was always very clear about not making it all about him. The work he undertook wasn't a one man show but a clear community of people ministering across the area. After Jesus' death the disciples didn't hold onto ministry just for themselves but shared it out and discerned what others could bring to ministry. It has been thus ever since. The Church has always been a community engaged in ministry in a wide variety of ways. When thinking about ministry we may automatically think of bishops, priests, and deacons but it's so much more than that. Ministry is wide and varied from making tea and coffee to visiting people who are lonely. Ministry is about keeping our finances in good order to making sure we comply with charity law. Ministry is mowing lawns to challenging how we care for creation. Ministry is about praying for those who need our prayers.

I've been genuinely excited by the bubbling up of all kinds of ministry here in Kingswinford and Wall Heath and I hope you are too, but we can't rest on our laurels. Christian ministry is dynamic and evolving, it's fluid and seasonal, it's discerned and led by the Holy Spirit. So, my challenge to each one of us is continuing to discern what ministries God is calling you to today and in the future. There are so many for us all to find our place in so always come and chat to members of the clergy about what God is calling you to in his Church today.

I continue to be excited about what God calls each one of us to, I hope you are too and I hope each one of us will respond to the voice of God calling us to minister in his church today as he has done so in each previous generation.

With my love and prayers,

Fr Adam

Congratulations Father Adam on your election to the General Synod. May God be with you on this new venture.



Mthr Sarah writes…

Autumnal offerings

Before I started in ministry, I'd never worked outside of term dates, and so the autumn to me always has that fresh start feel, time to embrace new ideas and try new things, just as we encourage our children to do as they begin a new school year, some of them for the first time.

I do love autumn so much.

I love the leaves as they turn all sorts of different hues. Green and gold and red, that vivid palate of autumnal beauty, and if you've spotted me walking through the park you'll know I'm still a big kid at heart. I absolutely love crunching through leaves and kicking through them and searching for shiny brown conkers and sycamore helicopters on walks, as the trees let go of all which has served its purpose in order for new potential to be realised.

And it's that time of new potential that I find most engaging about autumn. Having always worked in terms, I've always approached September and October with a zest and a readiness for the new, after a summer that hopefully allows some time for quiet and reflection.

And the beginning of this autumn certainly had that fresh new feel to it, with new ventures springing up once again across the parish.

Here's some of what I've been involved with in addition to the usual weekly and monthly pattern.

Choir church

At the start of September, it was great to return to St. Mary's School each week and build on the foundations for the Choir Church I began last year. Having previously gone in weekly for whole school singing, this term has seen the launch of the choir church itself, a new worshipping community, taking place each Thursday after school. This has seen a dozen children gather each week, as we learn new repertoire, build on singing confidence, and pray together as we explore faith in a relaxed session. This term, especially as creation has put on her showy dance of colours, we've drawn inspiration in our prayers and in our activities from nature, thinking about creation care and ongoing commitment.

This has included time for outdoor worship, contemplative prayer activities, and discussions about how to go forward, treading lightly on the earth and caring for God's creation. The choir had their first performance in the school harvest festival.

Pet service
The potential for outdoor worship has once again been embraced as we held our second pet service at church of the ascension on the feast of S. Francis, patron saint of ecology, and the environment. Once again, it was good to consider our impact on creation and make our commitment to care for all of God's wonderful creation. We were joined by so many beautiful dogs and their owners with the addition of a welcome visitor of a skunk, which was the first for me!

Building on from that engagement with pet owners and the desire to worship and grow communities beyond our church walls, this November will see the inaugural **OMD** session.

Oh, My Dog is an opportunity for people who like to walk with a dog or without, to come together and walk and talk whilst engaging with creation and following the lead of our canine companions, and one another, to really notice our surroundings.

Think of it as walking church. But with dogs. Why not give it a try on the first Friday of the month at 10am, meeting in the garden at Church of the Ascension.

Community choir
Tuesday nights have seen the launch of the community choir at Church of the Ascension, an opportunity to join together having fun, building friendships and community. Over twenty folk have made this their time, gaining confidence singing some familiar songs and show tunes and the choir will have their first outing singing at the outdoor carol service on the 19th of December.

So much to be thankful for, and so much to look forward to as we grow in community and in sharing and exploring our faith here in Kingswinford and Wall Heath.

Thanks be to God!

Mthr Sarah



So many smiling faces!



Bob’s Boys

Well, autumn has arrived and the temperature is dropping as the leaves fall. from the trees. We’ve had a summer so hot that the grass turned to straw, so we did not mow.

Now the rain is falling, and the temperatures have been in the lower twenties which has turned our straw into wonderful, lush green grass. Unfortunately, when the grass is wet, we cannot mow because it clogs the mowers, so we have areas of very long grass. In these areas we have a team of three, one.

strimming, one racking the strimmed grass into piles and one following up with a mower. A very time-consuming practice.

As well as the grass the brambles are starting to grow again as well so we know what our winter job will be. As the leaves fall, we hope to keep our walkways as leaf free as possible

Bob Green



Notes from the Vicarage Garden, October 2026

Spring is usually considered to be the season of rebirth, but after the exceptionally hot and dry summer, this autumn has, in some ways, seemed like a second spring. Recent rain has kindled a renaissance in our gardens, and many plants which had shrivelled and died back in the drought have burst back to life, putting on new growth and, in some cases, flowering for a second time, or with renewed intensity. As I write this in early October, Salvias, Ceratostigma Willmott Anum, Anisodontea, Gaura and pink Japanese Anemones are looking better than they did in August. (The rain came too late for our white Japanese Anemones, which I find to be less vigorous and less tolerant of heat, and they haven't flowered at all). And one of our Globe Thistles has sent up new flowering stems.

But in fact, autumn has always been a time of new beginnings in the horticultural world. It is the best time for planting, the soil being still warm and reliably moist, and for dividing and replanting most herbaceous plants (but leave those Japanese Anemones until spring). Late summer and early autumn is also the best time for taking semi-ripe cuttings from shrubs and tender plants like pelargoniums, which root very easily and can spend the winter on a windowsill. Autumn are also the best times of year to sow hardy annuals such as Love-in-a Mist, Cornflowers, Poppies, and Sweet Peas. They will germinate quickly and overwinter as small plants. As soon as the weather warms up again in spring, they will burst into growth and become much larger and stronger than those sown in spring. If you keep some seeds back and sow them in March or April, you can extend the flowering season.

One hardy annual that I have recently discovered and now wouldn't be without is Ammi majus, a white umbellifer, related to wild carrot and cow parsley and native to southern Europe and north Africa. I first grew it last year, sowing it in spring in trays and pricking the seedlings out into small pots to grow on before planting out in gaps in the borders. They flowered quite well and for a long period through the summer, but tended to flop on top of their neighbours, so I would say they were a qualified success. But that autumn I noticed some seedlings growing in the borders and left them, carefully weeding around them. This year they grew into statuesque plants, taller than me, (and I'm 6'2") but strong enough to hold themselves upright, and they flowered for weeks and weeks, enhancing the border with their architectural stature. Yet again, nature had improved upon my own efforts! In common with all annuals, Ammi will flower for longer if they are dead

headed, but don’t forget to leave some seeds for next year. The flowers attract many insects and are absolutely beautiful, especially when viewed from above. They have a geometrical quality to them which calls to mind Galileo’s observation:

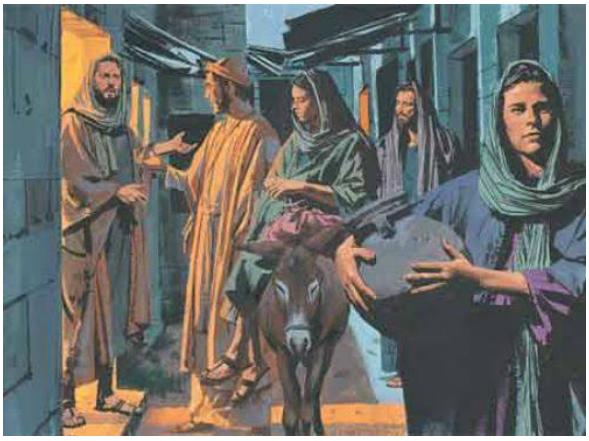
“The laws of nature are written by the hand of God in the language of mathematics. The symbols are triangles, circles, and other geometrical figures without whose help it is impossible to understand a single word.”





Ammi majus





Time

Time to share a life story, where do we begin? How would we share it? Write a book, who would the characters be, where would it be set? Stage, choose the cast, create the props. Face book, Instagram or Tik Tok, all with people's ideas and a running commentary across the world before it had chance to be to be told. Word of mouth, where people add or take away or change the story as it's passed around, like Chinese whispers.
In today's world with its wide selection of social media platforms, news travels fast, stories from across the waters fills our heads with an overload of information, some good and some not so good, with an abundance of opinionated humans who think they have the answers to all that we are bombarded with. Now you may wonder what is this all about.
Let's take Doctor Who's Tardis back over two thousand years and land it in Bethlehem. As we wander along the streets, we are greeted with the hustle and bustle, the hotels full to capacity, there are grumpy landlords and inn keepers who are trying to keep everything in order while everyone else tries to find a place to stay. We then notice a donkey, carrying a young woman barely out of her teens but heavily pregnant being led by a young man walk wearily down the street.

As we stand watching, we see the young man- whose name is Joseph knocking on doors and becoming more and more despondent as he is turned away, time and time again. We follow from a distance and smile when we see a kind inn keeper lead Mary and Joseph to his stable which is full of animals as the only place he can offer for the couple to rest.

As we continue to watch, the young woman goes into labour and, the wonder of a child being born creates emotions that dig deep into our hearts. This is not a polished sanitised birth as seen on so many Christmas cards but the

harsh reality of a young woman giving birth on the floor of a cold draughty stable.

Such an emotional moment the beginning of this child's this life story. So, how will it be recorded, retold? First by simple conversation, passed by word of mouth from person to person down through years until it is written as a text that we can all share. There was no social media then, no animosity created through biased media platforms, just one person telling the next of what they had heard and/or seen.

Fast forward to 2026, and we prepare once more for this amazing story to told again to us. May we let not the influence of others take away the beauty of it. Just let us stop for a moment and take in its wonder and simplicity. Let us look afresh at the wonder of God's Son becoming flesh and dwelling among us.

Our lives can be as complicated or as simple as we want to make them but let us leave social media and all its complications aside for just a moment, let us stop and listen to music and words surrounding the with the birth of this baby. For we know that will indeed provide us with hope, joy, love, and the strength we need through the year to come 2027. There is a place and time for most things but let us ensure that this Christmas and throughout the coming year we always a place in our hearts-our stable and time in our often-busy lives for Jesus. For time has shown us that some stories do not need to be staged, we just need to give time to pause and listen. God bless.

Karen Whitehouse

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." **John 8:12**

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." **Isaiah 9:6**

Our Pet Service

The Pet Service at Church of the Ascension was led by Mother Sarah on 4 Oct: it was wonderful to worship outside with lots of dogs, a skunk, and their humans in the church garden. We gave thanks for our animals, remembered those who we hold in our hearts and made a commitment to care for creation in all its wonderful diversity.











Notes from Hayley





During our last two sessions of Soul Food, we were reflecting on our Soul Food Values of **Faith, Hope, Love and Joy**. We began by exploring the value of **Faith** and considering how it can guide and support us throughout our journey through life.
Our footprints represent the path we take, symbolising the many joys, challenges, and difficulties we may encounter along the way. Through this reflection, we were reminded that, whatever life brings, God is always by our side, guiding us, supporting us, and walking with us every step of the way.

Soul Food takes place at:

Church of the Ascension at 5pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month
St Mary's at 8:45 am on the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month

We would love to see you there!



At Pop Up Church on Sunday 11th October we spent time singing, dancing, crafting and playing games, while thinking about the story 'Jesus Raised Lazarus from the Dead'. In the photos you can see us wrapping each other in 'grave clothes' and thinking how it must have felt to see the miracle of Jesus raising Lazarus. We had a great time worshipping with our adults in church after and sharing everything we had being doing.









Hayley was commissioned as our new Children, Young People and Families Minister on Sunday 18th of October at Worcester Cathedral, here is a photograph of that memorable day for her.

Her proud family are watching as she kneels before Bishop Hugh





Open the Book reaches 350 performances

Our Open the Book team has been going into the five primary schools of our parish since 2010, retelling Bible stories through drama. Twelve volunteers plus our children's workers have taken part over the years, huge thanks to them all, encouraging a few lucky children each time to take part in the performance and earn a sticker! We visit each school once a term now (we did two visits before Covid but are feeling our age) and are made welcome, the head teacher usually expounds on our story or theme and links it what is going on in school. We are often recognised in the supermarket! It is great for children to hear the stories, and to see every-day Christians pleased to engage with them. New volunteers would be welcome. Let's hope we can manage many more sessions!

Well, Done! To all the Open the Book team. Pray whether you feel you could volunteer for this valuable work and speak to Sheila Freeman if you're interested in joining the team.

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

We all need to play our part in moving our church from the silver award that we were awarded in April, to the gold award.

Our Flower Guild are doing their part by moving to not using oasis when making the flower arrangements. When we celebrated our Patronal Festival in September, they had managed to produce all the displays without using any oasis. The displays were beautiful. So far, we have committed to using bleach free, recycled toilet rolls, to use rainforest alliance/fairtrade tea, coffee, and sugar. We are going to install nesting boxes for the birds in the graveyard and have installed bird feeders already. We have twinned our new toilets with Kibali, Uganda (supporting sanitation projects in third world countries). We have carried out a wildlife/plants survey within our church grounds, and we received a grant to instal under pew heating for our choir stalls (so that during small services, we don't need to heat the whole church). We took part in the great British bird watch this year and we took part in World Earth Day. We have a programme of Eco activities planned for each month of the year. This is just the start of our Eco journey! Our thanks go, especially, to Grace our Eco Church champion (and our Operations Manager)

We must also remember that our work for being more eco- aware effects every part of our daily life. Making sure our environment is not litter strewn is especially important as dropping litter can cause harm to wildlife.



Rubbish in the park

A walk in the park today,
Not brilliant weather,
Enjoying the lovely scenes and the fresh air anyway
Spending quality time together

Around the pond we go, what's that in the grass?
Oh, someone's tipped a bag of rubbish,
let's put it in the bin,
Why do people leave such a mess! It's a sin.
The bins around the park are plenty and many are overflowing,
They need emptying more times so that the gardener can
get mowing.

There are plastic bottles, cans, and glass,
paper bags, crisp and sweet wraps.
Maybe folk need to learn respect and be tutored In
class Important to look after our green spaces and
parks No time for cleanliness to lapse.

Carol Cowdell

Thank you, Carol, for another thought -provoking poem.



Around Easter time, Mother Sarah circulated a link to the Sophia Course which was being offered at Worcester Cathedral through the Summer and into the Autumn of 2026. It immediately struck a chord with Christine Knight and with me, and we decided to sign up. The course was based on the development of discipleship and eco-spirituality, learning to walk gently on the earth and developing our relationship with God as we did so.

The course was held on one Saturday every month from April to October, with the exception of August when a visit to Mucknell Abbey near Worcester was arranged. My family soon came to understand how important it was to me to attend. At each session there was a focus on understanding creation and the wisdom of God through Bible study and theology, and this proved fascinating - and required a significant degree of concentration. It was enlightening to read and understand Bible passages which were familiar yet seen through the Sophia lens they acquired an additional depth and meaning. Sophia means wisdom, we were told, and the wisdom of God unfolded as we studied the Creation story, looked at the role of humanity, and recognised the earth as God's covenant with man. At the same time, we learned more about the causes of global warming, the competing economic interests between different communities and vested interests in various parts of the World, together with suggestions about how we could play our part in the way we lived our lives. Some of the independently verified statistics were hard to hear - the number of species now extinct, inequalities in food distribution and land use, rising pollution and global warming levels were truly shocking. Although the problems seem insurmountable when viewed on a global scale, there are plenty of choices that we can make e.g. eating less meat, choosing eco-friendly suppliers, flying less, purchasing fewer clothes and less "stuff" - all spoken about rationally and calmly - the choice is ours, even though what we learned forced us to confront and question many of our own habits. We learned about Catholic social justice and ecojustice. It was understood that not everyone is called to join "Just Stop Oil" but everyone has a role to

play, and throughout the course many of us expressed a desire to do just that.

At the outset the course tutors, Robin Parry and Staffan Engstrom asked for a commitment to participate in the whole course, and to embark on a rule of life, namely, to instil a pattern of daily prayer and to learn to walk gently on the earth - and I think without doubt everyone on the course achieved that, in some way.

As well as taught and discussion sessions, an important part of the day was time spent in the cathedral garden, the Sacred Garden. There were gardening opportunities, which were far from being forced labour, as we joyfully weeded and trimmed, chatted, and laughed, and ate cake provided by members of the Sacred Garden group. At the same time there were reflective craft and art projects of various styles on offer, all with a seasonal or reflective basis. During the Sacred Garden there was also an opportunity to develop contemplative practice and prayer. We met Terry, a solitary who had joined a monastic order and lived alone after losing his wife, after having had a troubled life for many years. He told his story in such a gentle tender way, yet his faith was strong and firm and his relationship with God warm and visible. He was an inspiration.

At the end of each day, we joined in reflection and outdoor worship, culminating in an outdoor Eucharist on the last day.

The day spent at Mucknell Abbey was illuminating and enlightening. This is a purpose-built monastic community which is inclusive yet in tune with the secular world and alive to the threats of climate change and what needs to be done. We learned about reading the scriptures mindfully, through the process of lectio Devine, and also heard about and saw the beautiful icons written by a member of the community. The modern and comfortable buildings sat easily with the daily rule of life and the various offices that we were invited to join were traditional but accessible. Many of us were not sure what to expect and left refreshed and restored.

The greatest gift of this course has been the opportunity and encouragement to make time to spend with God. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and the community which developed amongst us over the weeks, but we were all there by reason of our faith. Seeing God's creation through scripture, learning about the factors which threaten it and experiencing time set aside to reflect, invite God into our lives and hearts,

and discern what is ours to do was a gift which I will cherish, and I believe others felt the same way too. We are the same, but different, ready to accept the challenge of walking lightly on the earth, and safeguarding God's wonderful creation for the future.

I would highly recommend setting out on this journey - the link to the next course is below.

Jean Blakemore

If you'd like to know more, please contact the Revd Dr Robin Parry, Minor Canon for Eco Spirituality (RobinParry@worcestercathedral.org.uk).

Thank you, Jean, for the very interesting account of the Sophia Course



You Can Make a difference!

There is a story about an old man who was walking along the beach with his grandson, who picked up each starfish they passed and threw it back into the sea. "If I left them here ", the boy said, "they would dry up and die. I'm saving their lives." "But" protested the old man," the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish. What you are doing won't make any difference."
The boy looked at the starfish in his hand, then gently threw it into the sea.
He answered his grandfather," It makes a difference to this one."

A thought for us all when we think our eco-work will not make a difference.

Jenny's Second- Hand Books

The day I dragged my bulging suitcase full of my much loved, but surplus to requirements books along the path to the church centre, I told myself that maybe this wasn't such a good idea and that within a month or so I would be repeating this journey in reverse and repatriating these books onto the bulging bookcase where they had come from. How wrong could I have been!

I have always been an avid reader of all sorts of categories of subjects, fiction, and non-fiction. Like many I am very reluctant to part with any of my books convinced that I would read them again someday …

Matters came to a head when the bookcase in my study became so full that I had started to form a new pile on the floor. After tripping over the said pile, I concluded that enough was enough. The time had come for a mass clear out. The charity shop seemed to be the obvious way to dispose of my precious tomes, but I thought that maybe the church might benefit from the sale of the instead. After gaining permission, it was agreed I could set up a table in the church centre. The price of the books was agreed, and an honesty box was placed for the collection of the money and so the venture began.

Far from having to take everything back home, it wasn't long before stocks needed replenishing. Without a doubt this venture has been and continues to be a great success. Since its beginnings, the book table (which is now a large bookcase) has raised to date £500, and with each book costing just 50p that is 1,000 books sold!

At various intervals donations have been made £400 was given towards buying our new hymn books. Then recently I have become aware of Child Bed Poverty, so £100 was donated to the Brierley Hill Baby Bank, this money will go towards the purchase of a child's bed and bedding. The next £100 raised will also go to this charity.

I want to thank everyone who has supported this venture both by purchasing books and replenishing when stocks appear to be getting low.

I look forward to your continued support. Jenny Hadley

Many thanks Jenny for beginning this venture and long may it continue to generate funds for worthy causes.



Scripture Cake

Ingredients

1. 4.5 Cups of 1st Kings Chapter 4 verse 22
2. 1.5 cups of Judges chapter 5 verse 25
3. 2 cups of Jeremiah chapter 4 verse 20
4. 2 cups of 1 Samuel chapter 30 verse 12
5. 2 cups of Nahum chapter 3 verse 12
6. 1 cup of Numbers chapter 17 verse 8
7. 2 tablespoons of 1 Samuel chapter 14 verse 25
8. 6 of Jeremiah chapter 17 verse 11
9. A pinch of Leviticus chapter 12 verse 13
10. 2 teaspoons of Amos chapter 4 verse 5

Method (use King James Authorised Version)

11. Season to taste with 2 Chronicles chapter 9 verses 9.
12. Add Citron to taste.
13. Follow Solomon's advice for making a good boy. Proverbs chapter 23 verse 14 and you will have a very good cake.
14. Bake 1Kings chapter 19 verse 15.

Thank you, Liz Barnett, for this recipe.
(Answers to the list of ingredients will be given in the next edition)

What is scripture cake?
Scripture cake is also known as "Bible Cake," "Scriptural Cake" and "Old Testament Cake" and was extremely popular in the latter part of the nineteenth century, especially in the southern Appalachians. The cake was meant as a way to teach young girls baking and Bible verses.

There are more recipes available – just email editor for more info!!(Chris Knight)



Prayer for Remembrance

For those killed in battle.
For those who gave up their lives to save others.
For those who fought because they were forced to.
For those who died standing up for a just cause.
For those who said war was wrong
For those who tried to make the peace
For those who prayed when others had no time to pray
For all mankind
Let us quietly pray.
May God hold them in peace.
May His love flow over all the earth and cleanse us
This day and always Amen

Nativity Word Search

B	E	H	T	E	R	A	Z	A	N
I	E	M	A	N	G	E	R	S	O
N	S	T	A	R	C	S	I	D	S
N	A	V	H	A	Z	G	O	L	D
A	N	G	E	L	N	R	T	U	D
E	M	P	S	H	E	E	P	Y	A
D	Y	W	O	H	N	H	A	R	V
U	E	H	T	O	L	C	E	A	I
J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	D

(Can you find 18 words)

Words to find:

Bethlehem	Mary	Herod	Nazareth	Jerusalem	Angel
Inn	Judea	Son	Gold	Star	Jews
Manger	Cloth	David	Peace	Sheep	Sign



What to tell yourself about your Christmas calories.

1. If you eat something and no-one sees you -then the food has no calories

2. When eating with others your calories do not count if they have eaten more than you.

3. Broken biscuits are calorie free-the process of breaking causes calorie leakage.

4. Food eaten while watching television contain no calories as they are part of your enjoyment of the programme.

5. Food of the same colour have the same number of calories e.g. Spinach and mint ice-cream, mushrooms and white chocolate, water and a large gin and tonic.

6. Athletes eat huge amounts of pasta before races like the marathon. It is a **myth** that you must run 26 miles to work it off. A brisk trot around the settee is quite sufficient to wipe out a bowl of spaghetti. Twice around the living room will use up so much energy that a **chocolate bar** will be required to supplement your sugar levels and rebuild your strength.

Oh really? Pull the other one!!

From the registers of St Mary's



Baptisms

9 August	Harry Lee Chater	son of William and Jessica
9 August	Frankie Maurice Chater	son of William and Jessica
23 August	Connor Nathan Knight	son of Christopher and Tara
23 August	Frankie Rae Winchurch	daughter of Reece and Megan
6 September	Lorraine Williams	Adult
20 September	Julia Priestly	Adult
27 September	Isabella Ann Turner	daughter of Ryan and Courtney
27 September	Billie Jade Bowen	daughter of Robert and Jade
25 October	Rory Harold William Tonks	son of David and Aimee

Confirmations

25 October	Lorraine Williams
25 October	Julia Priestly
25 October	Victoria Joyce Llewellyn
25 October	Kathleen Jane Whitehouse

Marriages

8 August	Leanne Tony Williams and Lee William Watkins
5 September	Deborah Mary Charles and Kevin Brian Hall
12 September	Brittany Wendy Harris and Jack Anthony Brian Bennett
23 October	Elizabeth Rose Oldnall and Benjamin Luke Whitehead

Funerals

15 September	Carol Ann Thomas
21 October	Brian Meese

From the registers of Church of the Ascension

Baptisms

2 August	Elodie Claire Jakeways	daughter of Laura and Jordan
20 September	Olive Francesca Woodall	daughter of Lauren and Alex
4 October	Betty Alice Fildes	daughter of Sarah and James

Confirmations

25 October	Hayley Austin
25 October	Ida Grayden Touw

Marriage

22 August	Stephanie Margaret Hartigan and Dominic Gerard McNamara



For the people who lost their homes, possessions and for some a lifetime of memories in photographs etc of family life, achievements, and special occasions. The events of one hot afternoon in August will haunt their dreams for many months to come.

We in at St Mary's and Church of the Ascension could be of little practical help to alleviate their sufferings at that time. However, I am pleased to report to you all that we did manage to send a donation of £375 to their fund and although we know this amount is but a drop in the ocean to the amount of money that will be needed to rebuild and replace what has been lost. We hope and pray that our contribution will show that we were thinking of them and praying that the relief they need will be forth coming. Thank you for all who contributed to the collection and to those of you who sent your own donation direct to the web site.

Chris Knight



Rings of Faith and Love

This year Church of the Ascension are holding a festival which will be called Rings of Faith and Love.

On **Saturday 5th December there will be a Craft Morning between 9:30 am and 1pm** followed by a free buffet lunch. During the morning there will be opportunities to use kits to make your ring or just use the craft equipment there to make your own design.

On **Saturday 12th December the church will be open from 10am till 4pm for you to come and see the rings that have been made by members of the congregation, community and local schools that will be on display**. There will be an opportunity during the morning to listen to the choir of Church of the Ascension Primary School sing festive favourites. Then if you are feeling photogenic you can use the decorated ring that will be available to take your own photograph of you within the ring!

The symbols used to decorate the rings will be those used to tell the Christmas Story and in case you are puzzled by some of the symbols you may see, there will be a booklet to buy that explains the origins of the majority of the symbols you will see used. Refreshments will be available throughout the day in the Church Hall, along with a Festive Hamper raffle - with other prizes as well and some craft equipment for if you are bitten by the creative bug and feel like making your own ring!

The festival will conclude with a service on Sunday 13th December conducted by Father Adam, which will be followed by refreshments in the Church Hall where 'ring- shaped' cakes and biscuits will be available. Hope to see you there!

If you require any further information or would like to contribute your own ring and would like to know what symbols to use, please contact me. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated

01384 898469 Mob:07546159813

Email- knightchristine2059@gmail.com

St Mary's
KINGSWINFORD



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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

ST. MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

29 NOV @ 4PM: ADVENT CHORAL EVENSONG

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

13 DEC @ 2PM: CHRISTINGLE
@ 4PM: HEARTS ON FIRE

EXPECTANT, CHARISMATIC WORSHIP

20 DEC @ 4PM: 9 LESSONS AND CAROLS

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

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

6 DEC @ 4PM: CHRISTINGLE
@ 6PM: ADVENT REFLECTIVE SERVICE

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

13 DEC @ 10AM: I SING POP-UP CHURCH

16 DEC @ 6PM: CHILDREN'S SUNG NATIVITY

19 DEC @ 6PM: OUTDOOR CAROLS ON THE LAWN

20 DEC @ 6:30PM: 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



Come and visit our

Christmas Tree Festival

28th and 29th November 2026



Plus stalls and refreshments in the church centre

Opening times:

28th Nov: 10am-3pm

29th Nov: 11:30am-3pm

4pm: Advent Choral Evensong

St Mary's KINGSWINFORD

WWW.STMARYSKINGSWINFORD.ORG.UK

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PERSON

St Mary's
KINGSWINFORD

5
DEC
7PM

Chrisimas QUIZ NIGHT

HOT PORK BAPS
(OR VEG ALT.)

POTATO WEDGES

MINCE PIES

RAFFLE

MULLED
WINE

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St Mary's
KINGSWINFORD

COME AND JOIN US!

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, KINGSWINFORD

Wreath making workshop

12 DECEMBER, 2026
1:30-3:30PM

Raffle on the day!

£15

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

St Mary's
KINGSWINFORD



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 MORNING WORSHIP

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

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

4pm (October – March)
6.30pm (April – September)
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 Every Monday during term time
10am Pre school worship with music, dancing, bubbles, play time and cake
Contact Fr Adam for more information

SOUL FOOD Eat food, make friends, explore the Bible and worship
8.45am All ages, all together
Every first and third Sunday of the month

TUESDAY MIDWEEK WORSHIP

10AM Eucharist every week

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 in 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
Ringing 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 MORNING 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.**

WEDNESDAY MORNING WORSHIP **10am each Wednesday is a Eucharist with songs followed by a cuppa in the hall.**

MAINLY MUSIC **10am-11.30am each Thursday. Pre school worship with music, dancing, bubbles, play time and cake! Contact Mthr Sarah for more information.**

SOUL FOOD **Eat food, make friends, explore the Bible and worship. All ages, all together. Meets the second and fourth Tuesday each month at 5pm.**

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.

PAUSE, PRAY, PONDER, PRAISE **4pm on the third Sunday of each month. A reflective service with space to gently enter the presence of God. Contact Chris Knight on 07546 159813 for more information.**

iSingPOP pop up church **10am – 12noon on the second Sunday of each month. Preparation in the hall, followed by refreshments and then the service in church. Lots of singing and dancing for God! Contact Mthr Sarah for more information.**

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

RECTOR

Fr Adam Hadley fr.adam@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk **07759 900947**

MISSION PRIEST

Mthr Sarah Roberts-Malpass
mthr.sarah@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk
07976 965275

CURATE

Fr Jonathan Pincher fr.jonathan@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk
07562 949395

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES MINISTER

Hayley Austin hayley@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk **07729 092972**

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Jane Price pso@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk **07810 898322**

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR & CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS & DBS ADMINISTRATOR

Lindsey Poulding office@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk **07729 092973**

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Grace Wrigglesworth operations@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk
07562 955888

READERS (LICENSED LAY MINISTERS)

David Cousins **01384 270045**
Debbie Filgate **01384 287711**
Chris Knight **07546 159813**

AUTHORISED LAY MINISTERS

Sheila Freeman	Children and Young People	07790 436068
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

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Emily Vivash	St Mary's	07814 284725

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