

Your usual copy of our Newsletter follows
this Christmas Services advert

Christmas Services at St Jude's

Saturday 21st December

at 3.00pm

Blue Christmas Service

*(A service for those of us who find
Christmas difficult — for whatever reason)*

Sunday 22nd December

Carol Service

at 4.00pm

Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

Crib Service

at 4.00pm

Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

Midnight Mass

at 11.30pm

Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day)

Holy Communion (said)

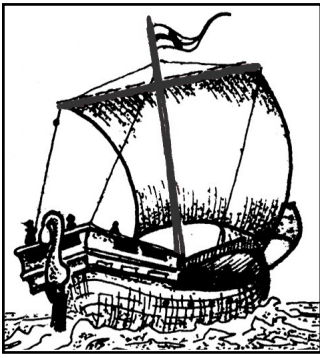
at 8.00am

Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day)

Sung Eucharist (with carols)

at 9.30am





The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 174

December 2024

Are you new to St Jude's?

It's lovely to welcome you among us – in person or online. If you have any questions or requests for prayer or if you would like to come and talk more personally, please contact our Vicar on vicar@stjudeschurch.info

Open Church

In addition to service times, St Jude's Church will be open between 2.00pm and 5.30pm on 14th December (please see below). Do come along.

Fourth Sunday at Four

As the fourth Sunday in December is 22nd December, our 4.00pm Service will be our annual Christmas Carol Service,

Our next Fourth Sunday at Four service will be a New Year service on Sunday 26th January 2025.

Lebkuchen and Mince Pie Tea

Saturday 14th December

St Jude's Church

2.00–3.30pm

followed by

A Piano Recital of Czech Music

by Geoff Chew

Saturday 14th December

4.00pm

St Jude's Church

Admission free

Refreshments available

Donations welcome

Our first event in 2025 Community Concert

We are asking once more for volunteers to perform (either musical or reading poetry) – pieces should preferably be no more than 5 or 6 minutes and no auditions are required. If you would like to take part, please email concert@stjudeschurch.info.

Follow the star!

Many of you reading this will remember from previous years one of my very favourite Christmas moments. It's when a child taking part in our St Jude's Christmas Eve Crib Service releases a helium star balloon into the church rafters. The star symbolises the star that first led the wise men to the infant Jesus, over 2000 years ago. It will often hang there in the beams almost until Easter, a lovely reminder that God invites us still today to follow the star that leads us to him.

Between them our Christmas services aim to reflect many aspects of the glorious message of Christmas. We begin on Saturday 21st December at 3.00pm with our Blue Christmas Service. It is an opportunity for those of us who perhaps find Christmas in some ways difficult, to gather for a short time of quiet thoughtfulness. At the very heart of Christmas is the God who longs to meet with us in our deepest sorrows and our greatest fears. Christmas is not all glitter – it can be overshadowed for many by sadness, loneliness, pain and loss. Please come and join us in this simple act of remembrance, reflection and hope.

The following day, Sunday 22nd December at 4.00pm is our annual Christmas Carol Service. The service will be led by Professor Geoff Chew and the St Jude's Choir, augmented by Guy Bunce and the Allegra Choir. The carol service always reminds me that some of the most beautiful music ever written was inspired by Christian celebration. In its own way the music of Christmas ignites the star that will lead us one day to that place of "one equal music" where the once infant Jesus now reigns in glory.

On Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December at 4.00pm we come to our Christmas Crib Service, led for us as in many previous years by one of our churchwardens, Mrs Claudia Tubb. It is a special opportunity for many children to take part and to bring to new life the events of the first Christmas. Props and costumes are provided – please arrive in good time and there may well be a part for you to play! This is a real family service – and a wonderfully vivid reminder of the Holy Family met together in love long ago in the stable of Bethlehem.

At 11.30pm on Christmas Eve our Midnight Holy Communion service ushers in the new day of Christmas celebration, completed on Christmas morning by our 8am service of Holy Communion (said) and our family Holy Communion at 9.30am. In the grateful sharing of Holy Communion we recall that the earthly life journey of Jesus began in a stable but ended on a scaffold. The story of Jesus is the story of God's unfailing love for the world. It is also a story that is unfinished. The cross of Jesus led to the crown of glory and one day every star will shine more brightly as Jesus, the King of Kings, returns to claim his Kingdom.

May God bless you this Christmas and may the star of his love ever lead you to him.

Judith Allford

Still Knitting!

We continue to thank all our knitters, including the team at the Lynwood Retirement Village in Sunninghill – our special thanks to them and to Di and Alan Fone.

We also have a large supply of knitted squares waiting to be transformed into blankets. For many years Mrs Annie Hudgeell, a dear friend of St Jude's who died earlier this year, used to sew the squares together for us. We're looking for volunteers who can carry on this work for us, please!

If this would interest you, we would be delighted to hear from you! Please contact us on 01784 434133.

From the Registers

Funerals: (15th November) Janet Hilda Wedgwood

(28th November) Eric Sutherland

Interment of Cremated remains: (4th November) Alan Charles Davie

Follow the Star 2024

Follow the Star: Calm and Bright is the Church of England's booklet for Christmas 2024. It will be available in church closer to Christmas along with some copies of the gospels of John and Mark for those who would like to take one away.

December is a busy time for many of us and there often seems too much to do in too short a time! *Follow the Star* takes its inspiration from the world-famous carol *Silent Night*. It offers a meditation for each day from Christmas Eve to the Eve of Epiphany (5 January). It includes a reflection, challenge and prayer based on a short Bible reading. Its aim is to help us find moments of calm in the midst of a busy season. It invites us to step into the still centre of the Christmas story where 'All is calm, All is bright'.

Do ask for a copy if you would like one. We look forward to worshipping with you.

Readings at Communion

Sunday 1st December (Advent 1)	Jeremiah 33. 14–16 Psalm 25. 1–9 1 Thessalonians 3. 9–end Luke 21. 25–36
Sunday 8th December (Advent 2)	Baruch 5 Benedictus Philippians 1. 3–11 Luke 3. 1–6
Sunday 15th December (Advent 3)	Zephaniah 3. 14–end Psalm 146. 4–end Philippians 4. 4–7 Luke 3. 7–18
Sunday 22nd December (Advent 4)	Micah 5. 2–5a Psalm 80. 1–8 Hebrews 10. 5–10 Luke 1. 39–45
Sunday 29th December (Christmas 1)	Jeremiah 31. 7–14 Psalm 147. 13–end Ephesians 1. 3–14 John 1. 10–18

Putting your stamp on it!

We are grateful to all who continue to pass on their used postage stamps to us. They are sent on to a charity and put to very good use! Thank you and thank you to Joan who so kindly organises this collection for us.

The Village Centre

Victoria Street, Englefield Green TW20 0QX

Café Opening Hours: These will be 9am–2pm each week day in December (including Thursday) up to and including Friday 20th December. The Centre will then be closed over the Christmas and New Year period and will reopen on Monday 6th January at 9am.

Special events for the Christmas season:

Tasty Christmas Treats: Thursday December 5th, 3pm–4.30pm. An opportunity for children to create miniature Christmas pudding balls! You are welcome to drop in at any time between 3.00 and 4.30pm. Please let us know in advance if you hope to come along.

A special **Festive Tea Party** for our older guests: Friday 13th December 3.00pm–4.30pm. Once again students from Royal Holloway College, University of London, are laying on a special Christmas Tea for our older residents. If you have been to one of their afternoon teas before, you should receive a special invitation to this one. If you've not been before, you are still very welcome to join in. Please contact the Centre and book your place at the Christmas table!

Last Lunch Club of 2024: Monday 16th December 12.15pm. If you are over 55 you are welcome to join us for a special Christmas Lunch – full Christmas fare including crackers and gifts! Please be sure to book your place by 2pm on Friday 13th December.

And finally: We wish all our staff, volunteers, hirers, customers and everyone who has so wonderfully supported the work of the Village Centre through another year, a very special Christmas and a happy 2025. God Bless you.

For more details about all our activities and for regular news of events, please do visit our website: <https://www.villagecentre.org.uk/> or look at our Facebook page: "The Village Centre".

To book your place at one of our Christmas events, or if you have any queries, suggestions, requests for bookings, or would like to offer your help to the Centre please contact us on 01784 471110 or email Ali Griffin, our Centre Manager as below. Thank you!

Facebook: [villagecentreenglefieldgreen](https://www.facebook.com/villagecentreenglefieldgreen)
manager@villagecentre.org.uk
01784 471110

Diary for December

- 1 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Informal Holy Communion
- 4 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 8 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 6.00pm Compline (Zoom)
- 11 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 14 Saturday 2.00–3.45pm Lebkuchen and Mince Pie Tea followed at 4.00pm by a Recital of Czech Piano music by Geoff Chew
- 15 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 18 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 21 Saturday 3.00pm Blue Christmas Service (a service for those who find Christmas difficult – for whatever reason)
- 22 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Carol service
- 24 Tuesday CHRISTMAS EVE 4.00pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass
- 25 Wednesday CHRISTMAS DAY 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist (with carols)

January 2025

- 1 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion

Please note that our 9.30am service each Sunday is always live-streamed on our YouTube Channel. If you are unable to join us in church we warmly invite you to tune in.



St Jude's Church of England Schools Federation



"Excellence in Education, Kindness in Community, Courage through Faith"

At the time of writing there are still four busy weeks of term ahead for our teachers and our children. The excitement of Christmas is already in the air and with it a whole range of additional challenges and seasonal events.

In our Collective Worship Programme, we are coming to the conclusion of reflecting on our "How to be-attitudes" and we are looking forward to celebrating the wonderful themes of Advent and Christmas. On Thursday 19th December we welcome the staff and children from both our schools into St Jude's for a special Christmas Service led by the children themselves. An excellent start to Christmas.

I want to take this opportunity to say a special Christmas thank you to everyone who has worked so hard throughout 2024. My personal thanks as always to the Revd Jeremy Brown who has again planned our church's contribution to Collective Worship. And from Jeremy and me – thank you to Mrs Chiverton and the Senior Leadership Team for their tireless and inspirational leadership of us all. Thank you to our teachers, teaching assistants and all the schools' staff.

Thank you also to our Governing Body and particularly to our joint Chairs, Xavier Brice and Juan Pemberton. Their leadership has been pivotal throughout this year and before. But the biggest thank you goes to our children, their parents and carers.

May God bless you with his love this Christmas and on into the New Year ahead.

Bereavement Coffee Morning

Thursday 30th January 2025 at 10.15am

at the Jurgens Centre, Church of the Assumption of our Lady, Harvest Road

Everyone is welcome

We have an open invitation to join our neighbours at the Church of the Assumption of our Lady, Harvest Road, TW20 0QR for their regular Coffee Morning in the Jurgens Centre beside the Church. The Coffee Morning is on the last Thursday of each month. We welcome anyone who has been bereaved, whether recently, or further back in time. You will find a quiet and welcoming space to talk or simply to listen and to be amongst friends. The invitation is to everyone, you may or may not be a church goer. You may drop in and out as you wish. We shall be very glad to see you.

Please note that, as the last Thursday in December is Boxing Day, their next coffee morning will be on 30th January 2025, as above. There is a warm invitation to everyone who would like to join us at St Jude's on Saturday 21st December 2024 at 3.00pm for our Blue Christmas Service. This simple service is for anyone who has been bereaved, but also for any of us who may find Christmas difficult, for whatever reason. Refreshments will be served after the service for those who would like to stay

Runnymede Food Bank

We continue to receive thanks from Runnymede Foodbank for the donations from St Jude's month by month. Thank you all and, as always, thank you to Geoff Chew who has managed our donations and passed them on to the Food bank through another year. At Christmas many people will be facing additional financial challenges, so your generosity means even more. Donations of imperishable foodstuffs and other items can still be left in the crate in the Monsell Room. God Bless you all.