

Weekly Briefing Sunday 17th December

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Church Heating Fixed - just in time for Christmas

It has been a very hectic week with visits from engineers from Worcester-Bosch on Monday and Thursday. Thankfully, but at significant cost, the boilers have been fixed and are working properly.

Sunday "Hybrid" Service - Sunday 17th December 2023 @ 10am

This is a hybrid Eucharist service and will be at **10am**, in the church and on Zoom.

The order of service for this week can be found on the website by following this link:

- <https://www.stchristopherschurch.org.uk/service-sheet>

The Zoom ID for the service is: 689 343 005. The passcode is 2021.

"Hybrid" Nine Lessons and Carols - Sunday 17th December 2023 @ 6pm

Our Annual Carol Service will take place on the Sunday at 6pm, in-person and online on Zoom.

The order of service for this week can be found on the website by following this link:

- <https://www.stchristopherschurch.org.uk/service-sheet>

The Zoom ID for the service is: 689 343 005. The passcode is 2021.

Parish Virtual Christmas Card

As in previous years, the Eco Church Lifestyle group has set up an e-Christmas card. This is a way you can send a greeting to everyone in the Church and wider Church community in an eco-friendly way. Just follow this link <https://groupcards.co.uk/AddMessageFromLink.aspx?EventCode=JPcodrmGpWn3VDnkNtTD> then add your greeting and sign your name(s) before 22nd December.

If you would prefer not to do this online, please phone or email Liz Hammond (lizhammond2003@gmail.com) with your message and we will ensure it is added to the e-card for you. You may choose to do this instead of, or in addition to, sending a physical card to your particular friends in the St Christopher's community. Sending a message via our e-card will let you send your Christmas wishes to everyone.

If you have any questions or have any trouble accessing the link please email Julia Bowden (jlvbowden@gmail.com)

Christmas 2023 – #FollowTheStar:JointheSong

For many of us, Christmas brings up so many emotions, memories and expectations. We have one nativity story, but it can seem like we all have very different Christmases.

For you it might be a time of joy and togetherness. Or perhaps it's all about planning and to-do lists. Many others can find it a sad and lonely time – nagged by the feeling that your Christmas is not like those 'perfect' ones we see in the media.

"The shepherds were astonished to find the night sky filled with angels singing God's praise. And before long they were singing, too ... Centuries later, singing is still central to how many of us celebrate Christmas.

"We invite you this Christmas to follow the star, journey to the manger, join the song and come into the presence of Jesus Christ."

Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell

Christmas at St. Christopher's, Hinchley Wood

- Sunday 3rd December 2023 – Together@Ten – Christingle @ 10am
- Sunday 17th December 2023 – Nine Lessons and Carols @ 6:00pm
- **Sunday 24th December 2023 – Christmas Crib Service @ 3pm**
- Sunday 24th December 2023 – Traditional Christmas Midnight Eucharist @ 11:30pm
- **Monday 25th December 2023 – Family Christmas Day Eucharist @ 10am**

Twelfth Night Party

Friday 5th January, 6.30-10 p.m., in the Hall. Music, games, drink and plenty of Twelfth Night fun. Bring yourselves and bring your friends.

The party will be free, but there will be a charge for those who wish to dine, on a cost basis of preparing the food, slightly rounded up (any profit going to church funds). At a preliminary estimate, that should be within £20 per head.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the church from this Sunday. If you would like to join us (whether you will be eating or not) and cannot get to the sign-up sheet, please let Roger, Margaret or Simon (07749 712 820) know of your interest.

Eco-Tip L.O.A.F. – What is our impact

As 2023 comes to an end, maybe now is a good time to reflect on how our lifestyle choices impact climate change. The United Nations reminds us that “Climate change is an emergency for everyone, everywhere”, so why not undertake a personal carbon footprint audit using <https://climatehero.me/calculate> – it takes about 5 minutes and is an easy way for you to estimate your footprint, understand what you are already doing well, and get tips to help you do even better.

Coughs, Colds and Covid

I keep hearing that parishioners have gone down with COVID. Last week the Nursery had to close for one day as some of the staff had tested positive. It is a reminder to us that COVID is still with us. Thankfully, due to vaccines and different strains it is not the same disease which caused us to lockdown, but it can still be nasty and we do have a number of people in our community that are vulnerable and immuno-surpressed.

I have had a bad cold for about a week, but I have tested and it is not COVID. If you have symptoms or suspect you might have been in contact with someone who tests positive for COVID please take precautions and test yourself. Please do not come to church if you suspect you might have COVID.

Wishing you every blessing

Peter Jenner
Vicar of St. Christopher's, Hinchley Wood