



St Jude's United Church Englefield Green



Christmas at St Jude's Church

Saturday 13th December

Mince Pies and Lebkuchen Tea
2.00–4.00pm

Sunday 14th December — Advent 3

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Sung Eucharist
4.00pm Carol Service
(followed by mince pies and hot drinks)

Saturday 20th December

3.00pm Blue Christmas Service
*(for those who find Christmas difficult
— for whatever reason)*

Sunday 21st December — Advent 4

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 24th December

Christmas Eve

10.00am Holy Communion
4.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Thursday 25th December

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Eucharist with carols

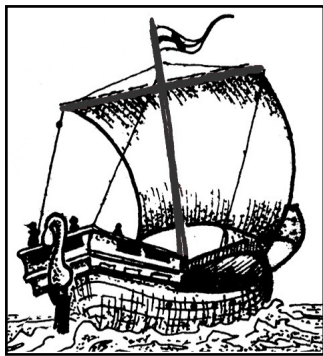
Sunday 28th December

Holy Innocents

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Sung Eucharist

*The usual Newsletter follows
this list of Christmas services*





The Ship

St Jude's Church, Englefield Green Newsletter

Anglicans and Methodists working together

Number 186

December 2025

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 4.00pm on Saturday 13th December (tea, coffee, mince pies and lebkuchen available). Do come along.

Fourth Sunday at Four

Please note there will be no Fourth Sunday at Four service in December. The next one will be on Sunday 25th January. We look forward to seeing you then!

Piano Recital by Geoff Chew

playing music by

Beethoven, Chopin,

Mendelssohn and Mozart

**Saturday 6th December
at 4.00pm**

Admission free
donations welcome

Mince Pie and Lebkuchen Tea

Saturday 13th December

St Jude's Church

2.00–4.00pm

Blessing of the Graves

Thank you to all who joined us for this very meaningful event on Sunday 16th November. It was a truly ecumenical act of remembrance, witness and fellowship. Special thanks to Canon Chris Spain for leading us, and to our Roman Catholic friends who provided cakes for the afternoon tea which followed in the Monsell Room at St Jude's Church.

Christmas

When might be the best time to start preparing for Christmas? This seems to be a matter of some debate as we approach Christmas 2025! Like most of us perhaps, I have friends who put up their Christmas decorations early in November and friends who wouldn't dream of unboxing the Christmas tree until the week before Christmas. And of course, I also have friends who did the bulk of their Christmas shopping last January, and others who won't be hitting the shops much before Christmas Eve. I won't tell you into which category I fall, although each year I promise myself I'll do better next time!

I was reflecting on this as I visited one of the local charity shops a week or so back. Their Christmas cards were already being sold off half-price! I experienced a sense of mild panic, wondering if everyone else's cards were already in the post and I'd been left behind!

The truth is that Christmas is a busy time for many of us and there can be an uncomfortable feeling of competition between the ready and the less prepared. But sometimes it can seem we are so busy doing Christmas that, in the end, Christmas somehow passes us by. What took such time to prepare disappears in the twinkle of an eye — although it was fun whilst it lasted!

I've just done a little bit of Christmas prep with the Bumblebees Reception Class at St Jude's Infant School. I took along a CD of a Children's Choir singing "Away in a Manger" to make an early start on learning a traditional children's carol. I was moved to find that the children already seemed well-versed in it and happily joined in with some actions too. Thank you to mums, dads, grandparents, teachers and all carers who've already been bringing a little of the magic and message of Christmas into the homes in our village.

The message at the heart of Christmas is beautifully captured in that hymn written so long ago. As it reflects on the infant Jesus, sleeping on his bed of hay, disturbed from time to time by the lowing of the cattle, it offers a prayer that this same Lord Jesus will always be at our side.

For some that prayer is particularly heartfelt at Christmas. Christmas doesn't always seem like fun, especially to those who have lost someone very dear. The empty chair in the living room can look even emptier at Christmas. This year, as always, we shall be holding a "Blue Christmas" Service at St Jude's. It's service especially for those who find Christmas difficult, for whatever reason. This year we shall be holding "Blue Christmas" at 3pm on Saturday 20th December. Do join us if you would like to, either for yourself, or to support someone else who is having a rough time. As always, the service will include an opportunity to light a candle of prayer, hope and remembrance.

Our Carol Service is a few days before, on Sunday 14th December at 4pm. Once again, our singing will be led by a joyful combination of two choirs — our St Jude's Choir and Allegra, who have shared several carol services with us in the last few years. The Choirs will be under the direction of our very own Guy Bunce, who is also Allegra's leader. Our visiting organist is Logan Williamson, who comes to us from Royal Holloway.

And our wonderful Crib service, led as always for us by Claudia Tubb and her family, happens on Christmas Eve 24th December at 4pm. Come and help us to recreate the first Nativity. Plenty of costumes and props are available for the children who would like to join in. And the service will feature one of my favourite Christmas moments — the rising of the Bethlehem star!

Please see elsewhere in this newsletter for the complete list of Christmas services. Even if you never managed to send that last Christmas card, please share with us in celebrating the coming of Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem, the Saviour of the world. Let's find time to get ready for him.

Judith Allford

We have an organ scholar!

If you have been worshipping in church, or online, with us during October and November, you may have noticed a new face at the organ on some Sundays. It belongs to Joshua Davis, a new Organ Scholar at St Jude's, and we are delighted to welcome his arrival among us.

His scholarship at St Jude's is a new one. In return for a modest stipend, as organ scholar Joshua will play for about two of the Sunday 9.30 services in church each month during college terms, and he will have access to the organ for practice. He is a first-year music student at Royal Holloway, a horn player as well as an accomplished organist, and he has a good deal of experience already at playing for services in his home church.

The naming of the Organ Scholarship — the Valerie Ward Organ Scholarship — reminds us of Val Ward, a familiar figure at St Jude's for years before she died — far too young — in 2013. Val was for many years a strong supporter of music at St Jude's, both in services and in our concert series, at which she was often a performer.

Joshua is already being paid by the church, and a scholarship fund is to be established, to allow us to continue to express our gratitude to Val, and to make it possible for this, and our support of the music at St Jude's, to remain and grow in the future.

Readings at Communion

Sunday 7th December (2nd Sunday of Advent)	Isaiah 11. 1-10 Psalm 72. 1-7, 18-19 Romans 15. 4-13 Matthew 3. 1-12
Sunday 14th December (3rd Sunday of Advent)	Isaiah 35. 1-10 Magnificat James 5. 7-10 Matthew 11. 2-11
Sunday 21st December (4th Sunday of Advent) (Safeguarding Sunday)	Isaiah 7. 10-16 Psalm 80. 1-8, 18-20 Romans 1. 1-7 Matthew 1. 18-end
Sunday 28th December (1st Sunday of Christmas) (Holy Innocents)	Jeremiah 31. 15-17 Psalm 124 1 Corinthians 1. 26-29 Matthew 2. 13-18

Easyfundraising.co.uk

We are very grateful to all those who are supporting us when buying things through Amazon, John Lewis by using easyfundraising.co.uk. You have raised well over £1500 (so far) for us through this scheme and that is without any cost to you.

Diary for December

- 3 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 6 Saturday 4.00pm Piano Recital by Geoff Chew
- 7 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Informal Holy Communion (Methodist Liturgy)
- 10 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 13 Saturday 2.00-4.00pm Church open for Mince Pies and Lebkuchen Tea
- 14 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist 4.00pm Carol Service (followed by tea)
NO Compline at 6.00pm
- 17 Wednesday 10.00am Holy Communion
- 20 Saturday 3.00pm Blue Christmas service (for those who find Christmas difficult — for whatever reason)
- 21 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist
- 24 Christmas Eve 10.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass
- 25 Christmas Day 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Sung Eucharist with carols
- 28 Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Sung Eucharist NO 4.00pm Fourth Sunday at Four service
- 31 Wednesday NO 10.00am Holy Communion (said)

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.

Revive and Thrive

We have continued to support Revive and Thrive and we drove to Mytchett Baptist Church to deliver knitted items which had been donated by the residents of Lynwood Village and members of St Jude's Church. The knitted items were 20 blankets, 38 jumpers, 27 hats, 17 teddies and 3 soft toys. We are very grateful to those who have donated these items, and are always happy to receive donations of double knitting wool to pass on to our knitters. We have been asked to pass on a request for tools, including garden tools, and also sewing machines (hand and electric).

Brian and Pat Summers

Food Bank

Thank you to everyone for another year of generous donations to the Runnymede Foodbank. Your donations of imperishable foodstuffs, toiletries and other items can still be left in the crate in the Monsell Room. We apologise that we cannot accept cash donations at present. Thank you all.

Our special thanks to Andrew Sheer and Geoff Chew for making sure our donations are safely passed on.

Donations of perishable food items are welcomed by our Village Centre Community Fridge and Kitchen. The Kitchen is open on Mondays and Fridays, 9am-11am, excluding Bank Holidays. Donated food must still be within its sell by/use by date on the Monday or Friday when it will be recycled by the Fridge. If you feel this is something to which you can contribute, please contact the Centre on 01784 471110. Thank you!

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 to Joan who so kindly manages this collection for us.

From the Registers

Funeral: (3rd November) Philip John Stickler

Baptism: (2nd November) Elba Pinton Havard Williams

Missing Services

During the Christmas season there will be several services missing from our usual programme in order to accommodate our additional Christmas services. There will be no service of Compline on 14th December, no Fourth Sunday at Four service on 28th December, and no midweek Holy Communion service on Wednesday 31st December. But all those services will return in January! Please think about joining us then! God bless you.

Bereavement Coffee Morning

Thursday 18th December 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, on the last Thursday in each month, for their regular Coffee Morning in the Jurgens Centre beside the Church. Please note that in December the Coffee Morning will be taking place on Thursday 18th December.

You may have been recently bereaved, or your loss may be further back in time. Whatever your circumstances, 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.

Grateful thanks from us all to Claire McAdam and her team for leading and hosting us throughout the year.

The Village Centre

Victoria Street, Englefield Green TW20 0QX 01784 471110

manager@villagecentre.org.uk <https://www.villagecentre.org.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/villagecentreenglefieldgreen>

<https://www.instagram.com/villagecentreenglefieldgreen>

We hope you all enjoyed our Christmas Fair on 29th November! A big thank you to everyone who donated, helped and did so much to ensure a happy afternoon — making an excellent start to our Christmas celebrations. Special thanks to all who came along. It was good to see you.

Thank you also to some of our Royal Holloway students for organising two special afternoon teas during November. These were very much appreciated as always.

Our Café remains open this month up to and including Friday 19th December. We have some Christmas specials available for you to enjoy, including turkey and stuffing sandwiches, chai latte and our lovely hot chocolate with whipped cream! Our hours of opening will continue to be Monday to Friday 9am–2pm with a later closing time of 5pm on Thursday.

Our final Lunch Club for 2025 will be on Monday 15th December at 12 noon. It will be a special Christmas Lunch — so please make sure you have booked your place!

On Tuesday 16th December the Community Bus will be taking a special trip to the Fairmont Hotel! If you'd like a place on the bus and some Christmas refreshments on arrival, please contact our Centre Manager on 01784 471110.

We shall be closed completely from Monday 22nd December until Friday 2nd January, when we shall be open from 10am–2pm. Our first Monday Lunch Club of 2026 will be on Monday 12th January. The Community Bus will set off again the following day, Tuesday 13th January. We hope that our wonderful Centre Manager, staff and volunteers will enjoy a very special and very well-deserved Christmas break.

And on behalf of us all — we wish everyone who supports our Village Centre in so many ways day by day, a peaceful and blessed Christmas. Thank you for your friendship and your custom throughout another year.

And a thought for 2026. We welcomed some lovely new volunteers in 2025. We still have room for plenty more help! If you would like an opportunity to experience volunteering with us, please contact Helen, who will be delighted to hear from you.



St Jude's Church of England Schools Federation

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



First of all — a very big thank you to Mr John Scott, MBE and all the organisers of our village remembrance ceremonies for 2025, which took place at the beginning of last month. On 7th November we gathered around the Cemetery memorials for our Schools Ceremony of Remembrance. Children from both St Jude's Schools and St Cuthbert's School participated with readings. We were also joined by children and staff from the St Peter's Centre in Corby Drive and the Montessori Nursery School in Victoria Street.

On Sunday 9th November many of our children were on Parade representing our local uniformed organisations at the annual Village Remembrance Ceremony around the Village Memorial and the Cross of Sacrifice. Following the ceremony, we gathered in St Jude's Church for a service of thanksgiving and remembrance. And a special note that children and staff from the Montessori School were back at the memorials for a special act of Remembrance on Armistice Day itself, Tuesday 11th November. Thank you to everyone who shared in these events.

Now our focus is on Christmas celebrations! St Jude's Schools are busy preparing Nativity productions, Christmas lunches with Christmas jumpers, parties and a disco! Both the Infants and Juniors will be joining us in St Jude's Church during the last week of term for their annual Christmas Carol Service. Enjoy!

Warmest Christmas and New Year greetings. We are enormously grateful to our children, parents, carers, Senior Leadership Team, teachers, staff and governors, for ALL their immense amount of hard work, perseverance and achievement in 2025. May Christmas and New Year bring special blessings for you all.