



**The Window**  
**December 2025**  
**to January 2026**



## A service to remember



Our service this year was held in St Mary's in North Stoke, when, as usual, the RAF poignantly flew a Chinook over the scene by the War Memorial at about 11am as we stood silent.



The service continued inside the church where the Order of Service was read, as well as favourite old Hymns, Bible readings, a Sermon, prayers and an Act of Commitment. Afterwards, everyone determined to work for peace wherever they were.



Some people then gathered for the Act of Remembrance to be repeated at the Ipsden Memorial, where leaves were laid.

The collection of **£397.86** from the Service will go to The Royal British Legion.

## Light lunch



A lunch, which was served in North Stoke village hall, raised **£999.51.**

This will be divided equally between St Mary's Church in North Stoke and the military charity, Combat Stress.

Around 55 people enjoyed a selection of beef, lamb, wild Boar, chicken and a variety of vegetable curries. And, of course there was a Shepherd's Pie for abstainers.

## Nursery service

Children from Early Days Nursery gathered at the War Memorial in Ipsden on the sunny morning of November 13.

To mark their own Act of Remembrance, they had painted stones to represent poppies, and listened with attentiveness while the *Last Post* was played.

After a truncated 30 second silence and the *Reveille*, they laid their tributes.

Stories were then shared about other painted stones with examples and talked about campaign medals. It was a really lovely little ceremony.



# Brass and beers for Oktoberfest



Karl's Bavarian Brass Band filled the Ipsden village hall to celebrate Oktoberfest on October 31.

Young and old turned up from Ipsden, North Stoke and surrounding villages for great music, fun and games.

The village hall was transformed for the evening into a Bavarian beer tent, with live music having everyone moving.



The meal of sausages, sauerkraut and apple strudel was served and devoured by the crowd.



Many people from the village helped with the event by distributing flyers, decorating, cooking, serving and washing up.

Thank you to Gill, Siobahn, Kate Moberly, Kate Miller, Susie, Clare, Fiona, Gabriel, Rachel and Dilys—without you the event wouldn't have been possible.

Thank you to all those who contributed and thank you to those who attended—we hope it was as enjoyable for you as it was for us.

**Tammy Nemeth-Bast**

# An entomologists' discovery in the Chilterns

Outside a shepherds wagon in the Chiltern Hills, Steve Palin set up two traps across two nights to capture and study moths and the environment in rural Ipsden.



Within the mixed habitat, amidst hedgerows, woodland, farmland and garden plants, he placed a cone-shaped Robinson trap, with a 125w mercury vapour bulb, which emits an ultra-violet light, and a box-shaped, 20w skinner trap.



Robinson moth trap



Skinner moth trap

The entomologist, who lives on the island of Anglesey in North Wales and is the moth record verifier for the local Environmental Record Centre, found himself in and amongst what he thought to be almost baron land.

Before meeting with a friend in the area, he couldn't help but take advantage of such a scenic location and its potential hiding nocturnal insects.

Across the two nights, he found a total of **63 moths** and **18 species**.

## Night one

### 31 moths of 12 different species

The most numerous was the White point, immigrant species.

He said: "Although relatively common in the south, it was a moth I had never seen and never recorded in Anglesey, so a great start."



(Continued on page 5)

He also spotted an Orange Pine Tortrix.

He said: "The flight time of this moth usually finishes at the end of August but climate change is potentially shifting when many of our moths fly.



Amongst the catch were five Turnip Moths, whose larvae feed on a number of root vegetables.

He said: "I looked at the crop on the adjacent farm field and sure enough it was a beetroot crop, not good news for the farmer."

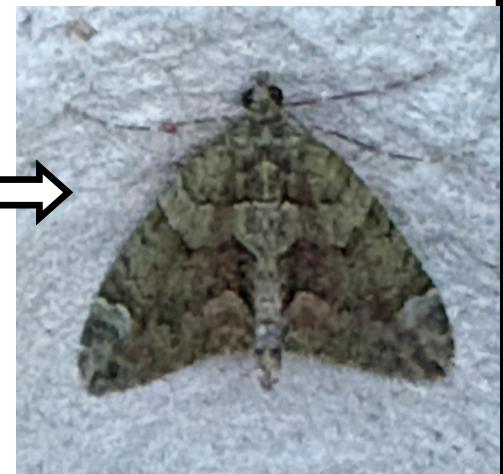
## Night two



### 32 moths of 12 different species

An iridescent Green-brindled Crescent

Red-green Carpet



### The species he captured, include:

Light Brown Apple Moth, Orange Pine Tortrix, Narrow-winged Grey, Red-green Carpet, November Moth, Feathered Thorn, Green-brindled Crescent, Vine's Rustic, Angle Shades, Beaded Chestnut, Yellow-line Quaker, White-point, Turnip Moth, Shuttle-shaped Dart, Large Yellow Underwing, Lesser Yellow Underwing, Square-spot Rustic, Setaceous Hebrew Character.

The retired headteacher, who is also a musician, author and artist, has been interested in natural history for the last 15 years.

He believes the insects are misunderstood, contrary to their colourful and more appreciated butterfly friends.

**(Continued on page 6)**



He said: "There are 2,500 species in the UK, compared with just 59 butterflies. There are four times as many day-flying moths and contrary to popular belief, only two of those species each the natural fibres in your homes.

"They are just as important as pollinating bees, are critical in nature's food chain and can be an important indicator of an environment's health."

Shuttle-shaped Dart

He sent his findings to Martin Townsend, the county's moth recorder, a moth guru who co-wrote the Field Guide to Moths of Great Britain and Ireland.

Turnip moth



He said: "I duly sent my records to him where they will contribute to the bank of information which will hopefully help support conservation efforts.



Beaded Chestnut

"Watch out, you never know what's flying about while you're asleep."

To read more about Steve Palin and his findings, purchase his books on Amazon.

- *Murmuration of Starlings: The Collective Nouns of Animals and Birds*
- *A Box of Frogs: Illustrated Idioms of Birds and Animals*
- *The Anniversary Book: Illustrated Symbols & Themes of Love, Year by Year*



Death's-head hawkmoth



Poplar hawkmoth

# **Homer Winter**

Homer Lane is shutting down as we approach winter, we are so fortunate to have woods all around us which are displaying their lovely colours, the leaves falling like confetti as we drive along.



We are also treated to lovely sunsets, which look across to Goring and Streatley. Eastwards on a clear day with leaves off the trees, we can see Windsor Castle.

Passing through the woods are groups of deer which can travel some distance without necessarily crossing a road. When they do, great care should be taken so as not to damage one's car or the animal, as they do not seem to have much road sense and certainly don't look before taking their route.



We notice they have certain tracks which are used so slow down and try to be vigilant. That said, I was going down Berens Hill towards Well Place when a large stag came out of the bank on the right, running in front of me to the other side. With the hedges I did not see it coming, had it not swerved just in front of me, it could have been a nasty accident. A couple of days later a doe ran across in almost the same spot.

At the beginning of November we put a black Welsh mountain ram in with our five ewes, to lamb next Spring. We usually borrow a ram but this year we bought one from a friend.

When not with the ewes, he has a castrated ram as a companion, together they stay in a conservation area on the farm. Elizabeth Chatwin kept a castrated ram she called Mr Silver, as he had the most beautiful fleece with a silvery sheen and had lived for a long time. It is the remains of her original flock that we still have today.

With the days getting shorter we are treated to the call of pheasants as they roost in trees along the lane. Perhaps telling each other where it is best to roost for the night. Occasionally an owl can be heard.

I am constantly drawn to Minnie Haskin's poem:

***"The Gate of the Year" (1908)***

***I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year***

***"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown"***

***And He replied***

***"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God,  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way"***

**Diana Jackson**

## **Winter wildlife spotlight**

Winter can be quite a harsh time of year for much of our wildlife, but for some species it can offer a bit of respite from the harsher, colder climates further north. Winter is a fantastic time to see many bird species that we won't see in summer such as redwings, fieldfares. Birds such as starlings start to flock, forming impressive murmuration's in the sky. Why not visit your local nature reserve on a winters day and see what new species you can find?

### **Tips for looking after wildlife this winter**



Always move your burn piles before you light them! The best habitat piles are usually created on nature reserves and to the untrained eye, these look a lot like burn piles. The wildlife thinks so too and so many creatures use burn piles to sleep in, including hedgehogs, frogs, voles, and lizards. To avoid burning hibernating wildlife, you must move burn piles before lighting them.



Crack ice on your bird baths, water dishes and ponds so that our winter wildlife can still drink. Who knows which birds you might see enjoying a sip.



Leave areas of your garden undisturbed to allow hibernating wildlife to sleep in peace and unharmed. Some invertebrates hibernate in hollow stems of grassland and scrub species such as cow parsley and other umbellifers. Avoid cutting these as they might be home to sleeping beetles, bees, spiders or even ladybirds.



Log piles are well sought over for both people and wildlife at this time of year. If you can, try to leave a pile outside untouched to allow hedgehogs and other hibernating wildlife to sleep in it over winter.

If you find a sick or injured hedgehog or other wild animal, please call **Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital on 01844 292292**

To find out more about **Wildlife friendly gardening** - head over to the Wild Oxfordshire website at [www.wilodoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.wilodoxfordshire.org.uk) and have a look in guidance.

**(Continued on page 9)**

# **World Soil Day, December 5**

The annual event highlights the importance of healthy soil and its sustainable management.



Soil is vital for plant growth and therefore food production. Healthy soils filter and store water, reducing the risk of flooding.

Soil can even help mitigate against climate change by storing carbon from the atmosphere.

In addition, soil provides a habitat for many different species including bacteria, fungi, worms, invertebrates.

It is estimated that a single teaspoon of healthy soil can contain more living organisms than there are people on Earth, that's more than 7 billion microbes.

We can all do our bit to support healthy soils. This can be in your garden through reducing the amount of chemicals you apply, composting and mulching, or turning your lawn into a meadow.

We can also do our bit by supporting farmers who are working to improve their soil quality through sustainable farming practices when you can by buying organic or directly from the farmer.

## **The Yellow Wagtail Partnership**

We wanted to bring a bit of colour to this winter's month by mentioning one of our main projects is the Yellow Wagtail Partnership.

The Yellow Wagtail is not a species one would think about at this time of year as by now they will be back in the wintering grounds in sunny West Africa.

Wild Oxfordshire have partnered with Earth Trust and Church Farm Partnership and Lower Farm to collectively manage four-miles of wet grassland along the River Thames from Clifton Hampden to Shillingford.



The aim of the project is to sustainably manage these grasslands for the benefit of wildlife including the Yellow Wagtail but also in a way that is economically beneficial for the partnering businesses.

However, this project is not just about the Yellow Wagtail, we want to increase the plant and insect diversity and abundance as well.

This in turn will increase the amount of food available for many species of bird including House Martins, Swifts, Snipe and Lapwings.

Check out our website for more information:

<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/action/yellow-wagtail>

**Sophie Cunnington**  
**Wild Oxfordshire Yellow Wagtail Partnership Officer**

# Strange Christmas customs around the world

When you step outside of Britain, far away from the carols, mince pies and mulled wine, you'll find wonderfully strange customs of Christmas.



In Spain, families adopt a smiling wooden log called **Caga Tio**, meaning the pooping log. Children feed it sweets throughout Advent, then on Christmas Eve, they beat it with sticks while singing songs. Catalan nativity scene often include a cheeky figurine called caganer, someone squatting in the corner relieving themselves. It's meant to symbolise fertility and the cycle of life, though it never fails to raise a giggle or two.

In Austria and parts of Germany, on December 5th, the eve of St Nicholas' Day, the streets fill with **Krampus**, a horned demon who punishes naughty children. Costumed parades feature terrifying masks, clanging bells, and plenty of mischief. It's a reminder that Advent once carried a sharper edge — a season of reckoning as well as rejoicing.



And in the Czech Republic, unmarried women toss a shoe over their shoulder on Christmas Eve. If it lands pointing toward the door, marriage is said to be on the horizon. If not, perhaps another year of waiting — or simply enjoying the freedom of singleness!

In Japan, the festive meal of choice is... Kentucky Fried Chicken. A clever marketing campaign in the 1970s convinced families that "**Kurisumasu wa Kentakkii**" ("Christmas means Kentucky"). Today, queues form outside KFC branches, and Colonel Sanders statues are dressed as Santa. It may not be turkey with all the trimmings, but it shows how traditions can be invented and embraced with gusto.



Norwegians have their own way of keeping mischief at bay: they hide their brooms on Christmas Eve. Folklore warns that witches and evil spirits might steal them for midnight joyrides. So, if you're in Oslo at Christmas, don't expect to sweep up after dinner.

In Caracas, Venezuela, the journey to church is anything but ordinary. Roads are closed so worshippers can roller-skate to early morning Mass. Imagine the sight: families gliding through the streets in festive procession, bells ringing, wheels whirring.



## **Turkey's out at vicar's exotic Christmas dinner**



Let's be honest. Turkey at Christmas is like that relative who turns up every year, drinks all the sherry, and falls asleep during the King's speech.

We tolerate it. We carve it. We chew through it. But do we actually enjoy it?

Turkey at Christmas is the culinary equivalent of a beige jumper: reliable, widely tolerated, and desperately in need of a makeover. If your

festive bird has the personality of a damp sock, this year give the turkey a dignified retirement and replace it with something that actually tastes like celebration.

The original Nativity menu did not feature a stuffed gobbler. Jesus was born into a world of simple bread, lentils and figs—not Waitrose-ready roasting birds.

Turkey itself comes from the Americas, domesticated by indigenous peoples long before it swaggered onto European tables after the 16th century. Spanish traders brought it back to Europe, where it ended up being called "turkey" thanks to a naming mix-up involving Turkish merchants and guinea fowl: its Christmas coronation is essentially a Victorian marketing triumph. So, if you ditch it, you're not being rebellious—you're being historically accurate.

Some years ago, my daughter Fiona and I staged a festive coup in our kitchen, and sought to explore tastier, juicier, and more joyful options. We lived in Ireland when we made this momentous decision, and I called with the local butcher in Ballykinlar to seek advice.

He was so helpful. He said: "Tell me what you fancy and I'll source it for you". We tried crocodile, kangaroo, ostrich, pheasant, duck, even a plain old extra large organic chicken which is tender and juicy - all have been revisited periodically throughout the years.

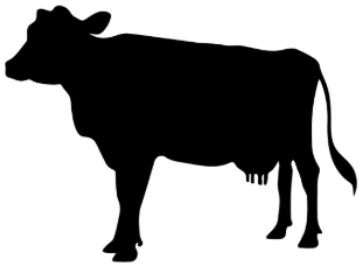


We did try serving turkey thighs filled with exotic stuffing mixtures to moisten and sweeten the otherwise dry casing. It's funny how that went down fairly well at dinner parties but not for me.



Mind you, we did have one rebellion on our hands when the clergy in my Deanery made me promise not to serve kangaroo again – their wives freaked out when they discovered what the "lovely meat" actually was. It obviously reminded them painfully of their cuddly toys!

**(Continued on page 12)**



Of course, various cuts of ham, lamb, beef, pork are always on hand over the Christmas holidays because so many folk pass through, for buffet lunches and the like.

It's a jolly expensive time of the year, to be fair, but the cooking and presentation experiments are such fun, so I don't mind the butcher laughing all the way to the bank.

Thought I might try Ossobuco with gremolata this year, as we will have a Sicilian staying with us over Christmas.

My personal favourite is rich flavoursome ostrich, but I've had lots of it recently, so it's not for Christmas this year.

Goose was the original Christmas bird. Fatty, flavourful, and self-basting. It's like turkey's glamorous older cousin who knows how to party. We tried this 2 years ago and it was a nightmare. Fat and grease everywhere, and not a lot of meat to share. The lard may be good for roasting potatoes, but since I have no need to rub it on my chest in the winter, I will not be cooking goose again.



This year, my brother-in-law will be at the table again. Now, for the last two years he has eaten his way quietly though dinner without turkey, and I sensed his distress last year, so this Christmas I will serve up a plain and simple turkey crown wrapped in bacon just for him.

Fiona and I will have a partridge each to sit along with the traditional ham and trimmings. Actually we do have vegetarian in the family, and that adds another tasty dimension to the trimmings.

Christmas isn't about clinging to culinary habits that make us miserable. It's about joy, generosity, and gathering, not a test of endurance. So if your festive bird is less than succulent, choose something that sings.

Feel free to rebel. Serve something that makes people smile, not reach for the gravy boat in desperation. Then sit back and watch the real tradition unfold: people laughing, plates emptied, and conversation thriving. That, more than any prescribed bird, is the real taste of Christmas.

Feasting is woven through Scripture as a sign of God's generosity and life restored. Isaiah pictures a great banquet for all peoples, and Luke's parables celebrate the joy of a feast where the lost are found and welcomed home. Our Christmas feast is as much about welcome and abundance as it is about ceremony.



Canon John Blair

# **A memorable Christmas in Checkendon**



Sometimes the thought of Christmas engenders a feeling of mild panic. We've all had our share of Christmases painful or embarrassing which do not go according to expectation and which linger long in memory.

There was the Christmas when that person went down the pub with his mates, got drunk and badly cut himself on a broken beer glass? Being drunk, his father, who was miles away with the other side of the family had to take him to hospital. A whole heap of people had their Christmas Eve and Day plans upended.

There was the time when the college Principal invited all his tutor group round for a turkey dinner just before Christmas. Sadly, his catering was not up to par, as the turkey had not been properly defrosted, and a goodly number of the students ended up with food poisoning all over the Christmas vacation.

And how about the Christmas when a married couple insisted on driving to the West Country separately? The other family members also in attendance spent the next three days quietly wondering if a divorce was ongoing. The host and hostess had a miserable time treading on the eggshells.

Oh, and don't forget that Christmas when flu struck, leaving hosts and visitors alike completely pole-axed, and unable to eat a thing. Of course it was the year we ordered the enormous turkey.

My experience is that the positive Christmas memories outweigh the bad, weird and the awful. They're a happier kind: when guests behave, when they arrive and leave when they should, when there is at least a truce in the perennial conflicts, when joy has her moment, when the boiler/TV/freezer/car/internet/dishwasher just works and stays working. And most importantly when the turkey goes in the oven with a centimetre to spare.

Christmas at Checkendon is one of the best things there is. The Church looks stunning, thanks to so many and generous volunteers. Music, whether from adults or children, is from the heart, and touches the heart.

Candles add to the timeless wonder, and we can all let go of the humdrum pressures, just for a short while. As peeping through stained glass into a realm of glory, heaven comes down and enfolds us in a love that is bigger than we ever imagined.

I look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas celebrations. Let us share these precious moments of love and hope together and pray in faith that 2026, whatever it may bring, will find us better people.

May the peace of the coming King be with you all.

**Rev Canon Kevin Davies**



# Nativity from the vicarage

If the Nativity happened today, it might not be in a stable, but in a garden centre car park lit by fairy lights and flanked by inflatable snowmen.

The Holy Family, wrapped in fleece-lined hoodies, might shelter beneath a pop-up gazebo, with a battery powered heater humming gently beside the manger. The donkey's been replaced by a second-hand hatchback. The straw? Recycled packaging. And the manger itself — a vegetable crate lined with a festive tea towel, perhaps one bearing a robin in a Santa hat.



Joseph checks Google Maps for the nearest open pharmacy. Mary sips a thermos of decaf tea. Baby Jesus lies nestled among eco-friendly straw, while a bluetooth speaker plays *Silent Night* from someone's Christmas playlist.



The shepherds arrive in hi-vis jackets, fresh from a night shift, bearing supermarket shortbread and a packet of wet wipes.

The Wise Men pull up in hybrid cars, bearing gifts from John Lewis: gold (gift-wrapped), frankincense (scented candle), and myrrh (artisan beard oil).



Overhead, instead of a star, a drone hovers — its blinking light guiding the way. And somewhere nearby, a robin sings, perched on a Christmas tree adorned with baubles, fairy lights, and a tag reading "Peace on Earth."

It's absurd, yes — but also tender. Because even amid the glitter and gadgets, LOVE still chooses to arrive in the ordinary.

The Gospel of Luke tells us that Jesus was born in a place where animals were kept, laid in a manger because "**there was no room for them in the inn**" (Luke 2:7). It's a story of displacement, of vulnerability, of God choosing the margins. And yet, it's also a story of welcome — of angels singing to shepherds, of strangers bringing gifts, of heaven breaking into earth.

The modern paraphernalia — the robins, the trees, the tinsel — may not be biblical, but they speak of longing. Longing for warmth, for beauty, for peace. And in their own way, they echo the truth of the Incarnation: that God comes not to the perfect, but to the present. Not to the sacred alone, but to the everyday.



Isaiah prophesied, "**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light**" (Isaiah 9:2). That light still shines — not just in stained glass and candle flames, but in the messy, muddled joy of modern life. In mince pies shared with neighbours. In carols sung off-key. In the quiet kindness of those who make room for others.

So, this Christmas, as we unwrap gifts and untangle fairy lights, may we remember the heart of it all: a child, born into chaos, bringing peace. Emmanuel — God with us. Not just then, but now. Even here. Even in the garden centre car park.



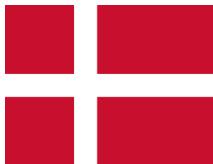
**Canon John Blair**

# **Ringing in the New Year around the world**

People ring in the New Year with quirky, symbolic and sometimes downright bizarre traditions. Here are the most unusual.



At the stroke of midnight, Spaniards eat 12 grapes. Each grape, eaten on the chime, represents good luck for each month to come. It began in 1909.



Danes save unused crockery to smash against a friend's door on New Year's Eve. The bigger the pile, the more friends and luck they have.



In Ecuador, people build effigies of politicians or pop culture figures. These are burned at midnight to symbolise destroying misfortunes of the previous year.



Some households in Ireland bang bread against walls and doors to chase away bad luck and evil spirits. Single women sleep with mistletoe under their pillows to dream of future husbands.



The first person to enter your home after midnight should be a dark-haired man bearing gifts like coal or whisky. This "first-footer" brings prosperity.



In Brazil, the celebration of Yemoja holds profound significance. The revered Orisha of the sea is revered for her nurturing and protective qualities. The ritualistic gathering is an expression of gratitude and hope.



Chalking the door or the epiphany, takes place in Germany on January 6. The tradition, with medieval roots sees the marking of chalk on the lintels or doorsteps of homes. It draws together memory, blessing and hospitality.

Whether you prefer a midnight mouthful of grapes, a ceremonial clunk of a cowbell, or the comforting nonsense of coloured underwear determining your fortune, there is a blessing in these odd little rituals. They give shape to hope, make strangers laugh together, and offer a gentle excuse to begin again.

This New Year, let us borrow the best of them — the courage to make some noise, the humility to let go of what clings, and the cheer to welcome neighbours, friends and the stranger with warmth and a hot drink.

# The New Years from the vicarage



I know the turn of the year can feel like a quiet doorway: a moment of gratitude for what was, a prickle of regret for what was left unfinished, and a cautious hope for what might be. For many in our parishes this may be a time to pray, to make small promises, and to ask God for the courage to live more faithfully in the months ahead.

The Christian tradition gives the New Year a spiritual shape: not merely a calendar reset but a chance to remember God's faithfulness and to step forward in trust. Scripture offers words to hold in our hearts as we let go of what cannot be changed and prepare to follow where God leads.

The prophet Isaiah's invitation - **"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing"** - is an especially good companion at New Year. It does not demand amnesia about pain or loss; rather it challenges us to stop living captive to regret so that we can perceive the fresh movement of God. And, Lamentations reassures us that God's mercies **"are new every morning"** giving licence to begin again day by day.

These images free us from the tyranny of perfectionism: the past is acknowledged, not repeated, and the future is held in God's hands.

New Year's resolutions often reveal our deepest hopes—health, relationship, meaning.

Jeremiah's promise - **"For I know the plans I have for you, plans to give you a future and a hope"** - helps us reframe those hopes in relation to God's providence. St Paul's counsel.

**"Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal"** - encourages purposeful, forward movement grounded in Christ Jesus rather than nostalgia or fear.

Maybe we could pick just one sustainable, soul-shaped practice for the year, make room for community and church functions, to find strength in mutual support, and remember that New Year is not a race – and give ourselves grace to be released from the past to look for God's newness every morning.

**O Lord**, who makes all things new, receive our grateful memory and our honest regret. Give us eyes to see the new thing you are doing, courage to follow where you lead, and compassion to walk with one another through the year. Shape our resolutions by your Spirit, that in small acts of love and faithful obedience your kingdom would come among us. **Amen.**



**Canon John Blair**

# What's on?

## Ipsden Parish Council meeting

**WHEN:** Thursday, December 4 at 6.30pm

**WHERE:** Ipsden village hall



Should residents wish to bring issues to the parish council's attention, please contact the clerk at [ipsdenpc@gmail.com](mailto:ipsdenpc@gmail.com) or visit



## A carol singing coffee morning in Ipsden

**WHEN:** Wednesday, December 10

**WHERE:** Ipsden village hall

## Ipsden village coffee morning

**WHEN:** Wednesday, January 21

**WHERE:** Ipsden village hall

## Robin Hood pantomime in January



**WHO:** St Mary's Players

**WHEN:** Evening performances on Thursday 15 and Friday 16; and a matinee and evening performance on Saturday 17

**WHERE:** Ipsden Memorial Hall

Tickets will be available from the second week in December from Ipsden Village Shop and online from Ticketsource.



## Cholsey Repair Cafe

**WHEN:** Saturday, January 17 from 10am to 12.45pm

**WHERE:** Cholsey Pavillion

Items include bicycles, garden tools and electrical equipment, which can be electronically PAT tested. Gluing, ultrasonic cleaning and sharpening are usually available.

No charge but a contribution towards running costs is gratefully accepted.

More information can be found at [www.cholseyrepaircafe.com](http://www.cholseyrepaircafe.com)

## Ipsden bingo evening

**WHEN:** Wednesday, February 7

**WHERE:** Ipsden village hall



# Church Services

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ipsden</b>	<b>North Stoke</b>
<b>Wednesday, December 3</b>	Evening prayer at 5pm — Zoom meeting ID: 410 935 129	
<b>Sunday, December 7</b>	Holy Communion at 9.30am	Holy Communion at 11am
<b>Wednesday, December 10</b>	Evening prayer at 5pm — Zoom meeting ID: 410 935 129	
<b>Sunday, December 14</b>	Service of the Word at 10am — Zoom meeting ID: 188 513 761	
<b>Wednesday, December 17</b>	Evening prayer at 5pm — Zoom meeting ID: 410 935 129	
<b>Sunday, December 21</b> (Lessons and carols)	6.30pm	4pm
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	Midnight Communion in Ipsden at 11.30pm	
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	Holy Communion with carols in North Stoke at 10am	
<b>Sunday, December 28</b>	Alternative carols and reading in Whitchurch-on-Thames at 10.30am	
<b>Wednesday, December 31</b>	5pm evening prayer—Zoom meeting ID: 410 935 129	
<b>Sunday, January 4</b>	9.30am Holy communion	11am Holy communion
<b>Wednesday, January 7</b>	Evening prayer at 5pm — Zoom meeting ID: 410 935 129	
<b>Sunday, January 11</b>	Service of the Word at 10am — Zoom meeting ID: 188 513 761	
<b>Wednesday, January 14</b>	Evening prayer at 5pm — Zoom meeting ID: 410 935 129	
<b>Sunday, January 18</b>	Holy Communion at 9.30am	Holy Communion at 9.30am
<b>Wednesday, January 21</b>	Evening prayer at 5pm — Zoom meeting ID: 410 935 129	
<b>Sunday, January 25</b>	Morning prayer at 9.30am	Morning prayer at 11am
<b>Wednesday, January 28</b>	Evening prayer at 5pm — Zoom meeting ID: 410 935 129	

**(Continued on page 19)**

# Church services further afield

<b>Date</b>	<b>Checkendon</b>	<b>Stoke Row</b>	<b>Whitchurch</b>
<b>Friday, December 19</b>		Carols round the well at 6pm	
<b>Sunday, December 21</b>	Carol service at 6pm	Carol service at 4pm	
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	Christingle service at 4pm		
<b>Christmas Day</b>	Christmas celebration at 11am		
<b>Sunday, December 28</b>	Team service of carols and reading at St Mary' Church in Whitchurch at 10.30am		

## Gifts for Jesus

In the midst of wrapping paper and shopping lists, remembering that Christmas is a birthday celebration for Jesus reframes everything.

Of course, we can't pop a present under the tree for him in the literal sense—but there are many ways to offer a "gift" that honours his life and teaching.

This includes: acts of generosity, supporting a local charity, giving time to someone lonely, community spirit, written reflection to Jesus.

## The 2026 "wild connections" calendar



The Stokerpix charity calendar includes 12 images of fascinating wildlife, captured by Simon Booker. It is in aid of The Stroke Association.

Images and background story can be found on Youtube - [www.youtu.be/XdD4NdS7azk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdD4NdS7azk)

There is more information, and photographs at [www.stokerpix.com](http://www.stokerpix.com)

## **Ipsden Lottery**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Winner</b>
October 11	
October 18	E Allen
November 25	
November 1	P Silvey
November 8	B Parkinson
November 15	P Bennett

A ticket is £1 per week, payable in 10-week blocks, with the winning number worth £25 each week.

The winning number is the Saturday night bonus ball number in the National Lottery. If you are interested in joining, please talk to Shirley in the village shop to arrange payment and to choose your number.

## **New milkman in Ipsden**



Shirley in the Ipsden village shop has changed her milkman.

As of Friday, November 21, the delivery will be between 10am and 11am.

The price is now £1.20 per litre, the same as in Toco and 5p cheaper than in Waitrose.

She hopes that this will encourage shoppers to explore other lines on offer in the shop.

Customers can also make cash contributions to the foodbank, which then asks for specific items to match shortages.

## **Distribution of the Window**

The Window is available online on the Ipsden village website and some paper copies are held in the Ipsden shop for individual collection.

**Email:** [revjwblair@gmail.com](mailto:revjwblair@gmail.com)