



Weekly News

Sunday 21st December 2025

A family following Jesus

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. *John 3 v 16*

Welcome to our All-Age Christingle Service led by Revd Karen Bugg

Order of Service

Welcome

Lighting 4th Advent candle - Love

Carol: See him lying on a bed of straw

People collect gifts for Baby Jesus Rocks during this carol

Instructions

Make Christingles in Lower Hall

Return to sanctuary

Christmas story: The Christmas Poem

Carol: Come and join the celebration

Short talk: The symbolism of the Christingle

Light Christingles

Carol: Silent night

Song: Lord, the light of Your love is shining

Intercessions

Carol: The First Nowell

Christian Aid collection during the singing

Blessing

Grace

Many thanks go to all who supported our carol singing for Christian Aid. We made £177 for the DRC appeal. *Margaret Pike*

In our services throughout Advent, we are reflecting on the wonder of the incarnation - when God takes on flesh in the form of Jesus, the baby in the manger. Along with this theme, there is a prayer journey you can join with, running from 1st December to Christmas Day. You can sign up and follow on the YouVersion Bible app or receive an e-mail each day. Here's the sign-up link:

<https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/small-wonder-a-christmas-devotional-journey/> Do join in with this if you can!

Message from Lesley Lynch: Dear friends, I want to thank you all so much for the cards, flowers, visits and phone calls with which you have supported me ever since I became unwell. I watch the livestreamed services but hope with all my heart to be back in church with everyone when it becomes possible. May God bless you all.

Meet & Make is on **Tuesdays, 1.30-3.00 pm** in the Lower Hall, using the Holliday Street entrance. We are now having a **break over Christmas**, resuming on **13th January**.

Open Church, which normally takes place **Thursdays 10.00 am until noon**, will not be operating on **Christmas Day or New Year's Day**, but restarting on **8th January**.

First Steps, our parent + toddler group, is **now on holiday**, restarting on **8th January**.

Notices

This afternoon there will be a **Reflective Christmas service** held here at **3.30**.

25th December: All-Age Christmas service 10.30 am

Sunday 28th December: All-Age service 10.30 am

Many thanks to all of you who donated gifts for the Salvation Army Children's Christmas Present Appeal. They were gratefully received by the Salvation Army and will be distributed to children in need in Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead.

Our **Small Groups** meet weekly and fortnightly. You are encouraged to attend one to share in mid-week fellowship and learn more about Jesus through his Word. Please speak to Pat Ginger, Sandra Wotton or Alun Sainsbury if you wish to try or join a group.

A reminder to all to please save used stamps for the charity 'Kicks count'. They work to prevent the death of babies in pregnancy and the early weeks. All you need to do is cut a centimetre around the stamp and pop them in the box in the lower hall. Thanks *Maggie*

The amount raised from our annual **Gift Day appeal** was £3308. A big 'thank you' goes to all those members and friends who contributed to this fine total figure. As agreed at our September church meeting, a donation of £1100 each will be sent to the Swan Youth Project and the Waterways Chaplaincy. The remaining third will be added to church funds.
John Ball, Treasurer

The **local Scout Groups** are offering a collection service for real Christmas trees after the Christmas season is over. For a suggested voluntary donation of £6 per tree, they will pick it up on Sunday 4th January 2026 (or Saturday 3rd January for the Hall Park area), and take it to the Dacorum Council shredder. All funds raised will go to support local Scout charities. You can book and pay for your tree collection online by 11 pm on 2nd January, or visit the Scouts' Christmas tree market stall next to Tesco in Berkhamsted between 8:30 am and 12:30 pm on **Saturday 3rd January**.

We are continuing to collect food and other grocery items for the DENS Foodbank; these are delivered to Hemel Hempstead each week. Please leave your contributions in the box in the church entrance. Their urgent needs include:

- Tinned ham/corned beef
- Tinned fruit
- Cooking sauces
- Long life juice/squash
- Jams and spreads
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned sweetcorn
- Tinned fish
- Sweet and savoury biscuits
- Christmas chocolates and selection packs
- Custard
- Nuts
- Rice pudding
- Sponge puddings
- Roasting trays (large)
- Deodorants
- Laundry liquid/tabs/powder (small packs)
- 2-in-1 shampoo

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Prayers

Please pray for

- the Meet & Make team
- those who find Christmas a lonely or sad time
- all in our church family who are unwell
- all those affected by the events at Bondi Beach

From BMS World Mission

Pray that Lebanon's President and Government, new in 2025, will have wisdom and unity as they deal with the challenging task of leading a country and economy in turbulent and unstable times.

You gave your all to the world
in the bleakness of that stable.
Love was born that day
Pure love
Undiluted
Poured out for all
who call on Your name.
Such Grace
Undeserved
deserves a response
in the life that we lead.
Forgive our ingratitude
for all you have done,
draw us to your Word,
give us a new song to sing,
that will resonate throughout this world.
And begin with us today. Amen

From <https://www.faithandworship.com/>

Loving God, we praise you,
not only when the sun
is shining, but when rain
seems endless. For just
as a seed needs both sun
and rain if it is to grow,
so faith becomes stronger,
lives become more fruitful,
if we root them in the rich
and solid earth of your love.

From <https://www.faithandworship.com/>

And finally...

'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.' *John 13 vs 34, 35*

Items for the next News Sheet to Fliss Nesbitt by Thursday 1st January, please. There will not be a News Sheet on 28th December.