



PARISH OF  
RINGWOOD

# Ringwood Link

Children's  
pull out  
inside



See page  
14 for  
Christmas  
services

# Comfort and Joy

The Church of England in Ringwood, Poulner,  
Bisterne, Ellingham & Harbridge  
[www.ringwoodbenefice.org.uk](http://www.ringwoodbenefice.org.uk)

# ABOUT US

The Parish of Ringwood with Ellingham and Harbridge lies on the western edge of the New Forest and the south-western border of Hampshire. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester, in the Deanery of Christchurch, within the Church of England.

## *Ringwood Parish is proud to be part of Ringwood Benefice*

### **What is Ringwood Benefice?**

Ringwood Benefice is a family of six Church of England churches, covering the communities of Ringwood, Poulner, Ellingham, Harbridge, Bisterne, and St Leonards and St Ives.

We share a common vision to

***'Discover Life & Make a Difference'***

This vision seeks to deepen our life together in Christ and our own personal discipleship, and then to share this life across our communities, homes, and workplaces.

We have four 'big' goals to live out our vision:

### **Goal 1**

#### **Family**

Have a toddler group, Messy Church, and All Age service in Ringwood, Poulner and St Leonards & St Ives.

### **Goal 2**

#### **Worship**

Grow three new worshipping communities.

### **Goal 3**

#### **Community**

Launch two social enterprises in Ringwood and Poulner that foster community.

### **Goal 3**

#### **Ministry**

Revitalise, reimagine, and re-establish rural ministry.

 [FACEBOOK.COM/RINGWOODBENEFICE](https://www.facebook.com/ringwoodbenefice)  
 [TWITTER.COM/RINGWOODCOFE](https://twitter.com/ringwoodcofe)  
 [INSTAGRAM.COM/RINGWOODBENEFICE](https://www.instagram.com/ringwoodbenefice)  
 [YOUTUBE.COM - SEARCH RINGWOOD BENEFICE](https://www.youtube.com)

**[WWW.RINGWOODBENEFICE.ORG.UK](http://WWW.RINGWOODBENEFICE.ORG.UK)**

# DECEMBER SERVICES



## ONLINE CHURCH

*WATCH ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE*

**Every Sunday:** 09.30am Sunday Live  
10.30am King's Kids: The Sunday School

## ST PETER & ST PAUL

**RINGWOOD**

**6th:**

- 09.30 Morning Worship
- 11.00 Morning Prayer

**13th:**

- 09.30 Morning Worship
- 11.00 Holy Communion

**20th:**

- 09.30 Morning Worship
- 11.00 Morning Prayer with Baptism

**27th:**

- 10.30 Holy Communion

## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

**POULNER**

**6th:** 10.30 Morning Worship

**13th:** 10.30 Morning Worship

**20th:** 10.30 Holy Communion

**27th:** No service

## ST MARY & ALL SAINTS

**ELLINGHAM**

**13th:** 11.00 Morning Prayer

**27th:** 17.30 Evening Prayer

## ST PAUL'S

**BISTERNE**

**20th:** 10.30 Matins

## ALL SAINTS

**HARBRIDGE**

**27th:** None. Service moved to the 25th

See page  
14 for  
Christmas  
services

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# CONTACT US

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**The office is currently closed to visitors  
however please call or email us, all messages will be answered**

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**WWW.RINGWOODBENEFICE.ORG.UK**

# MINISTER'S LETTER

This article began at the breakfast table in my kitchen in mid-November, Izzy is watching kids' TV in the lounge, Sarah's getting ready for work upstairs and Henry is surprisingly still asleep in his bedroom. Outside the kitchen window is an arresting pink sky.

Prior to looking out of the window I'd been checking the day's commitments in my diary and doing my first scan of emails, but seeing the pink sky stirred my soul and held my gaze. That pink sky inspired this article. In the midst of the challenges which, in this present season can feel burdensome and overwhelming there are moments which, when we allow them to, can change our outlook and enable us to discover beauty in the present moment.

In Matthew 6.34, Jesus tells his disciples not to worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself. As we enter the Advent and Christmas season, we face perhaps the greatest amount of uncertainty many of us will have ever faced. This uncertainty, of course, is caused by the Coronavirus pandemic and the questions around our freedoms to move about and spend time with our loved ones over Christmas.

Let me let you into a regular debate in the Trick household. I'm an amateur theologian and my wife, Sarah, is a philosophy graduate. I like to tease Sarah that the future is not real, it



doesn't exist, an idea which when you pause to think about it, is both undeniably true and mind-blowing in the same moment. Let the thought fester in your mind and you'll realise that in any given moment, the past is gone, and the future is yet to exist so the only thing which actually exists is the present moment, literally now.

However, despite the present moment being the only thing that actually exists, this isn't the way we live our lives, is it? Our emotions are normally a mash up of memories savoured, or lingering regrets from the past or the uncertainty and anticipation of the future.

This way of living is made even more acute by Coronavirus, we are so full of future uncertainties that in the present we are overwhelmed. The cost of this approach is that we fail to see beauty in the present moment, beauty which is actually more real, more stirring than the uncertainties we face about the future.

Recently, I remember being mildly astounded by a Vicar on Twitter who tweeted to the effect of wondering whether, because of the uncertainties about physical Church services and movement at Christmas, Jesus could be born this year? As if the birth of Jesus Christ 2000 years ago might be undone by whether we are able to meet in a particular place at a particular time. I don't lack empathy for the feelings and concerns of this Vicar, I just question whether introducing such levels of spiritual uncertainty into a world where uncertainty reigns, was helpful.

Jesus was born and triumphing over death, Jesus is, in the present moment, alive. This wonderful truth of the Son of God born as a babe in Bethlehem is rather wonderfully non-contingent on where we are with lockdown, or how we worship. This wonderful reality exists not as future uncertainty but as present reality.

This is what the pink sky has to teach us, that if we pause, take some deep breaths, put down our phones and raise our eyes, we can see much beauty around us. This might take the form of a beautiful skyline, or the kindness of a friend, an unexpected gift or a walk with family, but these expressions of beauty are real, they exist and when we look at them and meditate on them, our souls can be stirred and our minds momentarily freed from the leftovers of the past or the anticipation of the future.

For those familiar with the feel and structure of the Church year, this might all feel a bit ironic. Isn't Advent an entire season of anticipation, of looking ahead

to the celebration of Christ's coming at Christmas? Well, yes and at the same time, but... Advent is also a time of looking in, of seeing the joy and beauty of God at work in each of our lives in the present moment.

This has been the most challenging of years as we've loved and lost people, many have lost jobs and many businesses both local and national have closed. We have faced restrictions on our freedoms and we all carry significant uncertainties about the coming months. But try to stop this Advent, this Christmas and allow the beauty of the Christmas story to stir your soul and help you see that Jesus is with you, here and now!

Peace and all good,

Matthew



THANK  
YOU

Thank you to Paula Scott who still continues to work in the garden of St Peter & St Paul's Church. She has lived in Sturminster Newton since June, but comes back to help with "the hard stuff". Thanks Paula for your garden skills, energy and cheerfulness.

**Ann L.**

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## DECEMBER

### **8TH: MOTHERS' UNION ADVENT SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION AND ANNUAL MEETING**

**2pm at The Church of St Peter & St Paul.** Contact Stella Roberts for details.

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES - SEE PAGE 14**

### **SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT THE CHURCH OF ST PETER & ST PAUL.**

Please call the office on 01425 489898 to reserve your seat.

### **24TH: 8PM CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS**

A service drawing on the riches of the Bible, poetry, and music. Set against a backdrop of candlelight.

### **25TH: 9AM HOLY COMMUNION**

A Christmas Day service of Holy Communion

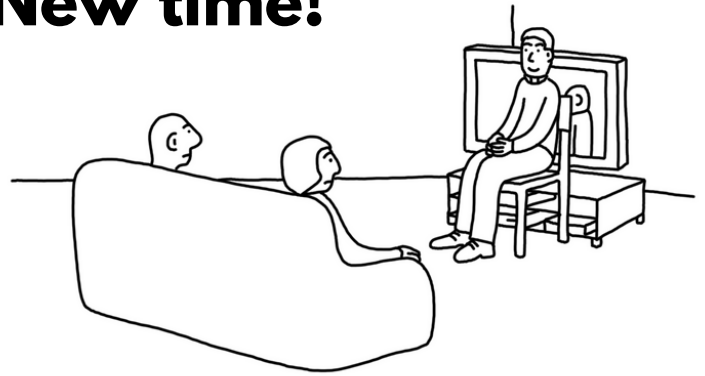
### **25TH: 10.30AM FAMILY CELEBRATION**

A fun, short, and informal celebration of the joy of Christmas.



It is a legal requirement to wear a face covering in church buildings unless you are exempt.

## New time!



### **EVERY SUNDAY AT 9.30AM SUNDAY LIVE**

Online church is here to stay and so we continue to upload new Sunday Worship to Facebook and YouTube, every Sunday at 9.30am.

# READINGS

### **December 6th**

The Second Sunday of Advent  
Advent: Prepare your Hearts  
Luke 3:1-6

### **December 13th**

The Third Sunday of Advent  
Advent: Make Changes  
Luke 3:7-18

### **December 20th**

The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Advent: Share God's News  
Luke 1.39-55

### **December 27th**

Off Series: The First Sunday of Christmas  
Luke 2.41-52

# FIRST WEDDING SINCE LOCKDOWN AT RINGWOOD PARISH CHURCH

Photography:  
Korine Bishop  
[@korine\\_photography](#)

The first wedding since March has taken place at the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul in the Market Place. Stavanna and Jonathan Yeomans were married in October with just 13 guests, including the Groom's mother, Jacqueline Brown our Churchwarden!

The couple both grew up in Ringwood, attended Ringwood School and worked at Ringwood Health & Leisure. Jonathan is related to the Tanners, an old Ringwood family of whom several are buried in the churchyard.

Revd Matthew Trick, Vicar, said, 'It was an absolute delight to welcome Jonathan and Stavanna and their families to the church and to have again the joy of a marriage service in our beautiful church. Despite only having a wedding party of 15 in total, it was a wonderful occasion, and their happiness to be married was clear to see.'







The marriage service was live-streamed online so that family and friends who couldn't attend could watch and join in.

With such a small party, the marriage took place in the small and intimate space of the church's Chancel, with the guests seated in the choir stalls. The couple had a reception at Sopley Mill.

# PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH

## **For the lonely**

Loving Jesus,  
you were born in a stable but  
worshipped by the angels.

Be with (N. and) all who are lonely,  
and with all who feel distant from  
celebrations.

Be for us a living hope that lightens  
their hearts.

Amen.

## **For the recently deceased**

In your hands, O Lord,  
we humbly entrust our brothers and  
sisters.

In this life you embraced them with  
your tender love;  
deliver them now from every evil  
and bid them eternal rest.

The old order has passed away:  
welcome them into paradise,  
where there will be no sorrow, no  
weeping or pain,  
but fullness of peace and joy  
with your Son and the Holy Spirit  
forever and ever.

Amen.

## **At Christmas**

Holy Jesus,  
by being born one of us,  
and lying humbly in a manger,  
you show how much God loves the  
world.

Let the light of your love always shine  
in our hearts,

until we reach our home in heaven,  
and see you on your throne of glory.

Amen.

## **A prayer against gender violence**

Compassionate God, bring to light  
deeds of abuse hidden in darkness,  
that victims may find safety and  
refuge, free from fear.

Creator God, awaken us to gender-  
based violence within your church and  
empower us to take action against it.  
Forgive us for ignorance.

Merciful God, bless those working with  
perpetrators of gender-based  
violence. May they help create lasting  
transformation of lives.

Holy Lord, thank you that many  
women and girls are free from abuse  
and violence.

Loving Lord, you have called us to love  
our neighbour as ourselves. Help us to  
treat all with dignity and respect as we  
follow the example of Christ.

Amen.

# REGULAR SERVICE PATTERN

Our service pattern as we begin 2021.

We are expecting the number of services that we offer will increase as the restrictions lessen.

## ST PETER & ST PAUL

*RINGWOOD*

### 1st Sunday:

- 09.30 Morning Worship
- 11.00 Morning Prayer

### 2nd Sunday:

- 09.30 Morning Worship
- 11.00 Holy Communion

### 3rd Sunday:

- 09.30 Morning Worship
- 11.00 Morning Prayer with Baptism

### 4th Sunday:

- 09.30 Morning Worship
- 11.00 Holy Communion

## ST MARY & ALL SAINTS

*ELLINGHAM*

2nd Sunday: 11.00 Matins

4th Sunday: 17.30 Evening Prayer

## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

*POULNER*

1st Sunday: 10.30 Morning Worship

2nd Sunday: 10.30 Morning Worship

3rd Sunday: 10.30 Holy Communion

4th Sunday: 10.30 Morning Worship

## ALL SAINTS

*HARBRIDGE*

4th Sunday: 10.00 Matins

## ST PAUL'S

*BISTERNE*

3rd Sunday: 10.30 Matins

## ONLINE CHURCH

*WATCH ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE*

### Every Sunday:

- 09.30 Sunday Live
- 10.30 King's Kids: The Sunday School (during term time)

### Every Tuesday

- 2pm Thought for the Day

## 5TH SUNDAY

*JAN, MAY, AUG & OCT 2021*

Where a month has a 5th Sunday a whole Benefice service usually takes place in one of churches - Details will be available nearer the time.



Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The Comfort and Joy reflections, services and some of the music will also be available throughout Advent and Christmas.

### **WINCHESTER CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD SHOP BY CATHY WALLIS**

Well, it opened on time in October, it shut as demanded in November but it will reopen in December.

A full range of cards will be available from the shop at 155 High Street (the former Whittards shop). Do visit it if you can to get your Christmas Cards and to support charities at the same time.

### **MOTHERS' UNION DECEMBER UPDATE BY STELLA ROBERTS**

Every year from the 25th November to 10th December, the Mothers' Union members along with Governments and other organisations join the International Campaign for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. The Mothers' Union are bringing the Domestic Abuse and poor standards of living to the United Nations by sending representatives from around the world to speak at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Members of the Winchester Diocese usually hold a Vigil and Reflection outside the Cathedral during these 16 days and Groups are encouraged to hold Prayer Vigils in their own Parishes and Churches to pray for all victims of abuse both women and men. This year because of Covid-19 and the lockdown we were unable to hold the Vigil as planned on 25th November, but hopefully we will hold it on Saturday 5th December from 12.00 – 2.00pm. The Mothers' Union has made Saturday 5th December a Worldwide Global Day "No more One in Three". It is a known fact that one in three women and girls around the world suffer from domestic abuse in their homes or employment. Helen Pain, a Mothers' Union lead Winchester Trustee on Domestic and Abuse and Anti Slavery will be leading a Zoom Reflection Service for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence on Thursday 3rd December. Members will be informed how to join this Service.

The Mothers' Union have joined with the Church of England Clewer Initiative and are working together to bring to the public the need to abolish modern day slavery in this country. There will be cards and posters available in church very soon to help the public recognise modern day slavery and how to report it.

If the Government does not change the lockdown times, we in the Ringwood Branch will be attending an Advent Holy Communion Service and Annual Meeting on Tuesday 8th December at 2.00pm in the Parish Church. We have the joy to be enrolling two new members at this service.

# COMFORT & JOY

## EXPLORING THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND'S 2020 CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

This Christmas, the Church of England campaign Comfort and Joy holds together the hope that Christmas will bring joy and celebration after a uniquely difficult year with an acknowledgement that – for those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods, or who are potentially still not able to be together with loved ones – it may be the Church's role, both nationally and locally, to provide consolation, rather than assume everyone will be ready to join in jubilation.

This Christmas the Church will need, in the words of St Paul in Romans 12.15, to **'Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep'**. We will aim to celebrate where we can together in one place – but also embrace a wider community that wants to join in the celebration but may not be physically able – or emotionally ready – to do so. We hope that Comfort and Joy will enable us to build a campaign that both enables us to reconnect with the rich and joyous traditions of the past and to offer God's consoling love in the present.

**Reflections:** The Church of England has partnered with a number of public figures to produce short reflections exploring the theme. Comfort and Joy: Nine Lessons and carols for Christmas mirrors the structure of a traditional carol service, exploring both biblical texts and the words of much-loved Christmas carols.

The reflections for each day from Christmas Day to 2nd January feature contributions from Kate Bottley, Jonathan Bryan, Bob Chilcott, Martha Collison, Stephen Cottrell, Guli Francis-Dehqani, Chine McDonald, Sally Phillips and Justin Welby. The booklet is introduced by the Archbishops and has been edited by the Ven John Kiddle, Archdeacon of Wandsworth, author of the best-selling *God With Us: Your Christmas Journey*.

The booklet is available to order from Church House Publishing and is also available freely via audio, smart speaker, as well as in app and email formats with accompanying prayer activities for children and families.

Working with the Archbishop of York's Youth Trust and the Evangelism & Discipleship team, there will also be a series of youth reflections produced in December.

**Online services and events:** In collaboration with a range of Christian charities and organisations, the Church of England will produce nine online services throughout Advent and Christmas. This will include an online service for each Sunday of Advent, a Christingle with the Children's Society, nine lessons and carols and midnight services. Charities involved include Christian Aid, Church Army, Embrace and Marie Curie. The online weekly services have been very well received and continue to attract a diverse audience, including regular churchgoers, people exploring faith, and a wide age demographic.



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES

## ONLINE CHURCH

**PREMIERED ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE**

### Sunday 20th December

- 16.00 Parish of Ringwood  
Online Christmas Messy Church

### Wednesday 23rd December

- 16.00 Parish of Ringwood  
Online Christingle service

### Christmas Day

- 09.30 Sunday Live

## COMMUNITY

**RINGWOOD LONG STAY CAR PARK**

### Sunday 20th December

16.00 & 18.00 Churches Together Drive in Christmas Service in Ringwood long-stay car park. For more details see the LoveRingwood Facebook page or contact the office.

## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

**POULNER**

### Christmas Day

- 10.30 Christmas Morning Worship

## ST PETER & ST PAUL

**RINGWOOD**

Due to the current restrictions in place Christmas Eve & Christmas Day services in the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul will be ticket only. Please call the office on **01425 489898** to reserve your seat or email **office@ringwoodbenefice.org.uk**. A more detailed description of the services can be found on page seven.

### Christmas Eve (Ticket only)

- 20.00 Candlelit Christmas

### Christmas Day (Ticket only)

- 09.00 Holy Communion
- 10.30 Family Celebration

### Boxing Day

- 10.30 Holy Communion

## ST MARY & ALL SAINTS

**ELLINGHAM**

### Christmas Day

- 11.00 BCP Holy Communion

## ALL SAINTS

**HARBRIDGE**

### Christmas Day

- 10.00 Christmas Matins

**Comfort**  
and Joy





PARISH OF  
RINGWOOD

# YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US!

**SUN 20**

4pm Christmas Messy Church  
Watch online on Facebook or YouTube

**WED 23**

4pm Christingle service  
Watch online on Facebook or YouTube

**CHRISTMAS  
DAY**



9.30am Christmas Day Sunday Live   
Watch online on Facebook or YouTube

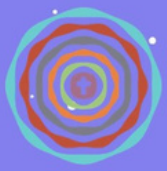
10.30am Family Celebration at the church of  
St Peter & St Paul, Market Place, Ringwood.

A fun, short, and informal celebration of the  
joy of Christmas. Please call or email the  
Benefice Office to reserve your seats. 01425  
489898 / [office@ringwoodbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@ringwoodbenefice.org.uk)

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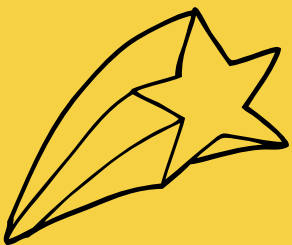
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[www.ringwoodbenefice.org.uk](http://www.ringwoodbenefice.org.uk)

Join us for an Advent Adventure as we follow Mary and Joseph, the Shepherd and Wise Men towards the birth of the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Inspired by the Real Advent Calendar, we will post a new episode of Advent Adventure every day from Monday 30th November on our 'Ringwood Benefice' Facebook, Instagram and YouTube channels.

## Advent wordsearch



Q: How does  
Christmas  
Day end?

A: With the letter 'Y'

S	T	A	R	F	S	H	E	E	P
P	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	W
V	S	T	A	B	L	E	P	E	Q
Y	J	E	S	U	S	Y	N	V	Z
X	G	M	A	R	Y	V	K	H	U
A	H	E	J	U	C	W	P	K	M
N	K	D	O	N	K	E	Y	I	I
G	J	N	A	B	S	K	E	N	Q
E	C	A	M	O	I	W	Z	G	E
L	U	L	J	J	G	D	A	I	Y

JESUS  
 MARY  
 JOSEPH  
 ANGEL  
 STAR  
 KING  
 SHEEP  
 SHEPHERD  
 DONKEY  
 STABLE





# Christingle Online

## 23rd December 4pm

As we can't all meet in church for Christingle this year, during the last week of term we will be delivering

Christingle bags to Ringwood Infant & Junior School. These bags will contain everything needed to assemble a Christingle ready for the online service on Wednesday 23rd December at 4pm.

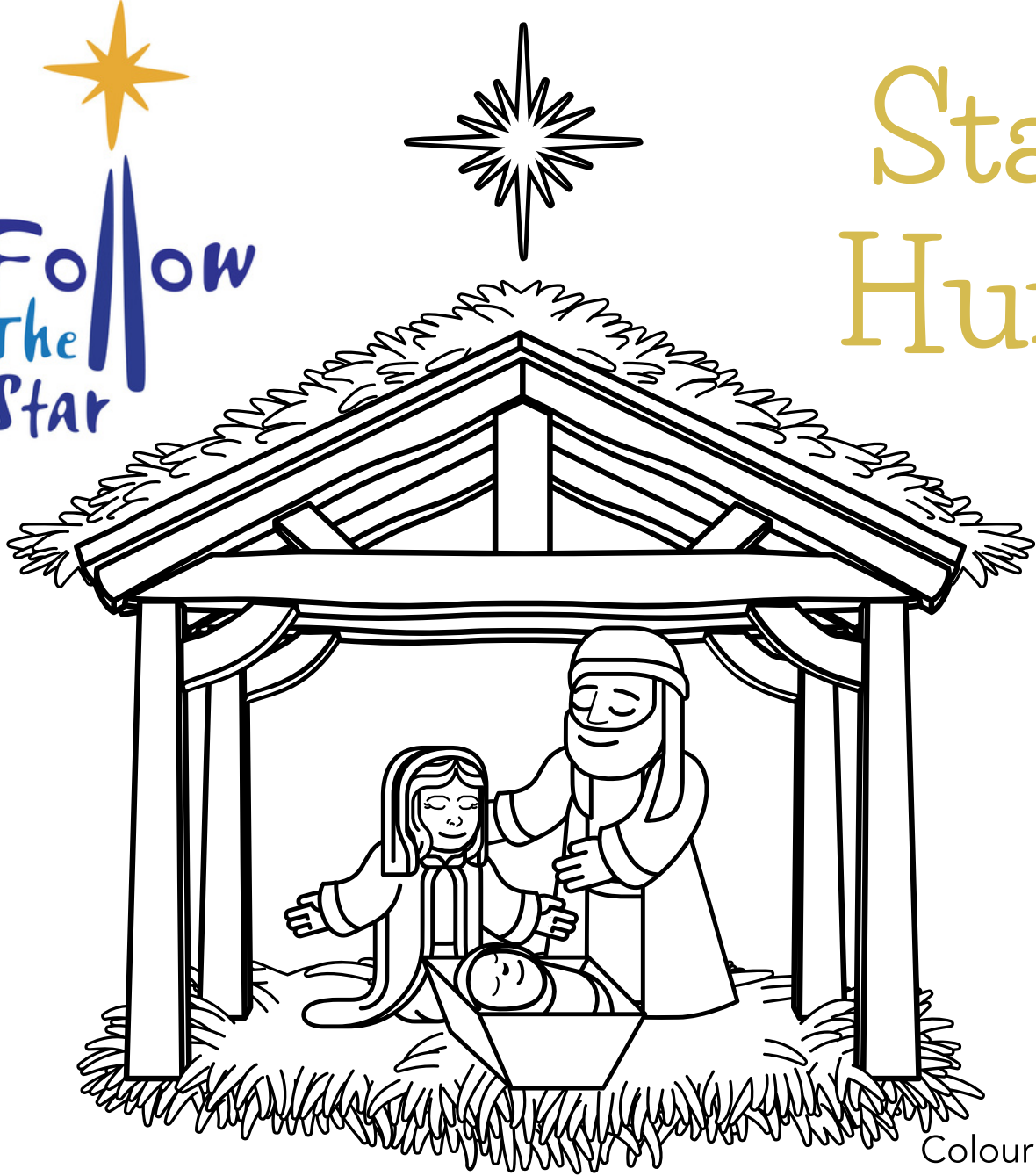


Q: How does a snowman get to work?

A: By icicle!

# Follow  
The  
Star

# Star Hunt



Colour me in!

You are invited to a star hunt around Ringwood Town Centre, but we need your help with the stars!

We would like you to draw a nativity scene, no larger than A5, which will be attached to a star and used as part of our star hunt #followthestar. We will collect your pictures from school on 7th December and there will be a prize for the best picture, so write your name on the back of your picture.

Can you find all 20 stars before Christmas?

Parents: Why not take a photos with your favourite star and add it the Ringwood Benefice Facebook or Instagram page? Tag them #followthestar @Ringwoodbenefice. Uploaded images will be shown during our Christingle service and Christmas family service.

By uploading your child's photo, you are giving consent for the images to be shown online, in print and at the Christmas Services.



Organised by The Rotary Club of Ringwood

# **FATHER CHRISTMAS**

## **Toy Collection**



**This Christmas Eve you will not be able to give toys to Father Christmas in person but his helpers will still be collecting them for him and you can leave them at drop points in Ringwood. The Rotary Club of Ringwood will be collecting the toys which will be distributed to Special Schools and Children's hospices.**

**Please leave simply wrapped presents at any of the places below. Collection points will be open from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 at**

**Greyfriars Community Centre, Gateway Council Offices.  
Ringwood Parish Church, Carvers Youth Centre  
and The London Tavern, Poulner  
also local Schools and churches will be organising collections.**

**If you have any large items, please ring 01425 470571**

# THE ARCHDEACON'S VISITATION 2020

**BY JACQUELINE BROWN,  
CHURCHWARDEN - FOR 13  
YEARS NOW!**

A strange name for a church service – it's the service at which a parish's new or returning Churchwardens are sworn into office. It is a legal requirement for Churchwardens to attend a Visitation and make in person the declarations required. Otherwise they can't be admitted to office.

As with so many things, this year's was rather different and Churchwardens Matthew Steele and I were sworn into office online via a service on Zoom with some 200 people attending via their PCs, laptops or phones.

People often ask what the role of churchwarden consists of, and it is rather neatly summed up in the words of the service. Firstly the Diocesan Registrar (legal expert) implores us to, 'seek God's grace and guidance in the discharge of the responsibilities entrusted to us, that we may be good stewards in the administration of our Church, its people, buildings and fabric, wise in counsel, effective in co-operating with clergy and laity, and zealous in forwarding the witness and service of the Church. In the name of Jesus Christ, and in the power of the Spirit, may we glorify the Father in word and deed, and ever promote the well-being of his people.'

That sums it up fairly neatly, and the Archdeacon then asks the Churchwardens, 'My brothers and sisters, whom God has called to serve in the Office and with the duties of Churchwarden. Will you work with the Bishop, with your clergy and other ministers, with the PCC and all the people of God of your parish in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical?'

So if the Registrar talks about the tasks, this part is about people. But he continues, 'Will you care for the churches of your parish, their grounds and contents? Will you care for God's people in your parish? Will you have special care for the wellbeing of the



clergy and their families? Will you strive to fashion your own life according to the Gospel of Christ? Will you be faithful in personal prayer and public worship?

And we respond with an enthusiastic, 'With the help of God, I will!' to each question.

The Churchwardens then stand and say together, 'I solemnly and sincerely declare before God and his people that I will faithfully and diligently discharge the duties of the Office of Churchwarden for the Parish for which I have been chosen during the period of my appointment. And are admitted to the Office of churchwarden by the Archdeacon and confirmed in that role by him.

We conclude by asking for God's help in all of this - 'Look upon our lives, O Lord our God, and make them yours. In the power of the Holy Spirit may we walk in your way, believe your word, and fulfil your commandments; may we faithfully worship you and serve our neighbour to the furtherance of your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.' We certainly couldn't do all that we have to do without God's help and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Or without the support of our clergy and colleagues and all of you.

**Jacqueline Brown**

### **Churches Together Hope magazine - help wanted**

Churches Together would like to post a copy of the Christmas Hope magazine through every letterbox in Ringwood!

If you would like to help distribute the magazines, around the town or just along your street, please get in contact with us.

## **The Parish of Ringwood needs you!**



Could you be our next PCC Treasurer?  
Interested? Contact the Revd Matthew Trick

## **2021 Ringwood Benefice Calendars for sale £10 each**

Calendars containing images of all six churches are available to purchase. Please place your order with a Warden, or contact the Benefice Office. All proceeds towards Harbridge Fabric Fund. Free local delivery available.



### **Christmas Hamper Raffle - Raising funds for Ringwood Parish Church**

Tickets priced at £1  
each. Available to  
buy at services in  
the Parish Church.

# CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

## **World's oldest fake tree**

Did you know that it is a family in Wiltshire, the Parkers, who claim to own the world's oldest artificial Christmas tree? It was bought in 1886, and it is still put up every year.

## **Where did Christmas stockings come from?**

No one is really sure, but a story is told of St Nicholas, a bishop who lived in the 4th century, who may have started the custom by accident. St Nicholas was of a wealthy family, and of a generous heart. As Christmas approached one year, he wanted to help a poor family whom he knew, but he did not want them to know it was him. So he climbed up on their roof on Christmas Eve and dropped some coins down the chimney.

The next morning the coins, to the great surprise of the family, were found in the stockings of the ladies, who had hung them to dry by the fire the night before. Every year after that they put their stockings out, in the hope that some more money would fall into them. They told the story of this amazing appearance to their friends and neighbours, and the custom caught on.

## **Mistletoe's smelly history**

Did you know that the word 'mistletoe' means dung on a tree? The Anglo-Saxons thought that mistletoe grew in trees where birds had left their droppings. Mistel means dung, and tan means twig.

## **The story of mince pies**

Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.

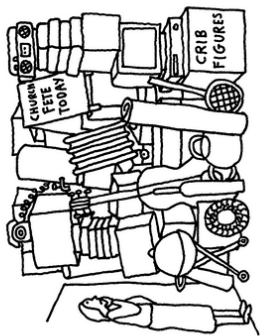
## **Where did Christmas trees come from?**

There are two early stories that mention fir trees. The first involves St Boniface, who went to Germany in the 8th century as a missionary and found people sacrificing a child to their god under an oak tree. Boniface was appalled, and he rescued the child. He then chopped down the oak tree and found a tiny fir tree growing nearby. He gave this to the people and said: "This is a symbol of life. Whenever you look at this tree, remember the Christ-child who is the One who will give you life, because He gave His life for you."

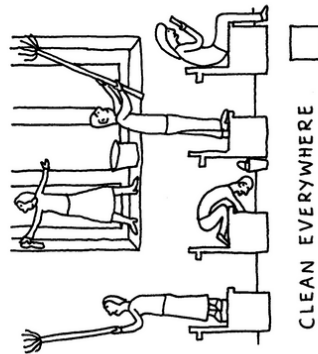
The second early fir tree story involves Martin Luther in the 16th century. It is said that one year he decided to drag a fir tree into his home and to decorate it with candles. He used it as a visual aid, telling people that the candles symbolised Jesus as the light of the world, and the evergreen tree symbolised the eternal life that Jesus gives to us. Many of the people who followed Luther were struck by the idea and took up the custom.

# THE CHRISTMAS CHECKLIST

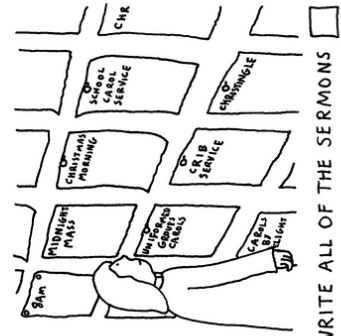
FOR CHURCHES



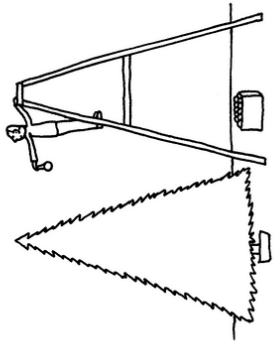
DIG OUT THE CRIB FIGURES



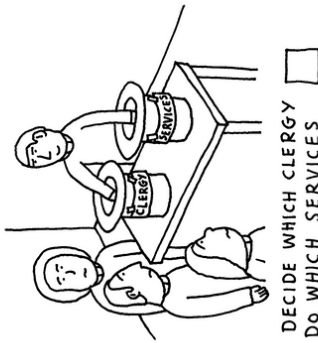
CLEAN EVERYWHERE



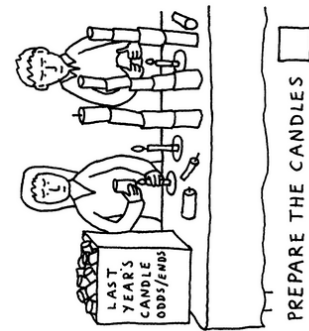
WRITE ALL OF THE SERMONS



DECORATE THE TREE AND CHURCH



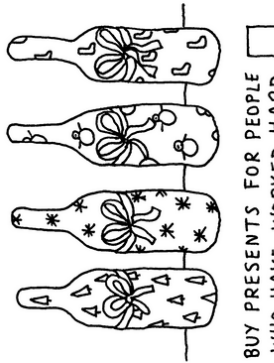
DECIDE WHICH CLERGY DO WHICH SERVICES



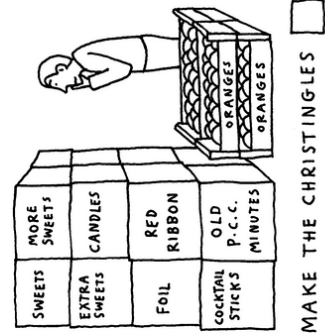
PREPARE THE CANDLES



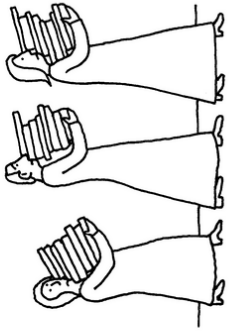
CHOOSE PEOPLE TO READ THE LESSONS



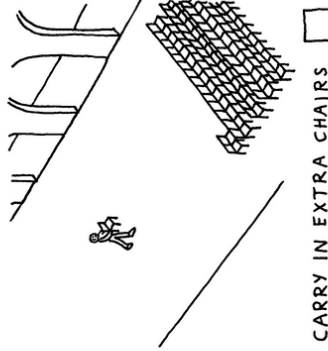
BUY PRESENTS FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORKED HARD



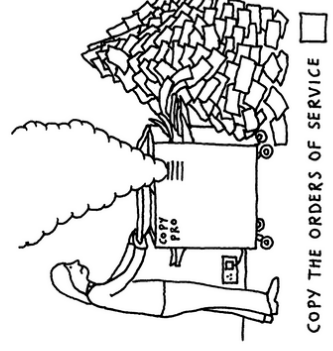
MAKE THE CHRISTINGLES



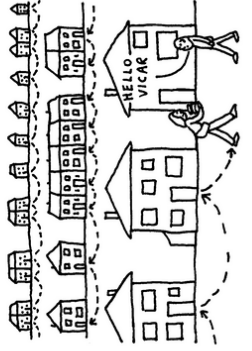
MAKE SURE THE CHOIR IS READY



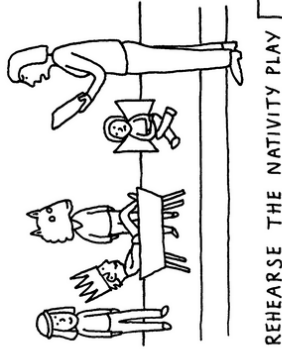
CARRY IN EXTRA CHAIRS



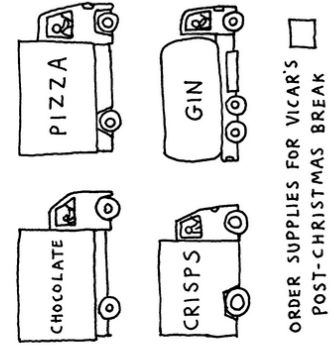
COPY THE ORDERS OF SERVICE



DELIVER THE CHRISTMAS PUBLICITY LEAFLITS



REHEARSE THE NATIVITY PLAY



ORDER SUPPLIES FOR VICAR'S POST-CHRISTMAS BREAK

# THE STORY OF THE CHRISTINGLE

Each December our churches hold fabulous Christingle services where families come together to light Christingles and sing carols. This year, due to the restrictions in place, our Christingle service will take place online. The service will be uploaded to our Benefice Facebook page and our YouTube page on **Wednesday 23rd December at 4pm.**

The word 'Christingle' actually means 'Christ Light', and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. Stories of how the Christingle began look back to the Moravian Church, which is found in the Czech Republic. The Moravians have held Christingle services for more than 200 years, and according to them, this is how the first Christingle might have been made:

Many years ago the children in a village were asked to bring a Christmas gift to put beside the crib in the church. One family was very poor, and had no money for gifts, but the three children were still determined to take something. The only nice thing they had was an orange, so they decided to give the Christ-child that.

But then they discovered the top was going green, so the eldest cut it out, and put a candle in the hole. To add some colour, one of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle of the orange. It was hard to make the ribbon stay still, so they fastened it in place with toothpicks. The toothpicks looked a bit bare, so the youngest child added some raisins to them.

The children took their decorated orange lantern to the church for the Christmas Mass. The other children sneered at their meagre gift, but the priest seized upon it with joy. He held it up as an example of the true understanding of the meaning of Christmas, for the following reasons:

The orange is round, like the world;

The candle gives us light in the dark, like the love of God;

The red ribbon goes round the 'world', as a symbol of Christ's blood, given for everyone;

The four sticks point in all directions, and symbolise that God is over all: North, South, East and West;

and the fruit and nuts remind us of God's blessings.

The Children's Society first introduced the Christingle Service to The Church of England in 1968, and it has since become a popular event in the church calendar. This candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith, while helping to raise vital funds to help vulnerable children across the country. Visit: **[www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)** for more information.





A big "Hi" to all you Messy Church fans out there. 🕶️

We're very sad we still can't get together for Messy Church at St John's, Poulner or St Peter & St Paul in Ringwood. 😞 But we're not sitting doing nothing, oh no! Far from it! We're working tirelessly to bring you a big dose of fun that is ONLINE Messy Church.

We hope you all enjoyed the Messy Light Party at the end of October and also Advent Messy Church at the end of November. You can even catch up with both of them by tuning into the Ringwood Benefice YouTube channel.

"Okay, so what about December?" we can hear you asking. "Well, what about December?" we reply, "Dur, don't you know Christmas is coming?" NO NEED TO PANIC. Just keep looking out for the Christmas Messy Church which will be available to watch for amazing crafts, songs and all the rest in the week before Christmas. The theme will be 'Jesus, The Most Precious Gift'. So make sure you don't miss it!

Bye for now, stay safe, enjoy Christmas, and have a happy new year. 😍

The Messy Church Team



## The Rough Sleep IN Challenge

The Rough Sleep IN is a fundraising sponsorship challenge supporting the Church Urban Fund. It's all about having fun whilst stuck at home and, of course, raising lots of money so that Church Urban Fund can make a difference in the lives of the poorest in our communities.

Together, we can support people experiencing homelessness. You can join people all over the country by giving up a night of comfort and finding somewhere slightly unusual to sleep at home. Sleep on the floor, in a garden shed, in your bathtub... pretty much anywhere, just as long as it's not your bed! Find out more at [cuf.org.uk/what-can-you-do/raise-funds](https://cuf.org.uk/what-can-you-do/raise-funds)



## Ringwood PCC needs you!

We are looking for a PCC Treasurer and PCC Secretary. If you think you have the skills and the time to help us, please get in contact with us.



## Carols 'n' Cars Service

**Sunday 20th December at 4pm & 6pm in the Long Stay Car Park**

Churches Together need volunteers to help with the smooth running of the outdoor Christmas drive-in service. If you can help with any of the following sessions, please email [pbc-office@poulnerchapel.plus.com](mailto:pbc-office@poulnerchapel.plus.com)

### 1: 9am - 12noon: Setting up

Stage, tech, barriers, fencing & gazebos

### 2: 12noon - 3pm: Setting up

Tech, barriers, fencing, gazebos, bunting & flags

### 3: 3pm - 5pm: Stewarding 1

Directing cars, handing programmes, outside car park, gates etc

### 4: 5pm - 7pm: Stewarding 2

Directing cars, handing programmes, outside car park, gates etc

### 5: 7pm - 9pm: Packing away

## Subscribe to the Link

If you would like to receive the Link magazine by post in 2021, the price will be £14.00

Please send your payment to the Benefice Office, along with your address details. Thank you.

# PARISH NOTICES

## Lighting the Parish Church at Christmas

We are often asked if we could floodlight the church over the Christmas period and this would indeed show off our beautiful church and draw the eyes of passers-by. But floodlighting is very expensive and so again this year we will use our alternative – we will leave the church's internal lights on a low setting overnight from 21st December to 2nd January. The effect through the stained glass windows will be beautiful.

Would you like to sponsor this? The suggested donation will be £25 for each night, and a discrete notice will be placed in church with the Sponsors' names.

Please contact Jacqueline Brown or Jan Pankhurst if you are interested.



## Christmas Hamper Raffle - Raising funds for Ringwood Parish Church

Tickets priced at £1 each. Available to buy at services in the Parish Church.

## Could you donate today?



To make a donation to the Parish of Ringwood, or an individual church simply scan the QR code above or go online to [www.ringwoodbenefice.org.uk](http://www.ringwoodbenefice.org.uk)

The Parish of Ringwood needs you!



Could you be our next PCC Treasurer? Interested? Contact the Revd Matthew Trick

## Available for hire St John's Church Hall Linford Road, Poulner

One large room with excellent kitchen  
One smaller room with kitchenette  
Ideal for meetings, functions, parties, etc.  
Parking available

To make a booking contact  
[stjohnshall@ringwoodbenefice.org.uk](mailto:stjohnshall@ringwoodbenefice.org.uk)

## Available for hire Ellingham Church Hall

Well-equipped,  
seating up to 80 people  
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Ample parking spaces and use of garden area

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# SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

The Church  
at the Market



## THE CHURCH IN THE MARKET PLAYS!

Snacks, stories and lots of activities for 0-5's and their parents at our fun toddler group.

St Peter & St Paul  
Office - 489898



## IMPACT YOUTH GROUP

Kay Pead  
489898



## DIDDY DUNKERS

Toddler group with soft play.

St John's Church  
Peter - 477433



## JULIAN MEETING

Share a time of silence and peace

Paris Church - 489898



## MOTHERS' UNION

Supporting family life worldwide

[www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

2nd Tuesday of the month  
- Sue - 474982

## CHURCH CHOIRS

Join in and worship in song!

Parish Church - Gill Tybjerg  
gillytybjerg@btinternet.com

Ellingham - Barbara  
654071



## MESSY CHURCH FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Crafts, songs, bible stories and food!

Peter J - 477433



## FRIENDS OF RINGWOOD PARISH CHURCH

Help raise funds through social events

Parish Church - Peter G 402028

## BELL RINGING

Learn the excitement of ringing the big tower bells!.

Wednesday evenings in the Parish Church

Emma - 01425 478217

## FLOWER ARRANGING

Help keep our churches beautiful

St John's - Eve - 470651  
Parish Church - 489898  
Ellingham - Patricia  
473873

NOT ALL GROUPS ARE CURRENTLY RUNNING DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS PLEASE CALL FOR INFO

# FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS



## FUNERALS

We commend into God's hands

**November 2020**

Ronald Sherman, aged 87

Almighty and eternal God,  
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,  
either by death or life:  
hear our prayers and thanksgivings  
for all whom we remember this day;  
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;  
and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



# EDEN

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**Telephone 01425 837080 - Email [office@edenfuneraldirectors.co.uk](mailto:office@edenfuneraldirectors.co.uk)  
Rose Cottage, Castleman Way, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3BA**

# WHO'S WHO

Clergy, Churchwardens, and Benefice  
Office listed on page 4

## Deputy and Assistant Churchwardens

Mr Kevin Jones (St Peter & St Paul)  
Miss Jan Pankhurst (St Peter & St Paul)  
Mr Chris Johnson (St John the Baptist)  
Mr Michael Lingam-Wilgoss (Ellingham)  
Mrs Diana White (Ellingham)  
Mrs Vanessa Linda (Harbridge)

## Licensed Lay Ministers

Mrs Elizabeth Loving  
Mr Peter Jackson  
Mr Derick Potter  
Mr Richard Powell  
Mr Stephen Wood  
Mrs Ruth Freeman  
Mr Richard Emblin

PCC Treasurer	Roger Dewar	01425 483622
Stewardship Adviser	Matthew Steele	07976 381133
Electoral Roll Officer	Lin Lloyd	01425 489898
Mothers' Union	Sue Brinkman	01425 474982
Health & Safety Officer	Paul Gray	01425 461341
Safeguarding Officer	Elizabeth Loving	01425 489898
Parish Data Controller	Sam Swyer	01425 489898
The Friends of Ringwood Parish Church	Peter Goodwin	01425 402028
Organist & Choir Leader		
St Peter & St Paul	Gill Tyberg	01425 489898
Ellingham & Harbridge	Barbara Strong	01425 654071
Vergers St Peter & St Paul	Colin Hale	01425 476235
Vergers St Mary & All Saints	Lindsay Burtenshaw	01202 814698
Tower Captain	Emma McNally	01425 478217
St John's Hall Bookings	stjohnshall@ringwoodbenefice.org.uk	
Ellingham Hall Bookings	ehamchurch@gmail.com	

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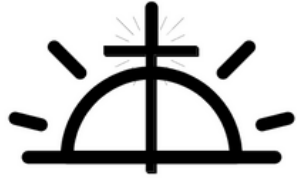
Views expressed are not necessarily those of the publishers or Editor.

# Benefice morning prayer meetings

## There is so much to pray for!

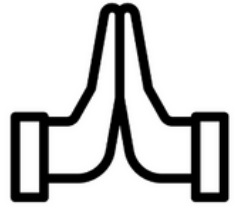
Monday 7.30am

Meeting ID: 307-879-502 Passcode: 489898



Wednesday 8.30am

Meeting ID 842-5692-5855 & Passcode: 489898



Thursday 7.30am

Meeting ID: 307-879-502 Passcode: 489898

Download the free 'Zoom' App on any device and put in the Meeting ID & Password



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[www.millers-antiques.co.uk](http://www.millers-antiques.co.uk)



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