



Benefice of Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity,
Westwood and Wingfield

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2024

Services and Events



The days running up to Christmas can be frenetic. We may experience excitement and panic in equal measure as we search for presents, write Christmas cards, plan exotic menus and make arrangements to catch up with family and friends. In theory, Advent is a time of quiet reflection and joyful hope as we prepare for the birth of Christ, but in practice, it is rarely like that. It is impossible to insulate ourselves from the commercialisation of the season. Any talk about waiting on God in prayer and quiet expectation may be puzzling in our streets, but this is what is at the heart of the season of Advent.

Underneath the glitz and glitter of December are echoes of a more sombre season during which, traditionally, Christians have contemplated the so-called 'Four Last Things': death, judgement, heaven and hell. It is why the readings from the Bible this month are full of courtroom imagery, and the language of judgement. It is a time for taking stock, but it is also a time of hope: hope in the God who comes to meet us in his Son Jesus Christ, the Word-made-flesh.

This brochure warmly invites you to the special services and events taking place in our churches during the Advent and Christmas seasons. For regular services please see the Bulletin published each week in our churches, on our notice boards, website and Facebook page.



Sunday 1st December - ADVENT SUNDAY

6.00pm Advent Carol Service - Holy Trinity

There can be no better way to mark the beginning of Advent than to share in this beautiful service of readings, carols and music that speaks of the coming of God in our midst. After the service there will be mulled wine and mince pies. It is an ideal occasion to bring friends and neighbours.



Tuesday 10th - Sunday 15th December

10.30am - 6.00pm Christmas Tree Festival - Holy Trinity

The Christmas Tree was introduced into England during the nineteenth century by Prince Albert and it has become a fixture in our winter festivities. Our annual Christmas Tree Festival is a wonderful way of honouring and promoting the various charities at work in the area. Come and see. Come and learn. It turns our minds outwards to those less fortunate than ourselves and invites generosity.



Sunday 15th December - ADVENT 3

3.30pm Carols around the Trees

As our tree festival reaches its climax for another year, we invite you all to come and join the sparkling scene for some joyful, informal carol singing, and to hear some of those memorable words of Christmas - something for all the family! Christmas jumpers at the ready!



Sunday 22nd December - ADVENT 4

9.30am '*Chuppa*' Family Carol Service - St Mary Wingfield
6.00pm Carol Service - St Mary the Virgin, Westwood
6.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols - Holy Trinity

Whatever your favourite carol, the annual Christmas Carol Service is an occasion not to miss as we trace the story of our salvation in song and readings from the Bible. We rejoice in the birth of Jesus Christ.
Emmanuel: God is with us.



Tuesday 24th December - CHRISTMAS EVE

3.00pm Crib Service and Christingle - Holy Trinity

Welcome to all our young ones and their families! Our annual Crib and Christingle Service has long seen Holy Trinity filled with excited children and the unstoppable joys of Christmas Eve as we sing our favourite carols and build the Christmas story not just in our hearts and minds, but with our joyful, idiosyncratically *ad hoc* Nativity! Children are warmly encouraged to come dressed as a favourite nativity scene character ready to join in the fun and spectacle. Funds raised for the Children's Society



11.15pm Midnight Mass - Holy Trinity and at St Mary the Virgin, Westwood

In the words of the old carol, 'Love came down at Christmas'. There is something magical about this late night service as we gather with Christians throughout the world to hear the message of the angels: 'Peace on earth, goodwill amongst all people'. It is a message our world desperately needs to hear this year as we honour the birth of the Prince of Peace.



Wednesday 25th December - CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am Said Eucharist - Holy Trinity

9.30am Family Eucharist - Holy Trinity

9.30am Family Service - St Mary, Wingfield

11.15am Family Service - St Mary the Virgin, Westwood

Whether it's the gentle stillness of the early morning Eucharist, or the togetherness of a family service, there's nothing quite like 'saluting the happy morn' in church with carols and those unforgettable bible readings of Christmas. 'And there were shepherds, abiding in the fields keeping watch over their flocks by night...'



Sunday 29th December - CHRISTMAS 1

9.30am Benefice Eucharist - Holy Trinity

St Luke's gospel transports us forward in time to the scene where Mary and Jesus lose the 12-year old Jesus at the Passover feast in Jerusalem - imagine! But, they find Jesus very much at home in his Father's house where he amazes the crowds with his youthful knowledge. Jesus is always ready to surprise and challenge us!



Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine,
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine,
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina Rossetti

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called
Wonderful,
Counsellor,
The mighty God,
The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9 v6