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Parish Magazine

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December 2024/ January 2025

The Magazine of Holy Trinity Eccleshall & St. Chad's Slindon





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Please pass this information on to anyone in the ward who does not receive the parish magazine.

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Holy Trinity & St. Chad's

Celebrating Christ Proclaiming Christ Growing in Christ

A letter from our Vicar, Revd Phillip Johnson



Well, we've reached the end of another year. At the time of writing we're preparing for the 6th Annual Christmas Tree Festival. This, along with Remembrance, Christmas Eve and Easter, is one of the busiest times at Holy Trinity.

When I was a teacher this shift used to mark the downhill ski slope to Christmas. Even though it was dark (in the mornings and the evenings - and usually in between as well) there was mounting excitement about the impending season of goodwill. People seemed to just become a bit nicer and there seemed to be a general consensus that this would be a good time for peace to break out.

Interestingly the Church deals with this in some surprising ways. Christmas is preceded by the season of Advent. This season has four main themes - death, judgement, heaven and hell. These are surprising themes because when you think about Christmas, which seems so jolly, they seem incredibly dark. Yet the whole point of the season of advent is one of preparation. It's a season that explores the coming of the light in an extremely dark period. Advent took on its own identity in northern Europe, as we are plunged Into Darkness once the clocks go back.

This year we're marking the season with a special Advent Carol Service. The Service begins in darkness and, after each reading, a set of candles is lit in the church. This increases the light, a gentle reminder that the light of the world will be coming at Christmas. It is a partner service to Tenebrae in Holy Week which begins in the light and finishes in the dark.

The church year begins anew on Advent Sunday and so, in church, we get two opportunities to make New Year's resolutions. I think two opportunities to seek peace and goodwill for all people are never a bad idea. I pray that you, your families and all those whom you love have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God Bless

Revd Phillip

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Prayer for the Month



O God our Father,

give to us, and to all who use the roads – to drive, to ride or to walk –

consideration and care for all others;

that death and injury may be caused to no one,

and that all who travel may go in safety, peace and joy;

through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Frank Best, in "Prayers for Today's Church"

I don't suppose we often pray for those who use the roads. But here is a prayer for all road users – on wheels or on foot.

I sometimes sit on the iron seat by the Castle Street crossroads and observe those negotiating the busy mini-roundabout. It is a hazardous area for drivers, particularly those turning left or right, and especially when huge lorries are trying to ease their way round. Even the best drivers have to take extra care in those hazardous circumstances and pedestrians likewise.

This prayer invites us to remember all road users that they may proceed safely and responsibly – *"that death and injury may be caused to no one*". It asks that they may show two particular virtues. First, consideration for others. Sometimes, if it isn't clear who has right of way, there has to be some give and take. A considerate driver will use discretion and courtesy when approaching such a situation. Sadly, at that crossroads, you sometimes see impulsive motorists who push their way through with little thought for others. Secondly, the prayer urges the avoidance of recklessness. Through my front window I observe a good number of motorists, on two wheels and four, travelling at a speed which would inevitably cause accident or death if an unexpected emergency arose. The prayer is asking God to help us drive in a careful and vigilant way that avoids risk and injury.

I would add a third virtue to the two in this prayer: that of patience. It is a difficult virtue to practice if we are in a hurry. But impatience can lead to lack of judgement. So we ask God to help road users to remain calm when under pressure. In this month's prayer, are we interceding for others or for ourselves? Probably both!

Revd Stephen Cooke

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St Chad's News



Autumn has arrived at St Chad's churchyard and she has snatched away the lingering leaves on the limes either side of the gates and laid bare the majestic Founder's oak tree that was planted when the church was built in 1893-1894.

The wild flower areas have now been mown after the yellow rattle successfully supressed the grass especially round the yew tree near the west window. They made a colourful splash earlier in the summer.

For some time there has been a problem with the gates to the churchyard which have been out of line and difficult to close. The oak posts either side were found to be rotten below ground level and had to be replaced. Now the gates fit perfectly and they are a pleasure to shut properly.



Newly weds Kiera and John Scott who were married at St Chad's on 12th October. It was a double celebration for the Scotts as their two daughters, three-years old Bonnie-Mai and Mary Elizabeth, just a few weeks old, were baptised during the service.

The Hurne family were also celebrating on 20th October as three members were confirmed at Holy Trinity Church, conducted by Bishop Matthew of Stafford. They were father Jack and his two sons, Jack junior, aged thirteen and James ten. (See picture on next page.)

Diary dates:	St Chad's Carol Service	15th December 11.30am
	Carols Round the Village	18th December from 6pm
	Christmas Day Service	11.30am
	Candlemas	2nd February 6.30pm

Anthea Treanor

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Congratulations on your Confirmation!
Newly confirmed members of the Church family, Gregory Moores, Abigail Green, Jack Hurne, James Hurne and Jack Euan Hurne, pictured here with Bishop Matthew, Revd Phillip and Revd Stephen after the service on 20th October.

One Candidate's Confirmation Journey

My confirmation journey started around a year ago. I'd had a tough few years personally, hadn't really been attending church regularly for quite some time, hadn't been praying regularly and I wanted to work on my relationship with God.

I met with Reverend Phillip a couple of times towards the back end of 2023, started attending services as often as I could and around the spring of this year started to think about how I could show my commitment to God and take the next step of my journey. I was never confirmed as a child and I think that was the way it was meant to be for me. I don't think 'teenage Greg' would have been ready or known enough about himself or his relationship with God to make the commitment as meaningfully as the grown up (questionable..?!) version.

At the age of 44 I did wonder if it would feel awkward getting confirmed but it really didn't. I had a mental image of what confirmation classes would be like – perhaps shaped by my fairly negative experiences of Sunday school in the late 1980s! Thankfully it was nothing like this, I met with Rev Phillip once a week and we literally talked. I was able to ask questions about everything and anything to do with faith, services, traditions, etc etc….

The day of the service itself was absolutely lovely. Bishop Matthew attended and we were all able to spend time talking with him before the

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Continued from page 11

service and afterwards. The service itself felt really powerful to me and I managed to avoid choking on the wafer in my first communion - which I'm counting as a win! The part of the day that stays with me the most though is the way so many people came up to me after the service to chat and congratulate me on my confirmation – it really felt like the whole congregation wanted to join in the celebration. I'm so grateful to God, Revd Phillip, Bishop Matthew and the entire Holy Trinity community for such a lovely day and I'm excited about the journey ahead.

Greg Moores

Godly Play

Our Children's and Families Minister, Cassie, has recently completed her Godly Play qualification at Rippon College in Cuddesdon demonstrating her expertise in this area.

Godly Play is a Christian movement centred on childhood spirituality. It begins with children's innate sense of the presence of God. It offers Christian language as a support for their ongoing spiritual formation. It teaches a process that promotes an inner working model for life-long Christian learning.

Through storytelling, we then ask a series of open-ended questions starting with the phrase 'I wonder.....' that encourage both young and old listeners to explore the theme or text uniquely. There are no right or wrong answers and no judgement or explanations are needed. This non-judgemental approach is a brilliant way to learn about biblical themes and scriptures.

Revd Phillip and Cassie currently conduct short sessions with both reception classes at Bishop Lonsdale CofE Academy and we are delighted to report that they are being received with great enthusiasm and positivity.

The photo shows an example of materials that would be used to lead a session with adults or older children.



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Trinity Tots



As I write this in early November, Trinity Tots has now been running for 6 weeks. We've had 19 children join us, all of whom have had a blast playing with others, sharing a snack around the table and sitting on the cushions while singing songs and listening to a good story. Our variety of activities ensures there's something for every child to enjoy.

On average we get 8 children visiting each week with ages varying from newborns to 5-year-olds. All are welcome. We have had children coming from the town, from further afield like Stone and Stafford and even a lovely boy visiting his grandparents all the way from Australia and who we can't wait to see again in spring.

Look out for our Christmas tree in the Christmas tree festival and see if you know any of the children who have made crafts that appear on it.

We hope to see you soon and will update you with what we have been up to again soon.

Love Cassie and the Trinity Tots Gang

Christmas decorations

CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, is often credited for making Christmas trees fashionable in Britain but the tradition of decorations and of bringing greenery into our houses and places of worship is far older than that. There are records of decorations for Saturnalia in ancient descriptions from the 5th century BC. Saturnalia fell in mid-December, around the time of the solstice, which is of course when Christmas falls. Decorating trees is also an ancient Celtic custom. A tree would be decorated at the winter solstice as a symbol of life and the Scandinavians did so to celebrate Yule, also a mid-winter festival.

Celtic tree dressing was not solely associated with the solstice. Piny the Elder describes a festival on the 6th day of the moon which involved sacred oak trees. Ash, apple, hazel alder and elder all have particular importance. Oak, ash and thorn are the three primary 'magical' trees, employed by Puck, in Rudyard Kipling's Puck of Pooks Hill to transport the children back

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through time. Yew features in many traditions and beliefs as a symbol of both death and life. Yew boughs, along with holly, were brought indoors to decorate homes and churches for Christmas, probably because of their evergreen foliage and red berries.

Decorating churches and homes for Christmas has been part of the church calendar for many centuries with almost all surviving church records from the late Middle Ages including entries for purchasing holly and ivy. The Christmas carol *Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly* dates from 16th century Wales. It was Prince Albert who popularised the use of spruce trees however, not a British tree species and imported from his native Coburg in Germany. Periodicals such as the Illustrated London News began to describe the royal Christmas tree each year and the custom took off amongst the public. Wreaths hung on the door also became popular during Victorian times although, like decorations and the use of greenery, wreaths were not new, having been presented in Ancient Rome as a reward for military success and excellence. Advent wreaths may have originated amongst Lutherans in 16th century Germany.

Kissing boughs are an old tradition now lost, but which may have led to the custom of kissing beneath the mistletoe. Kissing boughs consisted of a hoop of pliable sticks, probably hazel or willow, made into a sphere on which decorative greenery could be fixed. These would be hung on walls or in doorways to welcome people into the building and could be quite large. Popular in Tudor times, they became more elaborate in Georgian times and included apples, oranges and coloured paper or baubles. Gentlemen could pluck a berry and then kiss a lady on the cheek until the berries ran out and the kissing stopped!

Most of our churchyards and cemeteries contain a ready supply of the greenery traditionally used for decoration; holly, ivy, yew and sometimes mistletoe too. A small contribution towards more sustainable ways could be to increase use of these natural 'decorations' and reduce the need for imported flowers or artificial baubles and lights. You will be following in the footsteps of many generations celebrating both Christmas and the solstice with the hope in a dark season that both bring.

Harriet Carty, *Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor,*
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The Shop Around The Corner at the Pocket Film Festival



The next Pocket Film Festival film to be shown at Holy Trinity Church will be *The Shop Around the Corner* on Saturday 7th December at 7.30 pm.

This Christmas talkie is a real black and white delight, a comedy romance from 1940 starring James Stewart and Margaret Sullivan. It is the original film behind the 90s remake *You've Got Mail* with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan, where the director replaced the traditional letter-based correspondence with emails.

We hope to see you there ! *Shân and Jonathan Jones*

www.pocketfilmfestival.co.uk

SCOUT CHRISTMAS POST

Once again the First Eccleshall Scouts will be offering their Christmas Postal service for the delivery of festive cards to homes within the 30 mph area of Eccleshall. Each card will be delivered for the price of 50p, a bargain compared with current postal charges and the funds raised will benefit the local Scout Group. They will be collecting cards outside the High Street library in Eccleshall on three Saturday dates, November 30, December 7th and 14th between 9am and 12 noon.



Trinity Men's Fellowship - October Walk

Those members who were on the long walk in October met up for 10:15 at the rear of the Little George. As usual John had organised the weather and it was fine. The seven walkers set off through Stafford Street and up Gaol Butts. Making our way down the side of Johnson Hall we came to the lake. It looked really Autumnal. Across a field

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we arrived at the A519, Newport Road. Walking along the footpath for about 100 yards we crossed over into Wooton Lane where we saw Cross Cottage.



As we started up Wooton Lane we had a new experience; looking up the lane we saw a JCB approaching quite quickly with its wide bucket down scraping the road. Was it collecting TMF members?? No, it was attempting to remove the mud off the road. How it expected its flat edge to pick up the mud from a cambered road I will never know and it didn't. The mud was still where the wheels of any vehicle would pass. We all leapt (ambled) to one side as he passed and then we carried on up the hill. But suddenly he was approaching us again - in reverse! Another leap out of the way and he carried on up to his farmyard and we gingerly walked past.



As we entered the next field John gathered us together to recount a little story about when he walked this field on Monday for his recon. He met the farmer and after exchanging pleasantries John explained what he was doing, reconnoitring a walk for Friday. "Oh no!" said the Farmer, "We are having a shoot in these fields then! Not to worry" he said "I will alter the location for the shoot at that time so it will be safe for the TMF to walk through." Isn't it great to know that there are such kind, considerate people around? As we walked through the fields we heard the shotguns firing but, as arranged, they were a long way off.

Suddenly we were at the Stafford Road and reaching the roundabout we turned off into the "new" estate. As we made our way around the edge of the estate we discovered a children's playground. The members were very

good and resisted the temptation to try out the various attractions. At the lower end of the estate is a large, attractive pool which apparently is designed to accept overflow water during heavy rain.

Now we were at the Stone Road and we made our way to the Royal Oak and Lunch. We had in fact made such good progress that we were the first to arrive at the Royal Oak, beating all the other members. Eventually the room was full, all eager to have a drink and start our lunch. Before that John expressed TMF's condolences to Ken Cruxton over the loss of his wife, Chris.

John told us about the forthcoming Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity and members put their names down to help in various ways. Then we had the highlight of the day as we sang "Happy Birthday to Fred" as he was 96 today!!!



Finally, as Remembrance Day was approaching, Chris told us about the exploits of one of his friends during WW2 and how he had not had his medal for the Arctic convoys. Chris had fought to get this medal for him but although it had eventually arrived unfortunately his friend had died a short time before and never saw the medal. It is now with his family.

Another excellent activity. Thanks to John for leading the long walk and for organising the lunch.

To see all the photos from today key https://img.gg/Go92VVU into your browser or use the QR code.

David S

Remembrance Sunday at Holy Trinity

We always expect a good number of people in the congregation at Holy Trinity on Remembrance Sunday and this year was no exception.
Revd Phillip, in his sermon, spoke about the importance of memories - how some childhood memories made him extraordinarily happy and how a song heard on the radio can evoke precious memories. He referred to how

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someone struggling to speak, due to e.g. dementia, can join in with a song from the past or will chime in with the Lord's Prayer - moving something deep within them. Memories have an extraordinary ability to take us out of the present moment and pass back to a moment in time, to make something seem alive again.

Phillip referred to how, on All Souls' Day, we remember those personal to us who have died. A few days later, on Remembrance Sunday, we have collective remembering when we remember those who gave their lives in defence of our country. He told us that the Royal British Legion annual Act of Remembrance which takes place in the Royal Albert Hall and is broadcast on the BBC, is the third most watched TV programme every year. Phillip reminded us how fortunate we were to be able to worship together and remember the fallen and those who serve - in a number of countries this would be illegal. Referring to one of the readings of the day, from the book of Jonah, Phillip pointed out that those who go to war go, not because it's something they want to do but because it's something that needs to be done.



So Phillip asked what were we doing in this service when we remembered. He suggested that, when we heard the names of the fallen whose names are inscribed on the War Memorial, we should bring those people back, present with us in our minds. He asked us to also remember those who are dear to us, those who are no longer with us. He asked us to remember that we are just journeying through this place and we have been given a gift. That gift is the ability to remember and to bring those people back to life in our memories.

The congregation was led outside by the Holy



Trinity Choir and flag-bearers from Eccleshall branches of the Royal British Legion, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. Several minutes passed as we waited for the moment of the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial. This time was peaceful in our beautiful surroundings - listening to bird song and appreciating the freedom that we have in our country. The Last Post, played by bugler, Kate Newby, a member of Eccleshall Royal British Legion, indicated the start of the two minutes silence. Those in the churchyard and those on the road-sides stood in the quiet to remember the sacrifices of our armed forces and all those whose lives have been lost in conflict. *HB*





Bishop Lonsdale Academy Remembers



The Principal, Deputy-Principal and two pupils represented the Academy at the Remembrance Sunday Service at Holy Trinity, laying a wreath at the War Memorial. The following day, Armistice Day, all the pupils gathered together in school for an act of worship and commemoration. Pupils led the service which opened with the whole school singing the song 'Remember' by Emily Barden, ably accompanied by Father (as he is known in the school) Phillip on the piano. Various year groups reminded everyone of the sacrifice of those involved in war and why we should remember. Prayers were followed by the National Anthem. The minute's silence at 11 am was signalled both by a 'live streamed' Big Ben and by one of the pupils blowing a whistle. Wreaths were laid at the Academy's model cenotaph, following traditional words of commendation. The Nursery children then waved us goodbye before individual pupils and staff came forward to talk about their or their family's involvement in the armed services, past and present. A salutary experience for all.

Warren Griffiths

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God's Wonderful Diverse World



Advent calendars usually have 25 numbered windows and we open the first one on the first of December, but really Advent often begins in late November, four Sundays before Christmas Day. This year that Sunday falls on 1st December so Advent really does run just 25 days through December, up to Christmas Day. Advent is our period of preparation and reflection. We centre on the greatest gift of all time, God's gift of His Son to us. God's sacrifice of His Son for our sin …. but we tend not to think so much about that second aspect till Easter! I'm thinking about December, it's history and what it means to people through history and around the world.

December's name derives from the Latin word decem, meaning ten, because it was originally the tenth month of the year in the calendar of Romulus, c.750 BC, which began in March. The winter days following December were not included in the ten months. Later, the months of January and February were created and added to the beginning of the calendar rather than the end, but December retained its name.

The Anglo Saxons referred to December to January as Ġēolamonaþ, in modern English: "Yule month". Yule is one of the oldest winter solstice festivals, with origins among the ancient Norse, thousands of years ago, as a Norse festival called jol, with themes of light, fire, and feasting to allay the fears of the cold, dark season.

December is noted for its many Meteor showers but it also has an amazing array of "special" titles. In the USA it is National Egg Nog Month, National Impaired Driving Prevention Month, National Fruit Cake Month and National Pear Month!

Special days indicated on my calendar are 2nd - St Andrew's Day, 21st - December Solstice, 24th - Christmas Eve, 25th - Christmas Day, and 26th - First Day of Hanukkah. Not noted are these special days from around the world: First Friday is Farmer's day in Ghana, and Gospel Day in the Marshall Islands. First Sunday is Good Neighbourliness Day in Turkmenistan, and Sindhi Cultural Day in Sindhi communities. Second Monday is National Tree Planting Day in Malawi. December 26th is Day of Good Will in Namibia and South Africa, Family Day in Vanuatu, and Thanksgiving in the Solomon Islands. And while we celebrate Christmas Day on 25th it is Children's day in several African countries, Constitution

Continued on page 27



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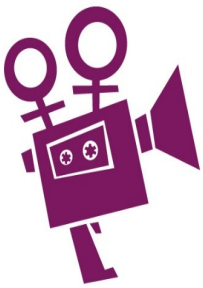
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19th Dec ***It's A Wonderful Life*** starring James Stewart

Tickets (still only £5.00) are available from The Royal Oak, Eccleshall Library and James du Pavey. We look forward to seeing you.

Continued from page 25

day in Taiwan, Good Governance Day in India and Quaid-e-Azam's Day in Pakistan. (meaning "Great Leader" also known as Quaid Day, observed to celebrate the birthday of the founder of Pakistan)

So, as we move through Advent with Christmas trees and carols and as we reflect on Christmas themes, remember also this incredible range of peoples of different times and places, with different joys and concerns, all in God's wonderful world.

We look forward to welcoming you to the United Nine Lessons and Carols Service to be held at Holy Trinity and all of our individual church services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Dorothy Kirkham for Eccleshall Churches Together

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December 4th & 18th

January 8th & 22nd

Contact Ann Braithwaite 01785 851114



Notes from Trinity Magazine Team

Well this is the last issue of TRINITY for 2024 and we thank all our readers and subscribers for supporting the magazine. We are pleased to say that the team has decided to keep the price of an individual magazine at 70p and subscription price at £6.50 for the ten issues in 2025. We will be sending out "Subscription payment slips" with the February issue and we would appreciate subscribers paying (in cash where at all possible) the £6.50 to their deliverers as soon as possible then please. (Cheques cost such a lot to pay in and we will be looking at the logistics of Bank transfer for 2026 subscriptions.)

Please send articles or forthcoming events for the February 2025 issue of **TRINITY** *by 7th January 2025 to Hazel Email: parishmag.eccleshall@gmail.com Ed.*

TRINITY magazine income banked in November £9.25 for October sales

Sue Marsh, Trinity Magazine Treasurer

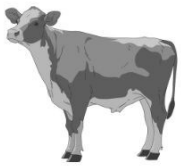
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A Gospel of Songs

It's Advent! Christmas and New Year are on the horizon – but for the church a new year has just started. The next twelve months at church will be full of readings from Luke's Gospel.

For me, especially at this time of year, Luke's is the gospel of songs. The three great 'songs' – the Benedictus (Luke 1.68-79), the Magnificat (Luke 1.46-55) and the Nunc Dimittis (Luke 2.29-32) all appear early in Luke's gospel.

Each is a song of God's promise fulfilled. In them, Zechariah, Mary and then Simeon each speak about what they long for and see coming. The songs are personal and prophetic, all at once! They are songs of freedom, release, and the coming ('advent') of God's kingdom. They demonstrate a sense of joy that God is taking the burden of sin off humanity.

*Tell Out My Soul! w*ritten, in 1962 by Timothy Dudley-Smith, wonderfully captures this spirit through its reworking of the words of the Magnificat.

Each of these songs is used every day in formal Church of England worship. The Benedictus is the climax of Morning Prayer. The Magnificat appears in Evening Prayer and the much shorter Nunc Dimittis summarises our night prayer. In Daily Office we usually speak them rather than sing them, but even so they flow with their own rhythm and sound. They anchor us and tell our story – a bit like saying the creed together on Sunday morning.

If you are lucky enough to regularly attend daily offices you will know the power of these three songs. They will have seeped into your soul and you probably almost know them off by heart! Different words will emerge into your mind at different times of day or moments in life.

If you can't attend the daily office you could join one online (perhaps Lichfield Cathedral, which streams Morning Prayer six days a week).

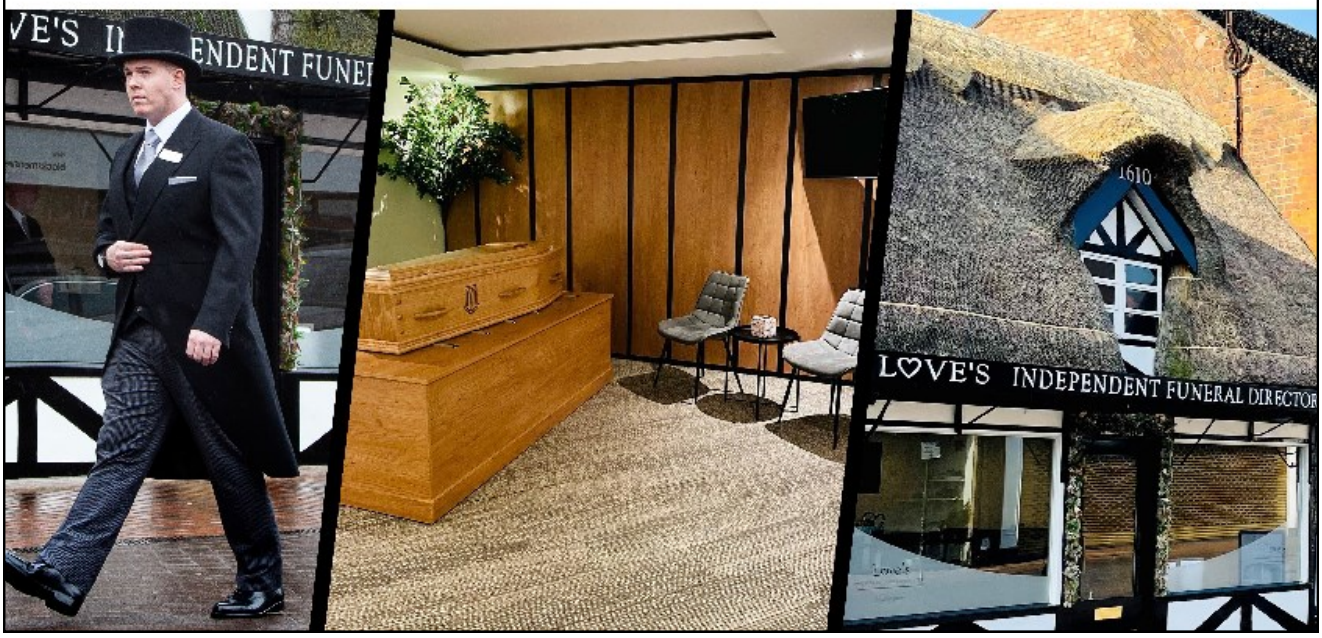
Or why not read one of these three songs regularly at your time of prayer? You will be praying them alongside thousands of others each day. They will refresh you and remind you of your faith. As you speak them, they will become a way of expressing your Christian desire for the 'advent' of God's Kingdom. It's a desire which you share with me, and with millions of other praying Christians today and every day.

Revd Simon Foster , Diocese's Mission and Strengthening Communities Team Leader. Contact 07496 638805 / simon.foster@lichfield.anglican.org

You can join Lichfield Cathedral for morning prayer online six day a week – visit www.facebook.com/LichfieldCathedralDailyWorship/

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The Latest Buzz

Autumn/Winter has come round again. In September you were promised more details of preparing bees for the winter months so here goes……

It starts in September when I harvested the last of the honey the bees could spare. No honey is taken from their nest – the brood box. The honey in the frames was very heavy and our chief beekeeper is still away sailing and so perhaps you can imagine how happy I was that day!! However the honey tasted glorious.

When the honey has been spun out of the frames the empty frames are put back in the hives. Bees are amazing - those bees on domestic duties get to work & clean the frames ready for them to be taken off the hives and stored until needed again next spring. Now the garden shed is full of large plastic boxes of nice clean frames put away so mice can't get at them.

Talking of mice - yesterday I attached mouse guards to all the hives. A mouse guard restricts the size of the entrance to the hive. It makes the entry smaller so it is easier for the bees to defend against any intruder - which at this time of year might be a mouse looking for a warm place to nest. We have never had a mouse in a hive thank goodness. While I was doing this a bee found the smallest of gaps between my bee suit and gloves and so I was given a big sting just to remind me that I was intruding too.

The bees need feeding at this time to make sure they have plenty of supplies to get them through to next spring. After the frames had come off the bees were fed a liquid solution which they take from a special feeder put on top of the brood box. They take this liquid into their brood box and turn it to a honey-like substance to feed off all winter.

Yesterday all the feeders came off and were replaced with special bee fondant blocks - these are to be very sure the bees have enough to eat till we have flowers again next spring. Also, a small dose of varroa medicine is introduced to help protect the hive against that disease.

Soon the bees will form into a ball. This bee ball will not fly during the winter but will rotate round the hive eating the stored food and keeping warm.



Eccleshall Bees

PS See left for answer to Beedoku in Sept magazine

PPS A lovely book – Winnie-the-pooh Helps the Bees (£6.99). What a perfect character to teach everyone about bees!

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Tuesday –Friday- 8.30am-5.45pm

Eccleshall Poetry Group

Eccleshall Poetry Group is the home of the Eccleshall Poets and, whilst not everyone in the Poetry Group writes poetry, several of those who do are individually published poets.

Former primary school teacher and ballet teacher Elizabeth Leaper has been writing poetry since childhood; she has published 3 volumes of poetry and an illustrated story book for young children and below is a poem she wrote especially for this Christmas issue of Eccleshall Trinity Parish Magazine.

Quietly Sleeping

by Elizabeth Leaper

See the Christ child quietly sleeping
in a manger lined with hay.
Mother Mary her watch is keeping
over the Christ child quietly sleeping.
She smiles at kings and shepherds, greeting
them as they their homage pay
to the Christ child, quietly sleeping
in a manger lined with hay.

You are welcome to join Eccleshall Poetry Group at any time during the afternoon to find out which poems have been chosen for that afternoon's theme.

Should you wish to enter into the poetry-afternoon spirit completely, you may like to choose and bring along a poem or three which are pertinent to that afternoon's topic to read aloud yourself.

We look forward to welcoming you.

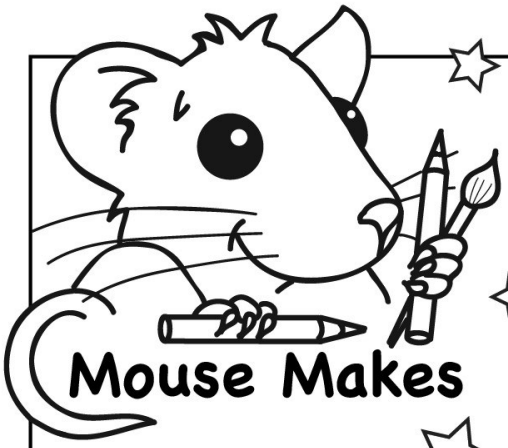
Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Stafford and Stone Health Visiting Team holds a **Wellbaby Drop-in Clinic** in the Parish Room on Thursday mornings from 9.30am to 10.30am. During the baby clinic families can discuss any health issues and have their children weighed and measured.

We look forward to seeing you. For further questions please feel free to phone the 0-19 Families Health and Wellbeing Hub on 08081780611.


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Children's Page - The Greatest Gift



Mouse Makes

"The child to be born
will be called
H __ __ __ , the
__ __ __ of __ __ __ "
Luke 1:35

"For unto you is born
this day a
S __ __ __ __ __ __
who is
__ __ R __ __ __
the __ __ R __"
Luke 2:11

"Jesus said,
I am the __ __ Y
and the __ __ U __ __
and the __ I __ __ .
No one comes to the Father
except through me."
John 14:6

THE GREATEST GIFT

"She will bear a son,
and shall call his name
__ __ __ __ __
for he will save his
people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21

"Jesus said,
I am the
__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __
and the life."
John 11:25

B	L	I	G	H	T	L	O
R	A	Y	W	O	J	J	R
E	M	M	A	N	U	E	L
A	B	☆	Y	J	E	S	O
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JESUS
—
THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL!

P	R	O	P	H	E	T	I		E	V	E	R	L	A	S	T	I	N	G
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T	E	A	C	H	E	R	E		C	O	U	N	S	E	L	L	O	R	U

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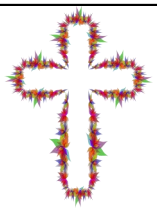
21 October 2024	Abigail Green Baptism at Holy Trinity
27 October 2024	Molly, Mila & Joshua Nwanneka Baptism at Holy Trinity

We welcome Abigail, molly, mila & Joshua to the family of the church

FUNERALS

7 November 2024	Jean Reader Funeral Service at Holy Trinity
7 November 2024	Adelina Roberts Funeral Service at Holy Trinity & Committal at Stafford Crematorium

Sincere condolences to all who mourn



Where appropriate, services that are held after the date that Trinity magazine has gone to print will be shown on the Parish Registers page in the following issue.

Prayer Support

Do you know of someone who is in need of prayer? There is a small group of people who pray for needs in the Parish. If you would like a prayer for yourself, a loved one or someone you know but are not sure who to turn to, please ring Kate Griffiths on 01785 850948 and we will ensure that you or they are prayed for.

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Forthcoming Events

DECEMBER 2024

Tuesday 3rd 5.30-6.30pm
Introduction to the Gospel of Luke - a "one off" Bible Reading session in Holy Trinity Church

Wednesday 4th 11-11.30am
Holy Communion Service in Holy Trinity Church

Wednesdays 4th and 18th 10 -12
Trinity Coffee and Cake in Holy Trinity Parish Room - p. 27

Wednesday 4th
Tooty Flooty (7-8pm) ***and Eccleshall Community Band*** (8-9pm) rehearse in Holy Trinity Church

Thursday 5th 2.00-4.00pm
Eccleshall Poetry Group in Eccleshall Methodist Hall **'Weather'**

Monday 9th 7.30pm
Eccleshall Historical Talks Society in Holy Trinity Parish Room "Have yourself a wild Christmas. A history of nature in Christmas celebrations" - speaker Kevin Reynolds

Wednesday 11th 8pm
Eccleshall Community Band and Tooty Flooty in Concert in Holy Trinity Church (see below)

Thursday 12th
Eccleshall WI Christmas Lunch at The Old Smithy, Eccleshall

Friday 13th 7pm
TMF Evening meeting in Holy Trinity Parish Room Quiz night

Thursday 19th 2.00-4.00pm
Eccleshall Poetry Group in Eccleshall Methodist Hall **'Season's Greetings'**

Thursday 19th 7.30pm
Eccleshall Community Cinema film "See p.26

Sunday 22nd 6.30pm
Eccleshall Churches Together Nine Lessons and Carols in Holy Trinity Church

Monday 23rd (Time TBC)
Parish Carol Singing round the tree at the crossroads and along the High Street - ending in Holy Trinity Church

JANUARY 2025

Thursday 2nd 2.00-4.00pm
Eccleshall Poetry Group in Eccleshall Methodist Hall **'Hopes and Dreams'**

Monday 6th 5.30 - 6.30pm
Living Faith course restarts in the Parish Room. See p. 41

Tuesday 7th 5.30 - 6.30pm
"***Difference***" Course starts in Holy Trinity Church for five weeks. See p. 41

Wednesdays 8th and 22nd 10 -12
Trinity Coffee and Cake in Holy Trinity Parish Room - p. 27

Wednesdays 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th
Tooty Flooty (7-8pm) ***and Eccleshall Community Band*** (8-9pm) rehearse in Holy Trinity Church

Monday 13th 7.30pm
Eccleshall Historical Talks Society in Holy Trinity Parish Room "The Dancing Duke, the 5th Marquis of Anglesey" - speaker Bob Marsh

Thursday 16th 2.00-4.00pm
Eccleshall Poetry Group in Eccleshall Methodist Hall **'Wealth and Poverty'**

Sunday 19th 3pm
Christian Unity Service at Eccleshall Methodist Church

Wednesday 22nd 12.30pm
TMF "Not the Christmas Lunch" at the Cock Inn, Woodseaves

Friday 31st 7.00pm
TMF Evening Meeting in Holy Trinity Parish Room AGM



Contact details for events can be found on pages 42 and 43.

If you would like to give notice of forthcoming events for February and March 2025 please let us know by 7th January 2025 at the latest (details on page 43).

Church Service Rotas for December

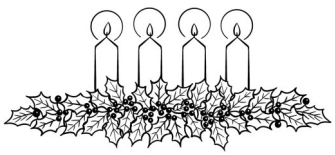
Date	1st December The First Sunday of Advent	8th December The Second Sunday of Advent	15th December The Third Sunday of Advent	22nd December The Fourth Sunday of Advent	29th December The First Sunday of Christmas
Holy Trinity 10am	**Sung Eucharist**	**Sung Eucharist**	**Sung Eucharist**	**Sung Eucharist**	**Sung Eucharist**
Sides-people	A Dale J Dale	N Reynolds C Reynolds	T Jones L Jones	P Jones Joy Jones	T Jones L Jones
Eucharistic Officer	G Dingle	A Braithwaite	G Dingle	A Braithwaite	G Dingle
Prayers	G Dingle	B Braithwaite	P Jones	J Norton	A Goldsmith
Reading 1	**Jeremiah 33 14-16** M Firth	**Malachi 3 1-4** H Bradshaw	**Isaiah 12 2-6** B Braithwaite	**Micah 5 2-5a** P Jones	**1 Samuel 2 18-20, 26** P Stewart
Reading 2	**1 Thessalonians 3 9-13** V Firth	**Philippians 1 3-11** J Bradshaw	**Philippians 4 4-7** G Dingle	**Hebrews 10 5-10** Joy Jones	**Colossians 3 12-17** A Goldsmith
St Chad's 11.30am	**Said Eucharist**	**Said Eucharist**	**Carol Service**	**Said Eucharist**	**Said Eucharist**
Readings	**As 10am** Helen Bonsall	**As 10am** Geoff Dingle	**TBC**	**As 10am** Richard Downs	**As 10am** Neil Davenport

Other services, events and activities
Tuesday 3rd December ~ 5.30 -6.30pm ~ Gospel of Luke Bible Reading Session in Holy Trinity - All welcome
Wednesday 4th December ~ 11am ~ Holy Communion in Holy Trinity
Sunday 8th December ~ 6.30pm ~ Advent Carols in Holy Trinity
Sunday 22nd December ~ 6.30pm ~ ECT Nine Lessons & Carols in Holy Trinity
Tuesday 24th December ~ 3pm ~ Crib Service in Holy Trinity
Tuesday 24th December ~ 11.30pm ~ Midnight Mass in Holy Trinity
Wednesday 25th December ~ 10am ~ Christmas Day Service Holy Trinity
Wednesday 25th December ~ 11.30am ~ Christmas Day Service St Chad's (Readers - The Milners)

Church Service Rotas for January

Date	5th January Epiphany	12th January Baptism of Christ	19th January The Second Sunday of Epiphany	26th January The Third Sunday of Epiphany
Holy Trinity 10am	**Sung Eucharist**	**Sung Eucharist**	**Sung Eucharist**	**Sung Eucharist**
Sides-people	A Dale J Dale	N Reynolds C Reynolds	P Jones Joy Jones	T Jones L Jones
Eucharistic Officer	A Braithwaite	G Dingle	A Braithwaite	G Dingle
Prayers	G Dingle	B Braithwaite	P Jones	A Goldsmith
Reading 1	**Jeremiah 31 7-14** I Edge	**Isaiah 43 1-7** N Reynolds	**Isaiah 62 1-5** J Roberts	**Nehemiah 8 1-3, 5-6, 8-10** M Jones
Reading 2	**Ephesians 1 3-14** H Edge	**Acts 8 14-17** C Reynolds	**1 Corinthians 12 1-11** J Turnock	**1 Corinthians 12 12-31a** C Jones
St Chad's 11.30am	**Said Eucharist**	**Said Eucharist**	**Said Eucharist**	**Said Eucharist**
Readings	**As 10am** Margaret Bardsley	**As 10am** Sue Marsh	**As 10am** Sue Bramall	**As 10am** The Whitfields
Other services, events and activities				
(No Wednesday morning Communion service this month)				
Monday 6th January ~ 5.30 - 6.30pm ~ Living Faith course - one year introduction to the Christian Faith - restarts in the Parish Room				
Tuesday 7th January ~ 5.30 - 6.30pm ~ Difference Course starts in Holy Trinity Church for five weeks. Difference is a course exploring following Jesus in a conflicted world. All welcome.				
Sunday 19th January ~ 3pm ~ Christian Unity Service at Eccleshall Methodist Church				

Videos of 10am services held at Holy Trinity Church can usually be seen from shortly after the end of the service (at around 11.15am) on the Facebook page of Holy Trinity Parish Church, Eccleshall and will be uploaded to YouTube early the following week.



Town Contacts

GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

Adbaston Community Concert Society:
01785 850967 www.adbastonccs.org.uk
Art Group: Ann 01785 748061 and Joy 01785 851885
British Red Cross Society: 258155
Ecc. Allotments Association: Adam Pike
Eccleshallaa@gmail.com
Ecc. Bridge Club: Margaret Atkins 01782 796201
Eccleshall Community Band: Hazel Bradshaw 851259
Ecc. Community Centre Bookings:
Libby Dale 850124
Ecc. Community Cinema: Keith Winstanley 859908
Ecc. Cricket Club: Andy Buttery 284242
Ecc. & Dist. 41 Club: Martin Ratcliffe 07831 277398
Ecc. Festival: Vacant
Ecc. Historical Society: Lester Stuart 850826
Ecc. Library Book Group: Ros Taylor 01785 859068
Ecc. Poetry Group: Thelma Whitfield 01785 760017
Ecc. Show Society: Mary Cartmail 07702 240511
Ecc. Singers: Chris Howe 01785 282785
choweharrier@live.co.uk
Ecc. Trefoil Guild: Nicci Holdcroft
npholdcroft@aol.com
Ecc. Trust: Sharon Lynch 851046
Ecc. Voluntary Car Scheme Peter Jones 01785 851381 / 07815419166 peterwjones@btinternet.com www.eccleshallvoluntarycarscheme.org.uk
Ecc. W.I.: Joan Davies 851412
Ecc. Young Farmers: Jessica Bradley 07794362260
Ecclian Society: Brian Freeman 851590
Indoor Bowls Club: Joe Yeomans 851255
Katharine House Hospice-Eccleshall Support Group: Helen Deane 850071
Methodist Church Room Bookings:
Anne Ainsworth 850722
National Women's Register: Mary Busby 850854
Neighbourhood Watch: John Baldry 850004
The Over 60s Club: Jenny Oldbury 01785 850490
Rotary Club of Eccleshall Mercia: John Ogbourne, Secretary 07796 273885 john@ogbourne.co.uk
Royal British Legion (Eccleshall Branch):
Clive Blakeway 01952 550205
North Staffs Riding for the Disabled:
Jane Banks northstaffsrda@gmail.com or 07428376437
Staffordshire Marquetry Group:
Quentin Smith 850614
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust:
David Lovatt 01782 680250
Tennis Club: Mark Embrey 851265

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Ros Taylor 01785 859068
email: ros.taylor@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk
Clerk to Parish Council: Mrs. Stacey Worden
16 Newport Road, Great Bridgeford ST18 9PR
01785 282296 eccleshallpc@gmail.com

RECYCLING CENTRES

Closed Christmas Day Boxing Day & New Year's Day
Open Bank Holidays 9am-5pm
St. Alban's Rd, Stafford
Open: Winter : 9am-4.30pm Mon Tues Fri Sat & Sun
Summer: 9-6 Mon Tues Fri 9-5 Sat and Sun
Stone Recycling Centre
Open: Winter : 9am-4.30pm Wed Thurs Fri Sat & Sun
Summer: 9-6 Wed Thurs Fri 9-5 Sat and Sun

ECCLESHALL LIBRARY 0300 111 8000

Sun/Mon Closed Tues 9am-5pm Wed 9am-1pm
Thurs 9am-5pm Fri 9am-5pm Sat 9am-1pm

YOUNG PEOPLE & CHILDREN

Bishop Lonsdale C. of E. Academy:
Principal: Mrs Claire Jones 01785 336512

1st Eccleshall SCOUTS
Beavers: Monday 6pm to 7pm
Cubs: Wednesday 6.30-8 pm
Explorers: Thursday 7.30-9.30pm
Scouts: Friday 7.30-9.30 pm
Contact: e-mail firsteccleshallscouts@outlook.com

GUIDES
Unfortunately there are currently no Guides, Brownies or Rainbows units running in Eccleshall. For information about local units you can visit www.girlguidi.org.uk

HEALTH

G P Practice
The Crown Surgery, High Street, Eccleshall
Telephone 01785 850226 for appointments
www.crownsurgery.org.uk
Hospital Visiting Times.
County Hospital Stafford 257731 3-8 pm
Royal Stoke University Hospital
01782 715444 2-4 pm, 7-8 pm
First Responders: Jay Eames 07834 919194 www.eccleshallcfrs.org.uk
Requests for **Hospital Radio** Stafford : 223456
Pharmacist (High St. Eccleshall) 850057
Shires Veterinary Practice 01785 907185

HELP NEEDED!

Medical Emergency (seriously ill/injured/life-saving)/ Police Emergency/Fire: 999
Urgent medical advice or treatment: 111
Police: Non Emergency Number **101**
Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111
Samaritans: 24-hours: **Free Call Number** 116123
or email jo@samaritans.org
Citizens Advice Bureau: 258673 or 814806
Relate (Marriage Guidance) : 242779
Bereavement and Loss Support Service :
01782 263455 & 01785 211734
NSPCC (24-hour line): 0800 800 500
GAS emergency number: 0800 111 999
ELECTRICITY emergency number: 0800 328 1111
WATER emergency number: 0800 783 4444
British Rail Enquiries: 08457 484950
Staffordshire Bus Line Information: 223344
Eccleshall Website www.eccleshallguide.org
Parish Council Website
www.eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

TRINITY Magazine Free Delivery

If you know of anyone who would like **TRINITY** magazine **delivered to their home** in the **Eccleshall/Slindon/Copmere Area,** please contact **Charles Taylor, on 01782 658832 Mobile 07484 890439**

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office@eccleshall.church
(Normally works Mon - Fri 9am - 1pm)

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stephen.habgood@btopenworld.com

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Jonathan Jones	1 Kerry Lane 851237
Tony Jones	Rumford Redoubt, Newport Road 850186
John Treanor	Lower House, Sugnall Parva 851378

Lay Chairmen John Treanor 851378
Jonathan Jones 851237
Treasurer
Finance Officers
Deanery Synod Representatives
Hazel Bradshaw, Kate Griffiths, Jonathan Jones
Other Elected Church Council Members
(S represents Slindon)
John Bradshaw, Sue Bramall (S), Isobel Edge, Linda Jones, John Leather (S), Susan Marsh, David Milner (S), Judith Norton, Chris Reynolds, Nancy Reynolds, Vivien Rolwey, Jenny Turnock

Parish Website: www.ecclshallparish.com
Facebook Page : Parish of Eccleshall

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER
Steve Enock 01785 851873

ST. CHAD'S, SLINDON
Churchwarden: John Treanor 851378
Treasurer: John Leather 850888
Secretary: Sue Marsh
Health & Safety Coordinator: John Treanor

For all general enquiries including Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms, Churchyards at both Holy Trinity and St Chad's Slindon please contact the Parish Office
Phone: 01785 305028
Email: office@eccleshall.church

CHURCH GROUPS
Bible Study: Revd Phillip 01785 848604
Parish Prayer Group: Judith Norton 859390
Tower Bells: Warren Griffiths 850948
Trinity Men's Fellowship: Rob Hughes 851372

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isobeledge@hotmail.com
Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator:
Vivien Rowley 07795086544
Electoral Roll Officer: Kate Griffiths 850948
Flower Guild Rota: Kate Griffiths 850948
Sidesmen's Rota: Emily admin@eccleshall.church
Health & Safety Coordinator: Kate Griffiths 850948

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Minister: Rev. Jimione Kaci
Circuit Office: Mrs. Leigh Reade 01785 229973
Lettings: Mrs. Anne Ainsworth 01785 850722

SACRED HEART CHURCH
Fr. Gerry Doyle 01785 813951

ECCLESHALL CHURCHES TOGETHER
Dorothy Kirkham 01785 851778

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Please send articles or forthcoming events for the February 2025 issue of Trinity magazine to Hazel by 7th January 2025 at the latest. Email: parishmag.eccleshall@gmail.com

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December and January Services at Holy Trinity, Eccleshall & St. Chad's, Slindon

1st December,The First Sunday of Advent

10am - 11am	Holy Trinity - Sung Eucharist
11.30am - 12.30pm	St Chad's - Said Eucharist

4th December, Wednesday Service

11.00 - 11.30am	Holy Trinity - Holy Communion

8th December, The Second Sunday of Advent

10am - 11am	Holy Trinity - Sung Eucharist
11.30am - 12.30pm	St Chad's - Said Eucharist
6.30pm	Advent Carols in Holy Trinity

15th December, The Third Sunday of Advent

10am - 11am	Holy Trinity - Sung Eucharist
11.30am - 12.30pm	St Chad's - Carol Service

22nd December, The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10am - 11am	Holy Trinity - Sung Eucharist
11.30am - 12.30pm	St Chad's - Said Eucharist
6.30pm	Holy Trinity - Eccleshall Churches Together Nine Lessons and Carols

24th December, Christmas Eve

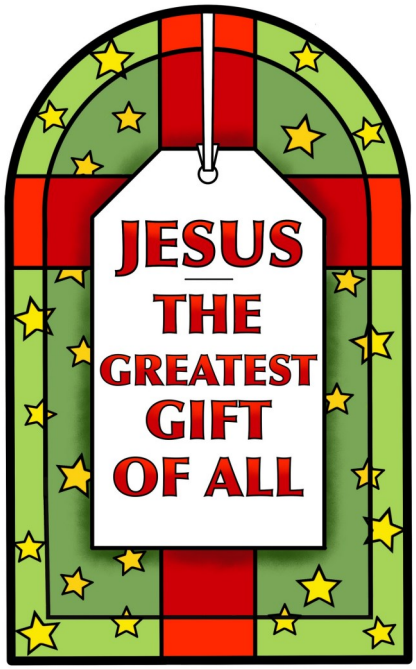
3pm	Holy Trinity - Crib Service
11.30pm	Holy Trinity - Midnight Mass

25th December, Christmas Day

10am - 11am	Holy Trinity - Christmas Day Service
11.30am - 12.30pm	St Chad's - Christmas Day Service

29th December, The First Sunday of Christmas

10am - 11am	Holy Trinity - Sung Eucharist
11.30am - 12.30pm	St Chad's - Said Eucharist



5th January, Epiphany

10am - 11am	Holy Trinity - Sung Eucharist
11.30am - 12.30pm	St Chad's - Said Eucharist

12th January, Baptism of Christ

10am - 11am	Holy Trinity - Sung Eucharist
11.30am - 12.30pm	St Chad's - Said Eucharist

19th January, The Second Sunday of Epiphany

10am - 11am	Holy Trinity - Sung Eucharist
11.30am - 12.30pm	St Chad's - Said Eucharist

26th January, The Third Sunday of Epiphany

10am - 11am	Holy Trinity - Sung Eucharist
11.30am - 12.30pm	St Chad's - Said Eucharist

(See pages 40 and 41 for Sunday service rotas)