

OLD WINDSOR PARISH NEWS

KNOWING GOD TOGETHER AND MAKING HIM KNOWN
A Christian Community at the Heart of Old Windsor

December 2017

Coffee Mornings

The Methodist Church, in St. Luke's Road, holds a weekly Coffee Morning every Tuesday from 10 am until 12 noon. Please drop in at any time during this two hour slot. For details, please phone Sean Alexander, who regularly attends, on 01753 864979.

The 5p coin collection

is still continuing and raising funds towards any church repairs, so please bring your 5p s.

Suggested Readings for December 2017

Sunday 3rd December – 1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64: 1 – 9 Psalm 80 Mark 13: 24 – 37

Sunday 10th December - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40: 1 – 11 Psalm 85 Mark 1: 1 - 8

Sunday 17th December - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61: 1 – 4, 8 – 11 Psalm 126 John 1: 6 – 8, 19 - 28

Sunday 24th December – 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7: 1 – 11, 16 Magnificat Luke 1: 26 – 38

Sunday 31st December – 1st Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61: 10 – 62: 3 Galatians 4: 4 – 7 Luke 2: 15 - 21

REGULAR SERVICES

8 am	9.15 am	11.15 am
St Luke's Church	St Peter's Middle School Hall	Parish Church of St Peter & St Andrew
Said Service of Holy Communion - BCP 3 rd and 5 th Sundays	Worship for all ages, Featuring Jamzone kid's club	Holy Communion Service - Common Worship

For more news and to keep up-to date with coming events please visit

www.oldwindsorchurch.org.uk

Find us on Facebook [oldwindsorchurch](https://www.facebook.com/oldwindsorchurch)

SIMPLY CHRISTMAS

It is Christmas time; for some this is merely a holiday season and for others it is a Holy Season. For some it is a sacrament of consumerism, while for others it is the Sacrament of God becoming human.



On the surface, Christmas seems a sentimental, dreamy, shiny season, especially in the high street's culture. But if we look into its depth, it is too challenging. I will never forget the shocked face of the Egyptian TV presenter, who was interviewing me one Christmas Eve for the national TV, when he asked me what I was celebrating that evening. I found myself smiling at him and saying 'we are celebrating *THE FESTIVAL OF INCARNATION: that is that God became one of us. He took what is ours to give us what is His.* A long tense pause of silence followed such an unexpected answer and replaced the festive Christmas atmosphere.

It is too good to be true; it is too risky to be believed. But simply, this is what Christmas is about: God has taken the risk of incarnation in our world. God in His steadfast love and unsearchable wisdom chose voluntarily to be like a refugee among us; to feel cold, small, weak and a long way from home. God went beyond every expectation in his predicament with us and His Creation.

This is the kind of risk we are puzzling over at Christmas; this is the kind of good news we are celebrating. This Christmas, like always, some will be like Zachariah, who found the Christmas news too much to be true and so became dumb. Others will be like Mary, who gave her offering of consent for such risk and raised her voice with singing.

*My soul magnifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour*

Merry Christmas

Rev'd Adel Shokralla



SERVICES

3rd December - 1st Sunday of Advent

9.15 am at St. Peter's Middle School Hall, Crimp Hill *with Holy Communion*
11.15 am at the Parish Church

10th December - 2nd Sunday of Advent

9.15 am at St. Peter's Middle School Hall, Crimp Hill
11.15 am at the Parish Church

17th December - 3rd Sunday of Advent

8 am Holy Communion at St. Luke's Church *which is said worship*
9.15 am at St. Peter's Middle School Hall, Crimp Hill
11.15 am at the Parish Church
4.00 pm Carols and Candles in the Parish Church

24th December – 4th Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve

Please note there will not be a 9.15 am Service at St. Peter's Middle School Hall
10.30 am a Joint Service for all ages at the Parish Church
4.00 pm Christingle Service at the Parish Church
11.30 pm Midnight Communion at the Parish Church

25th December – Christmas Day

10.30 am a Christmas Nativity Service for all ages in the Parish Church

31st December – 1st Sunday after Christmas / New Year's Eve

Please note there will be no 8 am Communion Service at St. Luke's Church
10.30 am a Joint Service for all ages in the Parish Church

30th November – A Coffee Morning

There will be a Coffee Morning at in Mary Hutchinson's house, 7 Harwood Gardens, Old Windsor from 10.30 to 12.30 to help welcome some of our new families into the community. Please put Thursday 30th November into your diaries and come along.

2nd December – Quiz Night

There will be a Quiz Night on Saturday 2nd December at 7pm for 7.30 pm in St. Luke's Church. A Ploughman's Supper will be provided and the entrance fee is £5 per head. There will be a Raffle during the evening. If you wish to come and are not yet in a team, please see Peter or Joan.

5th December - Ecumenical Prayer Group

The Old Windsor United Churches Prayer meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5th at 12.00 noon in the Vicarage, Church Road.

8th December – Christmas Festivity Concert

All acts in the Old Windsor Festivity Christmas Concert on 8th December at 7.00pm in the Parish Church. will be members of our two churches. There will also be communal Carol singing and free refreshments during the interval, with a retiring collection for charity.

The Day Centre Communion Service

in the Day Centre on the second Friday of every month at 11 am invites ALL parishioners. It will held be on December 8th. No further specific details available at time of going to print.

10th December - Carols at the Manor

will be a special celebration of the service held every second Sunday of the month by the United Churches group. It will be held at 3 pm on 10th December in The Manor Care Home, Old Windsor. Everyone is invited to attend.

10th December – Chocolate Tombola

The Church is manning the Chocolate Tombola Stand at the Old Windsor Christmas Fayre again this year. It will be held on 10th December from 4 – 6 pm.

13th December - House Group

Meeting every second Wednesday in the month, the next will be on Wednesday 13th December at Antony and Ursula Wood's home, Lane End House, 1 Newton Lane, Old Windsor, at 8 pm. Patrick Haydock-Wilson is facilitator. For further details please contact Antony Wood Tel. 01753 855344.

17th December – Christmas Raffle Draw

will take place after the 11.15 am Service at the Parish Church

17th December – Carols and Candles

our annual Carol Service will be held in the Parish Church at 4 pm. No further details available at time of going to print.

The Pastoral Team

consists of several Church members whose role in the Parish is to contact anyone who is unwell, lonely, bereaved or has other needs, including bringing Communion to your home if you are housebound. If you, or anyone you know, is in need of some help or would like a visit, contact Mary Hutchinson Tel. 01753 862347.

Around the Bible – Advent Course

Our Bible Study Advent Course under the title 'Heaven', exploring the throne room of God and who will enter this room, plus the massive implications for how we all live now, continues Monday 4th December and concludes on Monday 11th December both at 1.30 pm or Friday 8th December concluding Friday 15th December both at 7.30 pm. You are very welcome to join either group at the Vicarage, Church Road.

Windsor Foodshare

has sent a November Update [see notice boards]. They are currently short of tinned meat and tinned vegetables. Financial donations can now attract Gift Aid, but please email sarah@windsorfoodshare.org.uk for further information. Donations for their Christmas Hampers would be welcomed [e.g. mince pies] but please ensure perishables are in date for Christmas. Thank you again for thinking of those less fortunate, when we already ask so much of you all at this time of year.

PCC – the December Meeting

will be held on Monday December 4th at 7.45 pm in St Luke's Church. The November Meeting discussed implications of Church Finances, so the Finance Committee will meet and regular updates given to Congregations. Prudent use of water and electricity companies was discussed. Old Windsor contributed 10% of Shoeboxes donated and we hope to have a report in the New Year. External Lighting at the Parish Church is to be reviewed and the 'tree stump' negotiations continue. The choir needs more singers, especially sopranos. We will again run a Chocolate Tombola at the Parish Christmas Fayre on December 10th.

