



Winter 2025

Churches Together in Kingswood

Christingle

Sunday 30th Nov
6pm St Mary's

Supporting the work of the children's society. Please bring any collection boxes handed out at school.

Join us for hot chocolate first at 5:40



Gift Service

Sunday 14th Dec
10:30am Congregational Church

Please buy a gift suitable for a child and bring it **unwrapped**, so that parents being supported by the food bank can choose a gift for their children.



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR
STROUD DISTRICT FOODBANK
HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
Advent Sunday 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Christmas Eve 24						

Reverse Advent Calendars

Collect a box from the porch at St Mary's from 1st Dec. Then just add an item for **Stroud District Foodbank** every day, and bring it all back to St Mary's on Christmas Eve.

Carol Services

Sunday 21st Dec

Congregational Church at 10:30
St Mary's Church at 6:00pm

Enjoy traditional carols and readings in our village churches, followed by refreshments.



Carols on The Chipping

Monday 22 Dec 6pm
Collecting for Stroud District Food Bank



Christmas Eve Crib Service

6pm St Mary's

The start of our Christmas story in verse and song specially for children.



Christmas Day Family Services

10:00 Congregational
10.30 St Mary's

Greet your friends and neighbours as we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus.



Epiphany Crib Service

Sunday 4th Jan
6pm St Mary's

Our story in verse and song resumes as the kings arrive...



Join us for hot chocolate first at 5:40



Saturday 29th Nov
10:00
Lower School Room

A morning of fun for pre-school and primary school aged children with crafts, stories and song.

Candlemas

Sunday 1st Feb
6pm St Mary's

The Christmas season ends with lots of candles and the story of Jesus being taken to the temple. Join us for hot chocolate first at 5:40



Saturday 21st
February
St Mary's 6pm

The Darfur Genocide of 2003-5 and the continuing violence in SUDAN with Khalid Sidahmed
Donations for the Sudanese Doctors Union

JOY

As we approach this special season, I am delighted to share my very first Christmas with you as your Rector. It is a privilege and a joy to walk alongside you in faith, and I am truly excited to celebrate this special time together across our churches in the Wickwar Benefice.

The Church of England's Advent and Christmas theme for 2025 is summed up in one beautiful word: Joy! Our churches and cathedrals will, as always, seek to make the most of the opportunities December brings to share The Joy of Christmas with our communities. And what greater joy could there be than the good news first proclaimed by the angel to the shepherds: the birth of Jesus as Emmanuel – God With Us.

This message of joy is not just for a season; it is for every day. In a world that often feels uncertain, the birth of Christ reminds us that God's love is steadfast and His presence is real. As we gather for worship, carols, and fellowship, may we open our hearts to that joy and share it generously—with our families, our neighbours, and those who need hope most.

On behalf of the whole ministry team, I wish you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with peace and renewal. May the joy of Christ dwell richly in your hearts and in our communities.

A Christmas Prayer

*Lord Jesus Christ, Light of the World,
as we celebrate Your birth, fill our hearts with joy and peace.
Help us to share Your love with all we meet,
and may Your presence bring hope to our homes and communities.
Amen.*



Revd Catherine Coomber

