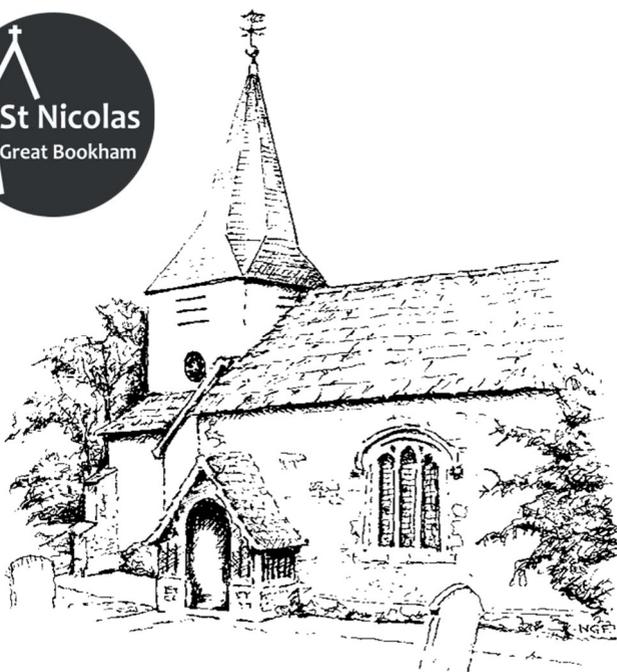


# St Nicolas News

75p

December 2025  
January 2026



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

*Building Faith in the Community*

## Services at St Nicolas

### Sundays

- 8.00am **Holy Communion**
- 10.00am **Holy Communion** - 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays  
**Morning Praise** - 1st Sunday,  
**GLOW** - Children's Provision

### Weekday Services

- 8.30am **Bible Reading and Open Prayer**  
Monday and Wednesday
- 10.00am **Holy Communion (Said)** Thursday
- 9.00am **Prayers for our church** - 2nd and 4th Saturdays
- 10.00 am **Church Development Plan Prayers** –  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday



**Tots Alive!** (term time) - Monday  
10.00am in church with social time afterwards

[For other services please see  
Notice Board by the Lychgate](#)

## Letter from the Ministry Team

It's hard to believe it but Christmas is fast approaching. The Christmas carol concerts are starting, the village Spirit of Christmas event is happening and all the talk is of plans for Christmas Day. For many it's a time to think of family and friends and work out how to fit in seeing as many as possible over the holidays. For many this time of year brings times of joy and celebration. For others, it can be a little more challenging. Some will be remembering those who will not be here this year, and others will be facing Christmas in an unfamiliar place having moved into care over the year. Some will be wondering what the New Year brings health-wise and hoping for a better year. My hope for all of us is that we find peace and comfort in the Christmas story, whatever our circumstances.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, it's good to keep focused on the central message of the birth of Jesus. God coming into our world bringing hope, peace, joy, and love - to everyone. This never changes, even when the world around us seems more than a little uncertain. When the news from around the world is of war and disaster, both natural and man-made, the message of hope that the birth of Jesus brings is even more important. God chose to

enter our world in the most humble and vulnerable way possible, as a baby in a stable, and by it changed the world for ever.

We all love sitting in the darkened church lit by hundreds of candles. A visible reminder of Jesus, the light of the world, and the light we take with us out into our lives and the lives of those we meet. It is a gift that we can carry with us every day of the year, not just at Christmas, and wherever we are and whatever is happening around us.

We have a number of special services planned as usual, including our traditional Carol Service, three Christmas Eve services for families, midnight communion and Christmas Day celebrations. Do check the advert in the magazine for all the details - we'd love to see you there. And do bring along a friend or a family member to enjoy it too.

Wherever you find yourself this Christmas, and however you will end up spending it, on behalf of all the ministry team, I wish you, and those you love, a truly blessed and joyful Christmas, and a peaceful and hope-filled New Year.

With every blessing

*Barbara*

# **Report from PCC Meeting**

**10 November 2025**

Alan opened the meeting with a brief reflection on Proverbs 15:22 and prayer.

The two main items for the meeting were to commit to have oversight of, and arrange for, necessary and important safeguarding work to be completed, and an update on the financial position for the current year whilst also looking ahead to the budget 2026.

In relation to safeguarding, Anne Shears (the PCC Safeguarding Lead) took us through some important actions we need to complete, either so that necessary procedures are put in place, or that those which exist already are properly recorded and reviewed / updated. It is for the PCC to exercise due oversight of these issues and to work closely with our Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Neil McDonald (our Treasurer) presented the financial position of the year to date and likely outturn. He also presented a draft budget for 2026 and his thoughts in relation to this. It was sobering to note that planned giving has reduced this year by some £11,400 (inc gift aid) or 6%. For this year this is anticipated to be offset by savings and other income elsewhere. However, the budgetary decisions for 2026 will need to reflect this. Various ways in which savings could be made or funds generated were discussed. This was not the meeting for decisions to be taken; the final budget for 2026 will come to PCC in January.

A further highlight of the meeting was to receive the report on the work of the Bookham Youth Project from Lucy Hicks. PCC welcomed the many initiatives being undertaken to engage effectively with young people, especially the development of Connect & Explore where Christian-themed discussion of selected topics has engaged the young people who participate.

PCC received updates from both Diocesan and Deanery Synods and noted with thanks the considerable work undertaken by the Fabric Committee as set out in its report to PCC.

The next meeting is on Monday 26 January.

Amanda Rowland



As we all know, our Mothers' Union has been going through a difficult time in recent months. However, on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October we held our delayed AGM, from February, and under the able chairmanship of Gill Caldwell we had a positive discussion about the future of our branch.

Our St Nicolas branch has been in existence since 1902, which is quite a good record. Sadly, though, our members are ageing and in the same way that people are not joining such groups, membership does not replace itself. It is also harder for members to get to our meetings, in fact some people are now house-bound, so have become Indoor or Twilight members.

With this in mind, holding monthly meetings with speakers has become unrealistic. We therefore decided that we should try meeting in various members' homes for coffee or tea, on the second Thursday of each month, in order to maintain social interaction. We all agreed that one of the things which was mostly valued was the friendship and companionship we share at all our gatherings and we did not want to lose that.

In August we held a very successful tea party which was open to all, and we decided that we should repeat this, perhaps three or four times a year. These will be occasions when we shall be able to raise some money for the vitally important work of the Mothers' Union, both in this country and worldwide.

Our first gathering was expected to take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November. The first Open Tea Party will take place in January, to herald the new year; more details about that nearer the time.

Coming much nearer to today, we hope that any members who are able will come to the weekly Thursday morning communion services, with our corporate communion being on 4th December. Please try to come and join us on that occasion.

Julia Watts

# Barnabas

# Fellowship



The Barnabas meeting in September centred on the power of prayer, with the discussion centred around intercession.

Two poems were presented. The first (printed below) recalls the day a specific prayer was answered and the second (Unanswered Prayers by G. Brooks, P. Alger & L. Bastian) concerned a prayer that, seemingly, went unanswered.

## **I found a silver sixpence (Nick Tuck)**

One day, as I was walking home  
from St Francis of Assisi school,  
a little boy of eight or nine,  
I said a little prayer to up above.  
“Dear Jesus, Mary, and Joseph too,  
please let me find a silver sixpence  
so I can buy some fruity chews,  
and perhaps some black jacks too”.  
Now, I said this more in hope than expectation,  
but imagine my surprise, glee and exultation  
when I saw clearly,  
on the pavement down below,  
one shiny, silver sixpence,  
which I knew was meant for me.  
And so I headed for the sweet shop  
to fill my pockets  
with fruity chews  
and blackjacks too.  
And I said another prayer  
Of thanks and gratitude  
to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph too.

For I truly believed  
in all the dogma I had learnt  
from priests and teachers  
and especially my mum.  
Now I must confess  
(as is the Catholic way)  
That I am now somewhat older  
and maybe just a wee bit wiser  
but I will always remember  
the day I said a prayer  
to Jesus, Mary and Joseph too  
and found on the pavement  
a shiny, silver sixpence.

A prayer that is answered can affirm one's faith, but a prayer which does not appear to be answered in a way a person can easily understand may be a source of sorrow and doubt.

In the discussion that followed the reading of the poems, the group shared specific examples where prayers had been answered. Amongst the many interesting thoughts raised were the following.

Does the act of praying change us? Asking others to intermeditate through prayer is important but so is praying for oneself. Prayers are often answered in unexpected ways (He works in mysterious ways). Are we guided to know what to pray for – a person may pray that someone with a life-threatening illness is cured whilst another may be called to pray for their peaceful passing?

Finally, there was a suggestion that the act of writing a message of prayer might be a useful way of constructing one's thoughts and with this in mind the group wondered if it might be useful if Jesus had an e-mail address!

In any case as followers of Jesus "we ought always to pray and not lose heart" Luke 18:1

Peter Caldwell



# **Bloom Breakfast**

**Saturday 13th December**

**9.00 am - 10.30 am**

**Pastoral Centre, St Nicolas  
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**Please let us know if you have any  
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## *Christmas Friendship Lunch*

*Venue - the Pastoral Centre*

*Date - 7<sup>th</sup> December at 11.30 for 12.00*

*£5.00 payable on the day*

*If you otherwise lunch on your own or are supported by a carer*

*you are warmly invited to join us .*

*Carers are also most welcome.*

*A salad buffet and homemade desserts will be on the menu as well as some festive treats.*

*(Please advise of any allergies or other dietary requirements)*

*To secure a place, please contact the Parish Office 01372 450709 or*

*[office@stnicolasbookham.org.uk](mailto:office@stnicolasbookham.org.uk)*

*Please bring your own plate, dessert bowl, cup and cutlery. We will supply glasses.*

*Thank you.*

### **An advent devotional**

The Christmas story is one of journeys. Joseph and a heavily pregnant Mary wearily return to their ancestral home, while wise men eagerly follow a new sign in the night sky. Most wonderful of all, is the good news that God in heaven has arrived to become God-With-Us.

In this 25 -day devotional, Catherine Campbell invites you to journey with her through the Christmas Season.

Featuring her usual blend of Biblical retelling, thought provoking insights and gentle encouragement **Journey with Me** accompanies you through the anticipation of the coming Jesus Christ, leading you to a place of worship and hope.



### **The Case for Christmas by Lee Strobel**

A journalist investigates the identity of the Child in the manger

In The Case for Christmas, Lee Strobel puts his training as an investigative reporter to work on finding out the truth about the Christmas Nativity Story.

This well written and down- to -earth investigation is interesting and very helpful to anyone of any age seeking to understand the events of the first Christmas or defend the identity of the baby in the manger. This book gives you the evidence for The Nativity and helps you respond to the critics of Christ's existence, identity and mission.

### **An eyewitness account – The Greatest Story Ever Told by Bear Grylls**

Beautifully told through the eye-witness accounts of those who knew him best, this book traces the story of a humble builder-teacher who lived and died over 2,000 years ago, fulfilling expectations that existed long before his birth.

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Deborah Gallacher

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*Ripple Effect:* Community Garden Twinning

**St Nicolas Eco Team have raised funds, as part of our support for global neighbours, to twin the Pastoral Centre Garden with two families gardens in rural Africa.**



The families who cultivate these gardens are on the front line of the climate crisis. They will be provided with three years training in sustainable organic farming, learning how to use their own gardens to fight hunger and the climate crisis.

Starting with small kitchen gardens, families can grow enough to eat, set up small businesses, and send their children to school.

The plaque is on display in the Pastoral Centre Garden.

*Jacqy Faull on behalf of the Eco Team*



### **An Advent Prayer**

Heavenly Father, as we prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet thought and prayer, that we might reflect upon the wonder of your love and allow the story of our Saviour's birth to penetrate our hearts and minds so may our joy be deeper, our worship more real, and our lives worthier of all that you have done for us through the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

### **Christmas Tree Blessing Prayer**

When you put up the Christmas Tree, use the Christmas Tree Blessing prayer to remind you of why we have one:

Holy Creator of Trees, bless with your abundant grace this our Christmas tree as a symbol of joy. May its evergreen branches be a sign of your never-fading promises. May its colourful lights and ornaments call us to decorate with love our home and our world. May the gifts that surround this tree be symbols of the gifts we have received from the Tree of Christ's Cross. Holy Christmas tree within our home, may Joy and Peace come and nest in your branches and in our hearts. **Amen**

### **Prayer for Christmas**

Heavenly Father, as we celebrate Christmas may we do so in a manner well pleasing to you. As we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace we pray for peace on earth. May the message of peace that the angels proclaimed on that first Christmas resonate in every heart and home. May the blessing of Joy abide with us. May the blessing of Peace rest upon us. May the blessing of Love flow out through us and may the blessing of the Lord be ours this Christmas. **Amen**

### **Prayer for January**

Jesus Christ, our Master, go with us while we travel into the heavenly country: that, following your star, we may not wander in the darkness of this world's night, for you who are the Way, and Truth and Light, be there within us to our journey's end; for your mercy's sake. **Amen**

Deborah Gallacher



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**December 6<sup>th</sup>**

**January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**February 7<sup>th</sup>**

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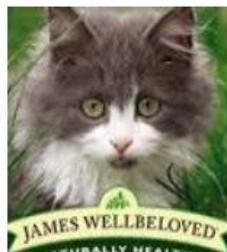
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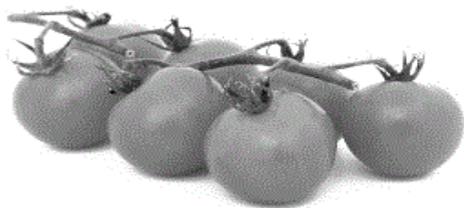
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## The Twelve Days of Christmas

The Twelve Days of Christmas is a classic English Christmas carol that has delighted audiences for centuries. Its catchy melody, repetitive structure, and whimsical list of lavish gifts make it a festive favourite during the holiday season. The song is both a celebration and a countdown, taking listeners through a series of increasingly extravagant presents over a period of twelve days.

The earliest known version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was published in England in 1780 as a rhyme in a children's book titled "Mirth Without Mischief." While the origins are believed to be French, the song has become deeply rooted in British festive traditions. Over the years, the lyrics have undergone minor changes, but the essence has remained the same - a cumulative song listing gifts given on each of the twelve days following Christmas Day.

The "Twelve Days of Christmas" refer to the period beginning on December 25 and ends on January 5 which is Epiphany. It marks the time between Jesus' birth and the arrival of The Three Wise Men, The Magi, bearing gifts to the newborn Christ. The song's lyrics may seem whimsical, but they contain hidden meanings that reflect the teachings of the church making it a powerful tool for spiritual messages.

### *The Lyrics*

Each verse of the song adds a new gift, cumulatively repeating all previous gifts, creating a playful challenge for singers to recall the correct order.

On the first day of Christmas, my true love sent to me:

1. **A Partridge in a Pear Tree** - The partridge in a pear tree represents **Jesus, the Son of God**, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically represented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young.
2. **Two Turtledoves** - These twin birds represent the **Old and New Testaments**. So, in this gift, the singer finds the complete story of the Christian faith and God's plan for the world. These doves are the biblical roadmap that is available to everyone.
3. **Three French Hens** – These birds represent **faith, hope, and love**. This gift harkens back to 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter written by the Apostle Paul. It also represents the **Holy Trinity: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit**.

4. **Four Calling Birds** - One of the easiest facets of the song's code to figure out. These fowl are the **four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.**

5. **Five gold Rings** - The gift of the rings represents **the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch**

**Genesis**

**Exodus**

**Leviticus**

**Numbers**

**Deuteronomy**

6. **Six Geese a-Laying** - These lyrics can be traced back to the first story in the Bible. Each egg is a **day in creation** when God "hatched" or formed the world

**God created the heavens and the earth**

**God created the sky and seas**

**God created the land and plants**

**God created the sun, moon, and stars**

**God created fish and birds**

**God created land animals and man.**

7. **Seven Swans a-Swimming** - It would take someone quite familiar with the Bible to identify this gift. Hidden in the code are **the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:**

**Prophecy**

**Ministry**

**Teaching**

**Exhortation**

**Giving**

**Leading**

**Compassion.**

As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they would seem to be a perfect symbol for spiritual gifts.

8. **Eight Maids a-Milking** - As Christ came to save even the lowest of the low, this gift represents the ones who would receive his word and accept his grace. Being a milkmaid was about the worst job one could have in England during this period; this code conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of royal blood. The eight maids represent the **8 Beatitudes**, from Matthew 5:3-10:

Blessed are...

**The poor in spirit: and for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**  
**Those who mourn: for they shall be comforted**  
**The meek for they shall inherit the earth**  
**Those who hunger and thirst: for they shall be filled.**  
**The merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.**  
**The pure in heart: for they shall see God.**  
**The peacemakers: for they shall be called children of God.**  
**They which are persecuted for righteousness's sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

9. **Nine Ladies Dancing** - These nine dancers were really the gifts known as **the fruit of the Spirit**. They include:

**Love**

**Joy**

**Peace**

**Patience**

**Kindness**

**Goodness**

**Faithfulness**

**Gentleness**

**Self control**

10. **Ten Lords a-leaping** - This is probably the easiest gift to understand. As lords were judges and in charge of the law, this code for **The Ten Commandments** was fairly straightforward to Christians.

**Thou shalt have no other gods before me**

**Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image**

**Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy god in vain**

**Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy**

**Honour thy father and mother**

**Thou shalt not kill**

**Thou shalt not commit adultery**

**Thou shalt not steal**

**Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour**

**Thou shalt not covet**

11 **Eleven Pipers Piping** - This is almost a trick question, as most think of the disciples in terms of the dozen. But when Judas betrayed Jesus and committed suicide, only eleven men carried out the gospel message. Therefore, the Eleven Pipers Piping only signify **the 11 Faithful Disciples Simon (whom He called Peter)**

**Andrew**  
**James**  
**John**  
**Philip**  
**Bartholomew**  
**Matthew**  
**Thomas**  
**James, son of Alphaeus**  
**Simon, who was called the Zealot**  
**Judas, son of James**

**Judas Iscariot was later replaced with faithful Matthias.**

**12 The Twelve Drummers Drumming** - The final gift is tied directly to the Catholic Church. The drummers are the 12 points of doctrine in **the Apostles Creed**.

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried**

**He descended into hell. On the third day, He rose again**

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit**

**The holy catholic Church, the communion of saints**

**the forgiveness of sins**

**the resurrection of the body**

**and the life everlasting.**

Deborah Gallacher

## Jane Austen and St Nicolas Church



This month sees the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of one of the country's most famous and cherished authors – Jane Austen. Her six best-known novels have not been out of print since her death in 1817 and generations have enjoyed the wit and irony she employs to describe 18<sup>th</sup> century society. Her romantic heroines must find good marriage they are to gain social standing and economic security (all apart from Emma, of course, who had her own cash).

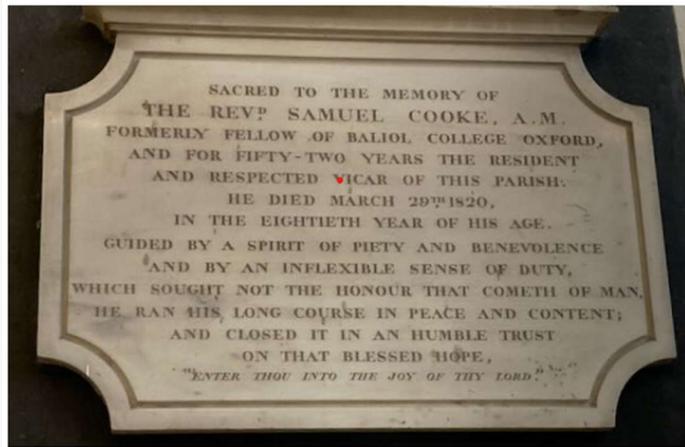
Austen's plots and characters have inspired numerous film, stage and TV productions - who can forget the dashing Mr Darcy, the oleaginous Mr Collins, and the scheming Mr Wickham!

Did you know Jane Austen has an association with St Nicolas Church? Her Godfather, Rev Samuel Cooke, was Rector of our church and was married to Cassandra Cooke, a cousin of Jane Austen's mother (also named Cassandra).

Samuel Cooke is listed in the Austen family Bible as one of her godparents at her baptism on 5 April 1776. His memorial plaque is by the altar in St Nicolas.

Jane certainly visited her relatives in GreatBookham but not, it seems, with much joy. In 1799 she wrote to her sister (yet another Cassandra) saying, "I dread the idea of going to Great Bookham as much as you can do".

A later visit in 1814 was much more positive. Jane had decided to use Bookham as the setting for 'Highbury' the village in which *Emma* takes place. This is how she describes the village:



*"Highbury is a large and populous village, compact enough for every resident to know each other and reckoned a particularly healthy spot."*



Box Hill is the setting for the famous picnic scene just 7 miles away by carriage and Lower Road also gets a mention as the road to Randalls Park. Polesden Lacey was the inspiration for Donwell Abbey, the home of Mr Knightley. At the time, the famous playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan was in residence.  
*St Nicolas Church by Petrie in 1805*

© Lambeth Archives

Why not visit the church and see the poster on Jane Austen as well as a booklet on Bookham's literary heritage, including Jane Austen, available for £5.

St Nicolas is proud of its links with the Jane Austen Society of North America. Their kind donations have helped pay for vital repairs for our building, which we're sure Jane herself

Happy 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, Jane!



**Jane Austen**; 16 December 1775 – 18 July 1817) was an English novelist known primarily for her six novels, which implicitly interpret, critique, and comment on the English landed gentry at the end of the 18th century.

Austen's plots often explore the. Her works are implicit critiques of the novels of sensibility of the second half of the 18th century and are part of the transition to 19th-century literary realism.<sup>[2][b]</sup>

Austen wrote major novels before the age of 22, but she was not published until she was 35. The anonymously published *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), and *Emma* (1816) were moderate successes, but they didn't bring her public fame in her lifetime. (She was privately known to be the author of these novels, including by notable people such as the Prince Regent.) She wrote two other novels—*Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, both published posthumously in 1817—and began another, eventually titled *Sanditon*, but it was left unfinished on her death. She also left behind three volumes of

juvenile writings in manuscript, the short epistolary novel *Lady Susan*, and the unfinished novel *The Watsons*.

Since her death Austen's novels have rarely been out of print. A significant transition in her reputation occurred in 1833, when they were republished in Richard Bentley's Standard Novels series (illustrated by Ferdinand Pickering and sold as a set). They gradually gained wide acclaim and popular readership. In 1869 her nephew published *A Memoir of Jane Austen*. Her work has inspired a large number of critical essays and has been included in many literary anthologies. Her novels have been adapted in numerous films, including *Pride and Prejudice* (1940), *Sense and Sensibility* (1995), *Pride & Prejudice* (2005), *Emma* (2020), and an adaptation of *Lady Susan*, *Love & Friendship* (2016), as well as the film *Persuasion* and the miniseries *Pride and Prejudice*, both released in 1995 by the BBC.

~~~~~

**A fortnightly group for carers and partners  
living with dementia**



**'Connect'**

At St Lawrence Church Hall, Browns Lane, Effingham KT24 5LX

alternate Thursdays 10am 'til 12noon

Sept. 11th and 25th

Oct. 9th and 23rd

Nov. 6th and 20th

Dec. 4th and 18th.

**Come for refreshments,  
friendship, chat  
and activities**

Funded by



**Community  
Foundation  
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For more information please contact Gill on 01372 457987

email [gillconnect1@gmail.com](mailto:gillconnect1@gmail.com) [www.connectwithdementia.org.uk](http://www.connectwithdementia.org.uk)

Supported by Churches Together in Effingham and Little Bookham



**Do you have 1-2 hours free a week?  
Would you like to make a difference  
to someone's life? Yes?**



Then Age Concern Mole Valley has the perfect opportunity for you.  
We are looking for volunteers to join our Befriending Service across Mole  
Valley.

We have a waiting list of older, lonely and isolated people who need a  
Volunteer Befriender. **Can you help?**

For more details, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Diana Webb on:  
**07821 649683 / 01306 899104** or email: [diana@ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk](mailto:diana@ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk)

**Registered Charity No 1111678**

## Church Development Plan Prayer Focus

|                           |                                                                                            |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> December  | Bringing the Good News to bear in response to the needs and concerns of our community      |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> December | Increasing our capacity to take forward the mission of the church                          |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> December | Inspiring each member of the church family to take the next step in their journey of faith |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> December | Bringing the Good News to bear in response to the needs and concerns of our community      |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> January   | Increasing our capacity to take forward the mission of the church                          |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> January  | Inspiring each member of the church family to take the next step in their journey of faith |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> January  | Bringing the Good News to bear in response to the needs and concerns of our community      |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> January  | Increasing our capacity to take forward the mission of the church                          |



### From the Parish Registers



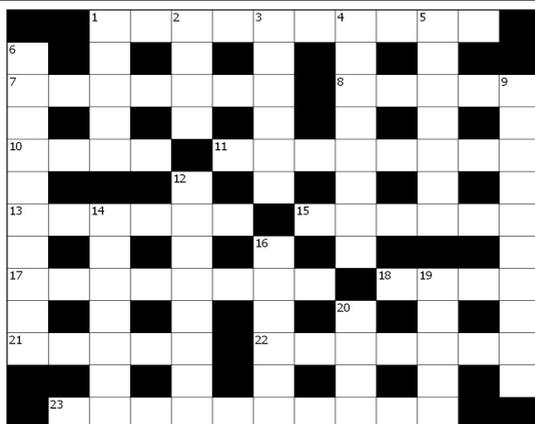
|                               |              |         |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| <b>Deaths</b>                 |              |         |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 | Sheila Staff | Aged 89 |

Great Bookham's very own PCSO,  
Marion Hawkins, will be holding a Surgery at The Meeting Place Warm Space in Bookham Baptist Church on:

- 9<sup>th</sup> December
- 6<sup>th</sup> January
- 3<sup>rd</sup> February



She is happy to talk about any issues you may have, and just generally. She looks forward to meeting you.



### Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith .... (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

### Down

- 1 .... and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)

### Down

- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 Offer your bodies as living ...., holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) (4)



Mole Valley

# Citizens Advice

## **Need help with benefits, debt or employment problems?**

We're here to help, whatever the problem.  
To get free, confidential and impartial advice, you can contact us on these channels:

### **Call Adviceline**

**0800 144 8848** (textphone 0800 144 8884) Mon-Fri: 9am – 5pm

### **Visit our website**

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

### **Email our offices**

[dorking@camv.org.uk](mailto:dorking@camv.org.uk) [leatherhead@camv.org.uk](mailto:leatherhead@camv.org.uk)



In partnership with  
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**READINGS AT THE SERVICES**  
**December 2025 and January 2026**



**December**

**7<sup>th</sup>**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12

**14<sup>th</sup>**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

**21<sup>st</sup>**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25

**24<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Eve**

Acts 13:16-26; Luke 1:67-79

**25<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Day**

Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-14

**28<sup>th</sup>**

**First Sunday of Christmas**

Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

**January 2026**

**4<sup>th</sup>**

**Second of Christmas (Epiphany)**

Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18

**11<sup>th</sup>**

**First of Epiphany (Baptism of Christ)**

Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

**18<sup>th</sup>**

**Second of Epiphany**

1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

**25<sup>th</sup>**

**Third of Epiphany (Conversion of Paul)**

Galatians 1:11-16a; Matthew 19:27-30

**St Nicolas Cycle of Prayer  
December 2025 and January 2026**

Please remember the following missions, St Nicolas groups and residents of Great Bookham roads in your prayers

|                  |                                                                                  |                                                                          |                                                                           |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Oasis Charitable Trust<br><i>Gill Caldwell</i>                                   | Flower Arrangers<br>Cleaners<br><i>Angela Stevens</i>                    | Butterfield Court,<br>Glebe Close,<br>Townshott Close                     |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | Christian Solidarity<br>Worldwide (CSW)<br><i>Gill Caldwell</i>                  | All involved in the<br>extra Services and<br>Concerts up to<br>Christmas | Little Bookham<br>Street                                                  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | CHRISTMAS<br><i>Joy and Peace for the gift of<br/>Jesus</i>                      |                                                                          | Bennets Farm<br>Place,<br>Longmeadow                                      |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | NEW YEAR<br><i>Peace and Reconciliation<br/>between different religions</i>      | The Ministry<br>Team<br><i>Ministers</i>                                 | Childs Hall Road                                                          |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Bible Society<br><i>Suzie and Alan Jenkins</i>                                   |                                                                          | Ashley Close<br>Childs Hall Close,<br>Childs Hall Drive<br>Christie Close |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Christians Against Poverty<br>(CAP)<br><i>Amanda Rowland<br/>Catherine Clark</i> |                                                                          | Grange Centre                                                             |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | Wayfarers School<br><i>Ali Sangwine<br/>Ruth Dyson</i>                           | Bloom – Women’s<br>Group<br><i>Ali Sangwine</i>                          | Sole Farm Avenue<br>Oaks Close<br>Fern Close                              |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | LeatherHEAD Start<br><i>Mary Railton<br/>Barbara Holloway</i>                    |                                                                          | Middlemead Road                                                           |

**Occupation for December:** Entertainment, Arts, Information  
**Occupation for January:** Business, Commerce, Retail

## Calendar December 2025 and January 2026

Please note that although the calendar has events scheduled, these may happen in different forms. Please check beforehand (see 'Contact' person on the back page or the St Nicolas website).

| <b>November</b>  |       |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------|-------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | Thurs | 1000<br>1040                 | Holy Communion (Church)<br>Thursday Coffee (Church Room)                                                                                                                          |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | Fri   | 1530                         | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                                                                                          |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | Sun   | 1200<br>1830                 | Baptism of Jack Mapeni<br>New Fire Worship                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>December</b>  |       |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1                | Mon   | 0830<br>1000<br>1530         | Morning Prayers (online)<br>Tots Alive! (Church and Church Room)<br>BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                      |
| 2                | Tues  | 0900<br>1000                 | Eastwick School Nativity Services (Church and Church Room)<br>Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Weds  | 0830<br>1530                 | Morning Prayers (online)<br>BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                                                              |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Thurs | 1000<br>1040                 | Holy Communion (Church)<br>Thursday Coffee (Church Room)                                                                                                                          |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Fri   | 1530                         | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                                                                                          |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Sat   | 1000                         | <b>Bookham Village Christmas Event</b><br>(Church, Church Room and Pastoral Centre)<br>CDP Prayers (Church Room)                                                                  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Sun   | 1000<br>1200                 | Morning Praise<br>Friendship Lunch (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                                                              |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Mon   | 0830<br>1000<br>1300<br>1530 | Morning Prayers (online)<br>Tots Alive (Church and Church Room)<br>Great Bookham Christingle Rehearsal (Church and Church Room)<br>BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                       |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Tues  | 0900<br>1000<br>1830         | Great Bookham Christingle Rehearsal (Church and Church Room)<br>Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)<br>Great Bookham Christingle Service (Church and Church Room)                    |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Weds  | 0830<br>0900<br>1530<br>1830 | Morning Prayers (online)<br>Polesden Lacey School Christingle (Church and Church Room)<br>BYouth (Pastoral Centre)<br>Great Bookham Christingle Services (Church and Church Room) |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Thurs | 1000<br>1040                 | Holy Communion (Church)<br>Thursday Coffee (Church Room)                                                                                                                          |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | Fri   | 1530                         | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                                                                                          |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | Sat   | 0900<br>1000                 | Bloom Breakfast (Pastoral Centre)<br>Saturday Prayers (online)                                                                                                                    |

|                     |       |                              |                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------|-------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 <sup>th</sup>    | Mon   | 0830<br>1000<br>1530         | Morning Prayers (online)<br>Tots Alive (Church and Church Room)<br>BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                                            |
| 16 <sup>th</sup>    | Tues  | 1000                         | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                                                       |
| 17 <sup>th</sup>    | Weds  | 0830<br>1530                 | Morning Prayers (online)<br>BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                                   |
| 18 <sup>th</sup>    | Thurs | 1000<br>1040                 | Holy Communion (Church)<br>Thursday Coffee (Church Room)                                                                                               |
| 20 <sup>th</sup>    | Sat   | 0815                         | Barnabas Mens Fellowship (Vineries)                                                                                                                    |
| 21 <sup>st</sup>    | Sun   | 1830                         | Service of Christmas Readings and Carols                                                                                                               |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup>    | Mon   | 0830                         | Morning Prayers (Online)                                                                                                                               |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup>    | Tues  | 1000                         | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                                                       |
| 24 <sup>th</sup>    | Weds  | 1500<br>1630<br>1800<br>2330 | <b>Christmas Eve</b><br>Crib Service (Church)<br>Family Carol Service (Church)<br>Family Carol Service (Church)<br>Holy Communion with Carols (Church) |
| 25 <sup>th</sup>    | Thurs | 0800<br>1000                 | <b>Christmas Day</b><br>Said Service of Holy Communion<br>All-age Christmas Service with Holy Communion                                                |
| 29 <sup>th</sup>    | Mon   | 0830                         | Morning Prayers (Online)                                                                                                                               |
| 30 <sup>th</sup>    | Tues  | 1000                         | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                                                       |
| 31 <sup>st</sup>    | Weds  | 0830                         | <b>New Year's Eve</b><br>Morning Prayers (online)                                                                                                      |
| <b>January 2026</b> |       |                              |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>     | Thurs |                              | <b>New Year's Day</b>                                                                                                                                  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>     | Sat   | 1000                         | CDP Prayers (Church Room)                                                                                                                              |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>     | Sun   | 1000                         | Morning Praise (Church)                                                                                                                                |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>     | Mon   | 0830<br>1000                 | Morning Prayers (online)<br>Tots Alive (Church and Church Room)                                                                                        |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>     | Tues  | 1000                         | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                                                       |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>     | Weds  | 0830<br>1530                 | Morning Prayers (online)<br>BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                                   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>     | Thurs | 1000<br>1040                 | Holy Communion (Church)<br>Thursday Coffee (Church Room)                                                                                               |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>     | Fri   | 1530                         | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                                                               |
| 10 <sup>th</sup>    | Sat   | 1000                         | Saturday Prayers (online)                                                                                                                              |
| 12 <sup>th</sup>    | Mon   | 0830<br>1000<br>1530         | Morning Prayers (online)<br>Tots Alive! (Church and Church Room)<br>BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                                           |

|                                                      |       |                              |                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13 <sup>th</sup>                                     | Tues  | 1000                         | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                          |
| 14 <sup>th</sup>                                     | Weds  | 0830<br>1530                 | Morning Prayers (online)<br>BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                                                      |
| 15 <sup>th</sup>                                     | Thurs | 1000<br>1040                 | Holy Communion (Church)<br>Thursday Coffee (Church Room)                                                                  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup>                                     | Fri   | 1530                         | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                                  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup>                                     | Sat   | 0830                         | Barnabas Men's Fellowship (Pastoral Centre)                                                                               |
| 19 <sup>th</sup>                                     | Mon   | 0830<br>1000<br>1530         | Morning Prayers (online)<br>Tots Alive! (Church and Church Room)<br>BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                              |
| 20 <sup>th</sup>                                     | Tues  | 1000                         | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                          |
| 21 <sup>st</sup>                                     | Weds  | 0830<br>1530                 | Morning Prayers (online)<br>BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                                                      |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup>                                     | Thurs | 1000<br>1040                 | Holy Communion (Church)<br>Thursday Coffee (Church Room)                                                                  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup>                                     | Fri   | 1530                         | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                                  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup>                                     | Sat   | 1000                         | Saturday Prayers (online)                                                                                                 |
| 25 <sup>th</sup>                                     | Sun   | 1830                         | New Fire Worship                                                                                                          |
| 26 <sup>th</sup>                                     | Mon   | 0830<br>1000<br>1530<br>1930 | Morning Prayers (online)<br>Tots Alive! (Church and Church Room)<br>BYouth (Pastoral Centre)<br>PCC Meeting (Church Room) |
| 27 <sup>th</sup>                                     | Tues  | 1000                         | Tuesday Coffee (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                          |
| 28 <sup>th</sup>                                     | Weds  | 0830<br>1530                 | Morning Prayers (online)<br>BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                                                      |
| 29 <sup>th</sup>                                     | Thurs | 1000<br>1040                 | Holy Communion (Church)<br>Thursday Coffee (Church Room)                                                                  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup>                                     | Fri   | 1530                         | BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                                                                                                  |
| <b>February</b>                                      |       |                              |                                                                                                                           |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>                                      | Sun   | 1000                         | Morning Praise (Church)                                                                                                   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>                                      | Mon   | 0830<br>1000<br>1530         | Morning Prayers (online)<br>Tots Alive! (Church and Church Room)<br>BYouth (Pastoral Centre)                              |
| <b>9th January- Copy for February 2026 magazines</b> |       |                              |                                                                                                                           |

# Parish Contacts

|                                                        |                                                                                                                                                            |                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>RECTOR:</b>                                         | Rev Alan Jenkins, The Rectory, 2a Fife Way, KT23 3PH<br>(Day off: - Friday) alan.jenkins@stnicolasbookham.org.uk                                           | 635873                       |
| <b>CURATE</b>                                          | Rev Gill Caldwell<br>(day off – Friday)<br><a href="mailto:gill.caldwell@stnicolasbookham.org.uk">gill.caldwell@stnicolasbookham.org.uk</a>                | 07809 245464                 |
| <b>RETIRED CLERGY</b>                                  | Rev David Ireland<br>rev.ireland43@btinternet.com                                                                                                          |                              |
| <b>ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER</b>                         | Rev Barbara McDonald                                                                                                                                       | 454187                       |
| <b>LICENSED LAY MINISTER</b>                           | Chris Holloway                                                                                                                                             | 877079                       |
| <b>FAMILIES AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADER</b>         | Charlotte Coe<br>charlotte.coe@stnicolasbookham.org.uk                                                                                                     | 07707 439799                 |
| <b>PASTORAL ASSISTANTS</b>                             | Contact Parish Office<br>Sylvia Solarski, Margaret Hibbert, Valerie Lomax, Ali Sangwine,<br>Cathryn Jobson, Chris Bridges, Heather Gerrard, Jan Williamson | 450709                       |
| <b>PARISH OFFICE</b>                                   | David Gatland - 2a Fife Way<br>office@stnicolasbookham.org.uk<br>Office hours Monday to Friday- 9.00 am to 12.00 noon                                      | 450709                       |
| <b>CHURCHWARDENS</b>                                   | Nick Garrett<br>Heather Gerrard                                                                                                                            | 07843 647414<br>07885 591361 |
| <b>ASSISTANT WARDENS</b>                               | Joy Lord                                                                                                                                                   | 459717                       |
| <b>PCC SECRETARY</b>                                   | Amanda Rowland<br>pcc.secretary@stnicolasbookham.org.uk                                                                                                    |                              |
| <b>PARISH TREASURER</b>                                | Neil McDonald                                                                                                                                              | 454187                       |
| <b>SAFEGUARDING OFFICER</b>                            | Roland Martin<br>safeguarding@stnicolasbookham.org.uk                                                                                                      | 07747 563634                 |
| <b>DIRECTOR OF MUSIC</b>                               |                                                                                                                                                            | TBA                          |
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| <b>Bereavement Team</b>                                | Contact Parish Office                                                                                                                                      | 450709                       |
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| <b>Church Room Bookings</b>                            | Parish Office                                                                                                                                              | 450709                       |
| <b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>                          | Catherine Clark                                                                                                                                            | 451503                       |
| <b>Friends of St Nicolas</b>                           | Angela Stevens                                                                                                                                             | 456713                       |
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| <b>House Groups</b>                                    | for information contact Jean Forward                                                                                                                       | 450709                       |
| <b>Mothers' Union</b>                                  | Branch Leaders – Julia Watts and Chris Collins                                                                                                             | 450709                       |
| <b>Samaritans</b>                                      | in distress or despair?... (24 hour service) ring Freefone                                                                                                 | 116123                       |
| <b>Scouting</b>                                        | 1st Bookham Group<br>3rd Bookham Group - Mrs Karen Wheeler<br>Karen.wheeler@3rdbookham.org.uk                                                              | Christine Whale<br>800712    |
| <b>Sunday Groups</b>                                   | GLOW at 10am – Celeste Rios                                                                                                                                | 07707 439799                 |
| <b>Tots Alive!</b>                                     | Celeste Rios                                                                                                                                               | 07707 439799                 |
| <b>Help Your Neighbour Scheme (Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30)</b> |                                                                                                                                                            | 0798 6 177234                |