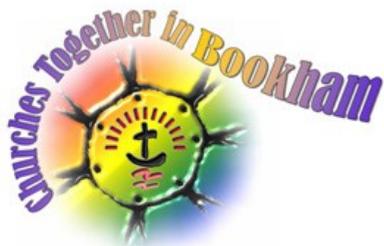


Christmas 2025



Team Spirit

News from the Churches in Bookham

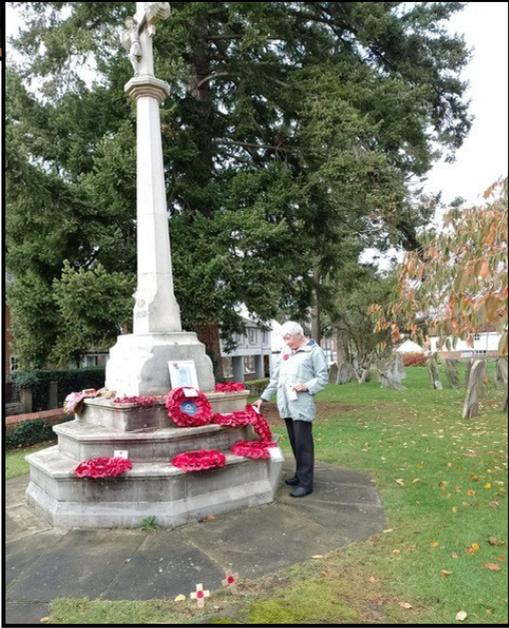


On behalf of the churches in Bookham, I welcome you to our services over Christmas. Jesus was born into a troubled world. Yet despite that, his birth was good news for everyone, and it continues to provide hope and light to our troubled world today. Do come and celebrate the birth of the one who was (and is) God with us.

Rev'd Canon Alan Jenkins – on behalf of Churches Together in Bookham

Churches Together in Bookham

Remembrance Day Service at Bookham War Memorial



Catholic Parish News



The highlight of the summer was Fr Charles' celebration of the Silver Jubilee of his ordination. It took place on 29th June with a joyful sung mass at Holy Spirit Church, followed by some delicious refreshments at Oakfield School, next door. A truly momentous occasion.



In early November we had the customary blessing of the graves at Our Lady of Sorrows, and the Blessing of the Garden of Remembrance at Church of the Holy Spirit.

The new Pastoral Plan comes into action early next year when meetings will be held in each parish of our deanery which will ultimately become one parish.

Fr Chris Bergin is the moderator of our new "parish" and monthly services are held at his church, St Michaels's in Ashtead, to pray for its success. Watch this space!



JOIN US FOR

THE STORIES OF CHRISTMAS

AT BOOKHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Christmas Services 2025

You and your family are warmly invited to discover the Stories of Christmas through the eyes of its unlikely and surprising characters - every Sunday in Advent and at the following dates and times:

Sunday 14th December | 6pm

Christmas Carol Service followed by mulled wine & mince pies.

Sunday 21st December - Morning & Evening

10:30am | Interactive family service with carols, storytelling & creative fun!

6pm | Contemporary Christmas Carols with festive refreshments.

Christmas Eve | 11pm

Holy Night Service by candlelight with communion.

Christmas Day | 10am

Christmas Day Family Service - a joyous celebration of the birth of Christ!



T: 01372 811313 | E: office@bookhambaptist.org | W: bookhambaptist.org
Bookham Baptist Church & Children's Centre - Lower Road, Bookham, KT23 4DH



CELTISH



Nigel Camron & Julie Camron-Hall



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sat 13th Dec : 4pm-6pm

Eastwick Road Church (URC)

Eastwick Rd, Great Bookham

Leatherhead, Surrey, KT23 4BE

Tickets: £10 (pay at door by cash or card)

To book your place call 01372 453473 (weekday mornings)

"A glorious light
has dawned"

bookhamurc.org.uk

celtish.org

Doors open 3.40pm

Churches Together in Bookham

Our Christmas Services



St Nicolas Church

Sunday	6.30pm	A service of Christmas readings and carols reflecting the joy of Christmas.
21 December		
Christmas Eve	3.00pm	A Crib Service, especially suitable for those aged 7 and under
Christmas Eve	4.30pm	A family carol service suitable for older children and adults
AND repeated at	6.00pm	
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	A service of Holy Communion with carols to welcome in Christmas Day
Christmas Day	8.00am	A 45 minute said service of Holy Communion to mark the significance of Christmas
Christmas Day	10.00am	An all-age service including Communion to celebrate the joy of Christmas

For details go to www.stnicolasbookham.org.uk/

Bookham Baptist Church

Sunday	6:00 pm	Traditional of Christmas Carol Service and Readings followed by mulled wine and mince pies
14 December		
Sunday	10.30am	Christmas Family Service
21 December	6:00pm	Contemporary Carols with festive refreshments
Christmas Eve	11:00pm	Candlelit Advent Communion Service
Christmas Day	10:00am	Christmas Day Family Service. A Joyous celebration of the birth of Christ

Visit www.bookhambaptistchurch.org.uk for details or check out our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/BookhamBaptist



Our Lady of Sorrows, Effingham and Holy Spirit, Fetcham



Sunday	4.00pm	Carols Around the Tree at Effingham
21 December		
Christmas Eve	8.00pm	Carols leading to 8:30 Mass at Fetcham
Christmas Day	9.00am	Christmas Day Mass at Effingham
Christmas Day	10:30am	Christmas Day Mass at Fetcham

See website www.effinghamandfetcham.org.uk for updated information

Eastwick Road Church (United Reformed)

Saturday	4.00pm	Christmas Around the World with singing and music duo "Celtish"
13 December		
Sunday	10.30am	Carol Service followed by coffee and mince pies
21 December		
Christmas Day	10.00am	A short Christmas service followed by mulled wine

More details of services available on- line go to www.bookhamurc.org.uk.

St Lawrence Church, Effingham With All Saints Little Bookham

Sunday	4.00pm	Christingle Service
7 December		
Sunday		
14 December	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Crib Service AND
	11.00pm	Midnight Mass



All Saints, Little Bookham

Christmas Day	10am	Christmas Day Family Service
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For full details go to www.effinghamwithlittlebookhamparish.org.uk





Leatherhead Youth Project

The new academic year has been busy with an extra evening added this term, meaning we now offer BYouth, our after-school drop-in, on

Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We are so grateful to St Nicolas Church for allowing us to use the Pastoral Centre for another day and to Eastwick Road Church for providing funding for this. Attendance has been steady, and the extra day has proven popular! The young people have been making the most of the space, socialising together and playing a wide variety of games.



This term we have enjoyed the changing seasons by doing some pumpkin carving and having a firepit to celebrate Bonfire Night. We are looking forward to December when we will be running Countdown to Christmas, providing festive snacks and activities at BYouth and finishing the term with our annual LYP Christmas meal.

During half term, we ran our social action project, Making Good. We took young people from Bookham and Leatherhead to Banstead Common to do some conservation work, and then on a reward trip to Airhop!

We are continuing to run lunchtime clubs in the Howard of Effingham and have been really enjoying getting to know the students.

Contd over

We are excited about the progress made regarding the Bookham Youth and Community Centre. A purpose-built facility for local young people will ensure that they have a safe space to spend their free time and access support. We are very much looking forward to being able to use the building when it is ready, and we are so grateful to the Bookham Youth and Community Association for all their effort in ensuring that the project goes ahead.



If you would like to know more about our projects, please email lucy@leatherheadyouthproject.com or visit leatherheadyouthproject.com

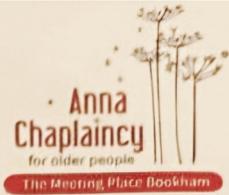
Golden Years



It has been good to welcome new members this autumn. We had a singer and pianist from Music in Hospitals and Care who played music from the 50's 60's and 70's. Liz Tapp the Anna Chaplain shared with us her recent trip to India and attending 2 weddings. Hilary one of our members has recently got a Guide dog and she was explaining the rigorous training you go through with her dog Katie.

The current programme will end with a Christmas lunch at Eastwick Road Church on December 17th.

LIVING WELL IN OLDER AGE



Financial Planning For Later Life

Financial advice can be daunting at the best of times and even more so when it comes to planning in later life. Come and meet an expert from the Society of Later Life Advisers who will explain what help is available and ways in which it can be accessed.

- ★ **When?** Wednesday 21st January 2026
(10.30am to 12pm)
- ★ **Where?** Bookham Library
- ★ **Who?** Over 65s and carers welcome
- ★ **Booking?** Contact Liz Tapp - The Anna Chaplain
Email ac@themeetingplace.org.uk
Tel: 07518735729
- ★ **Cost?** Suggested donation of £2
Tea & coffee will be provided

**WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY
HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A
PEACEFUL AND BLESSED NEW YEAR**

Jane Austen and St Nicolas Church

This month sees the 250th 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 18th 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!



by Petrie in 1805 © Lambeth Archives

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 Bookham 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 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.

Happy 250th birthday, Jane!

Gill Caldwell



St Nicolas

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Our Lady of Sorrows, Effingham and Holy Spirit, Fetcham

Fr Charles Howell (458263)
Marian Cutler - Secretary
(801092)

January 18th - January 25th

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026



Churches Together in Bookham are marking the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* by -

providing a daily opportunity to meet together for Bible reading and prayer.

This year we will meet at 12.00 – 12.30 each day for about half an hour.

Except on **Saturday** -

when we will have prayers at **9am followed by croissants and coffee.**

Monday 19 January - led by St Mary's Church Fetcham

Tuesday 20 January - led by St Nicolas Church

Wednesday 21 January - led by Church of the Holy Spirit Fetcham

Thursday 22 January - led by All Saints L. Bookham

Friday 23 January - led by Bookham Baptist Church

Saturday 24 January 9am - led by Eastwick Road Church, followed by coffee and croissant.