

Services for December

7th	10.00am	Rev Dr H Ofori-Attah
14th	10.00am	Mr Neville & Mrs Kathryn Trout (Reader Service)
21st	10.00am	Rev Mrs C Shergold Carol Service
25th	<u>9.30am</u>	Rev Mr H Moon Christmas Day Service
28th	10.00am	Rev R Atkinson

Services for January

4th	10.00am	Rev H Moon Covenant Service
11th	10.00am	Rev Mr R Williams
18th	10.00am	Rt Rev Dr A Shergold
25th	10.00am	Rev Mr A Cowburn Holy Communion

Princes Risborough

Methodist Church

'The Messenger'

Dec 2025/ Jan 2026

Christmas



*This magazine comes to you with the
good wishes of the Church*

Princes Risborough Methodist Church
Wycombe Road
Princes Risborough
Buckinghamshire

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Interim Editors: Mr Neville Trout / Ms Vicky Spires

Material for the February / March edition of *The Messenger* to the editors, by Sunday 11th January at the latest, please.

This Church is proud to be a member of 'Churches Together in Risborough' associated with The Baptist Church, Elim Church, St. Dunstan's Church, St. Mary's Church, St John's, Kimble Free Church and St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church

Rotas for January 2026

	Duty Steward	Welcoming Stewards	Bible Readers	Tea/coffee
4th	Miss M Dore	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Mrs F McMullan
11 th	Mr M Pullen	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Mrs M Stevens
18 th	Mrs J Gerrard	Mrs M Stevens & Mrs B Oates	Mrs M Stevens & Ms Y Ayoola	Mrs S Wilson
25 th	Mr J Needham	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Ms Y Ayoola

Weekend	Flowers	Cleaning	Grass Cutting
3/4		Mrs M Stevens	Mr D Stevens
10/11	Mrs M Stevens	Miss P Scott	Mr J Needham
17/18 (YDA)	Mrs D Robbins	Mrs K Trout	Mr N Trout
24/25	Mrs D Robbins	Mrs N Baker	Mr K Smith

Volunteers Wanted

If any of you can help with taking a turn as a Welcoming Steward (being there to greet people as they arrive for church, give out hymn books, etc as required and to take the offertory forward during the service) it would be much appreciated. The more help we have the fewer occasions that each person does it – note that it does require those involved to arrive at church about 30 minutes before the service starts.

Some of us also do the Bible Readings, but there is no obligation to do those as well if you don't want to. If you are able to help, please let me know so that I can include you on the rota in future months.

Joe Needham

Rotas for December 2025

	Duty Steward	Welcoming Stewards	Bible Readers	Tea/coffee
7 th	Mrs J Gerrard	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Ms Y Ayoola
14 th	Miss M Dore	Mrs M Stevens & Mrs B Oates	Mrs M Stevens & Mrs M Cookson	Mrs B Oates
21 st	Mr J Needham	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mr & Mrs G Hudson & Others	Miss P Scott
25 th	Mr M Pullen	Mrs T Shephard & Ms V Spires	Mrs T Shephard & Ms V Spires	N/A
28 th	Mr N Marriner-Kyle	Mr J Drake & Mrs F McMullan	Mr J Drake & Mr J Needham	Mrs V Spires

Weekend	Flowers	Cleaning	Grass Cutting
6/7	Mr K Smith	Miss M Dore	Mr B McCleery
13/14	Miss P Scott	Mrs B Hudson	Mr G Hudson
20/21 (YDA)	Mrs D Robbins	Mrs F McMullan	Mr C McMullan
27/28		Mrs D Pullen	Mr M Pullen

If unavailable, please arrange an exchange or replacement, notify the steward, and amend the porch and vestry lists. If you would like to be involved as a welcoming steward or Bible reader, or any other rota please speak to Joe Needham (07507 416421) or one of the other Stewards.

Those who kindly provide flowers, please leave the wrappings in the vestry so that the stewards have something to wrap the flowers in when they distribute them after the service.

Rest Day - Rev. Heegon Moon's 'day off' is Monday; please try to respect this whenever possible.

From the Manse ...

Dear friends, wishing you all a merry and blessed Christmas. As you read this edition of The Messenger, we are well into the season of Advent. It is with heartfelt joy that we celebrate our family's third Advent in this beautiful part of England with our church community. As Christmas swiftly approaches, may we be mindful of how profoundly blessed we are.



This is the season to stop, reflect, breathe, and truly see our blessings all around us. Each of us experiences gratitude differently, yet the call is the same: to pause, give thanks, and recognise the gifts that surround us. We have warmth, safety, and a loving community, which are treasures beyond measure! We must ask ourselves, therefore, how can we share this abundance with others?

It is no coincidence that Mary takes centre stage in this season. Mary shows us the way. When the angel Gabriel appeared, she was frightened and unsure. She had questions, doubts, and fears, yet she chose to trust. Picture Mary and Joseph on their journey through the cold of winter, facing uncertainty and hardship, but still moving forward in faith. This is our challenge, too. When life is uncertain and we face trials we cannot control, can we still hold on to faith? Can we trust that God is at work even when the path ahead is unclear? This Advent is our invitation to do the same, to walk in faith, and to trust in God with family and friends.

I want to share a word from a sixth-century monk, Dorotheos of Gaza, who suggested that we are all like the spokes of a wheel, of which God is the hub. *"Imagine that the world is a circle, that God is the centre, and that the radii are the different ways human beings live. When those who wish to come closer to God walk towards the centre of the circle, they come closer to one another at the same time as to God. The closer they come to God, the closer they come to one another. And the closer they come to one another, the closer they come to God."* I hope this might become our experience during these weeks of Advent as we prepare ourselves for God coming even closer, for God breaking into human life to be with us, not just once, or two thousand years ago in Bethlehem, but again and again and again.

Advent and Christmas call upon us to be ready for Christ to come into our lives today, tomorrow, the next day, and to be on the lookout for the day when Christ will return to the world in glory. We don't know when that might happen, hence the message to stay close to the Loving God. Every blessing,

Heegon

Tuesday Fellowship

Our Christmas meeting is on the 16th December which will be led by Peter Willett.

Our first meeting of the New Year will be on 20th January 2026 when one of our members, Yvonne Ayoola, will be presenting 'George Town to High Wycombe'. It will be about her journey from George Town in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to meet her parents in High Wycombe.

Both meetings will be held at the Church at 2pm and anyone is very welcome to join us.

Pam Scott

SALT Group (Sharing And Learning Together)

The SALT group is now studying the Book of Daniel. Our meetings will be on December 4th and 18th and January 8th and 22nd and at this time of year we meet on Zoom so there is no need to travel in the dark. You are welcome to join us, and because each session is 'self-contained', you do not have to attend every time if that is not possible for you.

If you do want to 'try us out' please contact me on jdneedham@hotmail.co.uk for the Zoom logon details; bible study will begin around 8pm with an opportunity to chat and catch up with folk beforehand.

Joe Needham

Table Top Games

We meet every **Friday** between 10.00am to around 12.00 noon, to play Scrabble, Upwords, and Rummikub, to name but a few. The attendance fee is £2.00 and refreshments will be served.

Sue Wilson

Church Forum

The next Church Forum will be on Tuesday 24th March 2026 at 7.30pm at Church. Agenda and Reports will be circulated prior to the meeting. Please attend if you can.

Pam Scott

Flower Rota

The new flower rota for 2026 is now in the church porch—please sign up!

Diana Robbins

Diary Dates for December

4th	SALT (see notices by Zoom), 7.30pm
6th	Circuit Big Sing for Advent, Wingrave, 10.15am for 10.30am
8th	Bereavement Group, Chapter House St Mary's, 3.00pm
16th	Tuesday Fellowship, Church, 2.00pm
18th	SALT (see notices by Zoom 7.30pm)

Diary Dates for January

3rd	Ladies' Breakfast, St Mary's Parish hall, 9.00am
5th	Bereavement Group, Chapter House St Mary's, 3.00pm
8th	SALT (by Zoom), 7.30pm
18th	Week of Prayer for Christian Unit, PR Baptists, 3.00pm
20th	Tuesday Fellowship, Church, 2.00pm
22th	SALT (by Zoom), 7.30pm

Regular events

Fridays Table top games, Church, 10.00 -12.00

Forthcoming Events

Mar 6th	World Day of Prayer
Mar 24th	Church Forum

Bereavement Drop In

This group meets on the second Monday of every month throughout the year offering a warm welcome to anyone struggling with the grief of bereavement. We share together over a cup of tea or coffee, talk about our experiences or just listen. Many find comfort in talking about their loved ones with others who know what they are going through.

We next meet on 8th December and on 5th January, and everyone is welcome, of any faith or of no faith at all. Please contact Rose Williams if you need further details.

Revd Rose Williams 01844 274225

Prayer Circle

The Prayer Circle is 'here for you' so if you know of someone who would appreciate our prayers, please contact anyone in the table below.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining the Prayer Circle.

Name	Preferred contact	Email/Mobile
Vicky Spires	Email or text but calls in evening	E: vixspireslane@gmail.com M: 07786901454
Anna Rogers	mobile	E: amrogers@talk21.com M: 07496853701
Chris Palmer	Email	E: christinepalmer100@gmail.com M: 07709556785
Maureen Judd	Email	E: maureenj148@gmail.com
Beverley Hudson	Email	E: beverleyshudson@gmail.com M: 07969366625
Neville Trout	Email	E: Kathryn.trout@tiscali.co.uk
Kathryn Trout	Email	E: kathryn.trout@icloud.com M: 07716904157
David Robbins	Email	E: drobbuk@yahoo.co.uk
Judith Gerrard	Email	E: judithgerrard.ww@btinternet.com

Vicky Spires

Weekly Church Notices

Please contact Mrs Maureen Judd by telephone, 01844 617650, or email: maureenj148@gmail.com by noon on Friday with any information to go into the weekly notices.

Mercy Ships

We will have a retiring collection for our current charity, Mercy Ships, on 7 December.



Tragically, every year, 17 million people die from conditions that surgery could have healed. That is why Mercy Ships uses hospital ships to deliver world-class healthcare where it is needed most. They can reduce the strain on fragile healthcare systems by performing as many life-saving and changing surgeries as possible. They train and mentor local healthcare professionals to equip them with the skills they need and also renovate local facilities and donate new medical equipment.

Judith Gerrard

Reverse Advent Calendar

This is probably well underway when you read your *Messenger*, but just a reminder that instead of opening a window on your Advent calendar each day, you can buy a gift of food or toiletries for a homeless or financially struggling person or family and donate them to our Reverse Advent Calendar.



Bring any items to church on Sunday, throughout Advent or at Christmas and we will distribute to local homeless charities or Whitechapel mission as appropriate.

Judith Gerrard

Prayers of intercession

Heegon would like to invite members of the congregation to prepare and lead the Prayers of Intercession at his services at Princes Risborough.

If you would like to take part or have any questions, please speak to Jennie.

Jennie Marriner-Kyle

Circuit Bible Study

The Zoom Circuit Bible Study groups will be following an Advent-themed course over December. Why not give it a try? Meetings are Tuesday nights or Thursday afternoons. Your contact is Richard Atkinson.

Neville Trout



All We Can Hurricane Melissa Appeal

Methodists were recently exhorted by the District to respond to the hurricane damage in Jamaica and the Caribbean.



Thanks to your generosity, £150 was donated in our November extra collection and sent to *All We Can* for the Hurricane Melissa Appeal.

Judith Gerrard

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest service at the end of September was led by Rev Fred Ireland (a past minister) and emphasised the work of *All We Can*, the Methodist Relief and Development charity.

Thanks to all the cooks, who contributed to a delicious hot lunch after the service, the desserts as usual were amazing with very little left at the end, and ample fruit juices were appreciated. Thanks also to the many who worked to ensure that preparations went smoothly, tables and chairs were put up and down, and washer-uppers occupied the kitchen.

The harvest goods were packed up ready for collection, donations of clothing for Whitechapel Mission were retrieved from the shed, and Tony Miller collected everything the next week with another group of our church volunteers helping to load our donations. We also sent £100 in cash which we know will not go very far, as Tony told us of increased numbers needing the support of the Mission, and how he is trying to retire but the Mission needs at least 3 if not 5 people to replace him!

Judith Gerrard

In other Centre news:

- There have been a few changes to the General Manager's office which will now be used for staff to have small meetings, training sessions, and other activities.
- The trustees have made some progress considering the different management options which have opened up since Kim, who was our General Manager, retired last month, but there is still work to do.
- Mags, our manager in Risborough has arranged for the staff and children at the Risborough Nursery to come and meet the older clients. She initiated this activity when she was working at our Bourne End Centre and found that it was very beneficial for both the youngsters and the clients.

If you would like to consider having a relative or yourself attending the Centre, a free taster of what we have to offer can be arranged. Please contact Mags on 01844 345105 or Marina on 01628 527024 for our Bourne End Centre.

Maggie Wooster-Keyte

Afternoon Tea Concert

A long standing friend of the Bakers, Ralph Meanley, enlivened a soaking afternoon on November 22nd with an entertaining offering of songs from G&S, West End shows and the Music Hall — along with added reminiscences and readings. We were even encouraged to join in with the likes of "Two lovely black eyes" and " A policeman's lot is not a happy one".

Thanks to Vic and Noreen for organising the event and for all the contributions to the afternoon tea from numerous quarters, as well as to those who served and washed up. The proceeds from tickets and donations (some £460) have gone to the "All We Can" Hurricane Melissa appeal.

Neville Trout

Christmas Cracker Jokes (in case of need, resort to The Messenger)

How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas? *Deep Pan, Crisp and even!*

What did the shoplifter get for stealing an advent calendar? *25 days!*

Princes Centre—November Update

With summer finally over, external activities at the Princes Centre have been rather quiet lately although there have still been local walks. Two of our older male clients had a trip to Radley Manor to enjoy a meal in the restaurant. Enabling clients to spend time in, and feel part of the community is important for those who would otherwise not get the opportunity. Others have been out litter-picking and gone for a cuppa and even played a game of darts!



However there have been plenty of activities indoors. Our clients have enjoyed the parachute game, dancing to the music of the Hillbillies, and listening to the Tring Bell Ringers who came and gave a display of their music. There have been cardio-drumming sessions and other games. The baking sessions have produced some sweet treats and cakes. Some of the clients have been enjoying painting, and others have been busy with craft work, making decorations for Halloween. Other activities include singing, sewing, Rummikub, jigsaws, quizzes, card games, scrabble etc. Some of the activities are designed to help clients develop fine motor skills and remain as mobile as possible. The Jingers have started practicing to entertain the public at St Mary's Church in December. It will be a different type of show this year as Sue, who created the Jingers and worked so hard to help them with their performances is no longer with us.



Ladies' Coffee Morning

Fourteen of our ladies gathered at Hildreth's Garden Centre for Coffee and cake. Unfortunately Hildreth's had a disappointing availability of cakes but we enjoyed the company and looked at their Christmas offerings and healthy looking plants. Thanks to everyone who made their way to Prestwood.

Vicky Spires

Church Apple and Pear trees

These miniature trees in the church garden, planted in memory of Geoff Bending, have excelled themselves this year.

The varieties were chosen by Vic, and despite its size, the pear tree produced many huge and delicious pears, so much so that some pruning of broken branches may be required in due course! The equally tiny apple tree bore rosy eating apples, and I counted over a hundred over several weeks (many were windfalls before we could harvest them), which were offered to church members and hall users with the left-overs put outside my house for walkers in West Wycombe. Bounty indeed!

Judith Gerrard

Men's Group Breakfast

October saw the return of the most popular Men's Group activity - 10 of us (not all pictured here) sallied forth to the Crew Café in Wades park for an excellent breakfast. Some of us are already looking forward to the next outing!



CTR : Churches Together in Risborough



At the AGM in October, the current officers were elected for another year – Rev Kai Turck as Chair, Rev Tony Bundock as Vice Chair, Rev Peter Godden as Secretary and Joe Needham as Treasurer. In the discussion about Post-Lighthouse outreach to children and helpers it was suggested that a 'Light Feast' alternative to Halloween be planned for 2026. Further discussions on this will follow.

There are occasions when people seeking physical help knock on Church and minister's doors, and when this happens everyone acts or reacts differently. The creation of a little 'signposting' booklet for all CTR churches to have was discussed. This will contain names and contact details of local homeless charities, foodbanks, medical emergency details, etc.

The new Rector of St Mary's, the Revd Canon Steve Benoy will have been inducted on November 26th, in time for the following activities planned for Advent which will be under way or have happened:

- Carol Singing with the Ellesborough Silver Band at the Christmas Light Switch-on Fayre on Saturday 29th November.
- The CTR Advent service on Sunday 30th November in St Dunstan's, Monks Risborough starting at 3pm.
- A 4 week Advent Study of 'Who am I' by Rt Revd Nick Baines (Bishop of Leeds) from week beginning November 24th allowing church members to meet with members from other CTR churches in home groups.
- In January there will be the CTR service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday 18th Jan at 3pm in Princes Risborough Baptist Church.

Joe Needham

Circuit Big Sing

The Circuit Big Sing for Advent is in Wingrave Methodist Church on Saturday 6th December. Singing starts at 10.15am for 10.30am.

It is a departure from previous Big Sings that I have attended to have a Saturday morning gathering, but if the other events are anything to go by it will be well worth turning out to support if you can.

Neville Trout

Advent hymns

Advent hymns are some of the oldest. "Of the Father's love begotten" (181 StF) was written in 405 in Spain by Aurelius Prudentius. In the early fourth century, one of the greatest controversies in the church came to a breaking point, and Emperor Constantine called the First Council of Nicea in 325AD to establish the Church's official stance on the nature of the Trinity. The Nicene Creed was thus written as a statement of faith that God the Father, Son, Spirit are all of the same nature, three and yet one. Prudentius' hymn, addresses this belief in the Trinity in the very first line. It is very clear from his text that Christ is both human and divine, and rather than being made by God, he was "begotten" of the very same substance. This hymn, both affirms and aligns our faith with the broader faith of the Church. It is thus a hymn of proclamation, calling us to sing out our faith – "every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore!"

The text for "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (180 StF) comes from an 8th century, 7 verse poem. It was used responsively during the evening service. The original text created the reverse acrostic "ero cras," which means "I shall be with you tomorrow," and is particularly appropriate for the advent season. Each of the five verses expounds upon one of the names for the Messiah: "Emmanuel" (Isaiah 7:14, Mt 1:23) or "God with us"; "Adonai" (Exodus 19:16) is a name for God, the giver of the law; "Branch of Jesse" (Isaiah 11:1) refers to Jesus' lineage; "Oriens" (Malachi 4:2, Luke 1:78-79) is the morning star or daystar. "Key of David" (Isaiah 22:22) again refers to Jesus' lineage. When we sing each verse of this hymn, we acknowledge Christ as the fulfilment of these Old Testament prophecies. We sing this hymn in an already-but not yet-kingdom of God. Christ's first coming gives us a reason to rejoice again and again, yet we know that all is not well with the world. So along with our rejoicing, we plead using the words of this hymn that Christ would come again to perfectly fulfill the promise that all darkness will be turned to light.

Using material from online sources

PR Ladies' Breakfast

The next Ladies' Breakfast is on Saturday January 3rd at 9am in St Mary's Hall when our speaker will be Rev Kay Watters, returning to tell us about her life as a priest at home and abroad.

All ladies and friends are welcome. PLEASE let Rose know if you are coming so that we don't run out of food! rosewilliams@pcc.org.uk (or 01844 274225)

Rose Williams