



Holy Trinity
COOKHAM

The Cookhams Parish Magazine

Enabling all in our community to encounter God
through warm hospitality and inspired worship

incorporating The Methodist Newsletter



St John the Baptist
COOKHAM DEAN

JOY

The Churches of The Cookhams invite you to share the joy of Christmas

Holy Trinity
Cookham

Christmas Eve (Wednesday 24th December)

Crib Service Live - 4.00 pm

Midnight Mass - 11.30 pm

Christmas Day (Thursday 25th December)

Christmas Morning Eucharist - 10.00 am

Christmas Carol Service - 6.00 pm

St John the Baptist
Cookham Dean

Sunday 21st December

Nine Lessons and Carols - 6.00 pm

Christmas Eve (Wednesday 24th December)

Crib Service - 4.00 pm

Christmas Day (Thursday 25th December)

Christmas Morning Eucharist - 9.15 am

⊕ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Christmas Eve at 4pm
Family Crib Services
at both churches

Holy Trinity - Live Crib - page 3
Cookham Dean - Families@4 - page 7

A Joyous Christmas
and Prosperous New Year
to all our readers



[Our Worship and Prayer Channel](#)



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www.holytrinitycookham.org.uk

www.cookhamdeanchurch.org.uk

*warm
hospitality*

December 2025 - January 2026

*inspired
worship*

This magazine is published jointly by the Parochial Church Councils
of Holy Trinity, Cookham and St John the Baptist, Cookham Dean. See page 1

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Rev'd Sophie writes: New Beginnings

Have you begun thinking about your New Year's resolution for 2026? Will you wait for the clock to strike midnight on the 31st of December, ready to begin a new habit, a new routine, perhaps a new diet after the feast of Christmas? Did you make a resolution this year — and how long did it last?

Many people use the beginning of the calendar year to set goals for self-improvement, often around health, finances, relationships, or personal growth. Yet studies suggest that by February, 80% of these resolutions have already been broken, with the second Friday in January even dubbed "Quitters' Day". Too often, resolutions are vague or unrealistic, made with the best-case scenario in mind rather than acknowledging the days when we are tired, overwhelmed, or struggling. We imagine ourselves at our most energetic and determined, but rarely plan for the moments when life feels heavy.

And yet, year after year, people return to this tradition. The practice of making resolutions may even stretch back thousands of years. The Babylonians are thought to have made promises to their gods at the start of each year, pledging to return borrowed items or pay their debts. The Romans honoured Janus, the god of beginnings and transitions, whose two faces looked both backward and forward. In many ways, our modern resolutions echo these ancient practices: we look back at what we wish had been different, and forward to what we hope might change. The turning of the calendar gives us the sense of a "fresh start," motivating us to see the 1st of January as a new beginning.

Psychologists call this the "fresh start effect." A new date, a new season, even a birthday can give us the feeling of a clean slate. It inspires us to set goals and imagine change. But the difficulty lies in sustaining that change. Resolutions often rely on sheer willpower, and when willpower falters, we feel we have failed. What is missing is grace — the ability to begin again, even after stumbling. Without grace, resolutions can feel like a burden rather than a gift.

The Church calendar invites us to mark time differently. Advent, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, marks the start of the Church's year. This year, on the 30th of November, we enter a new lectionary cycle, with Matthew's Gospel guiding our Sunday readings. Deeply rooted in its Hebrew origins, Matthew's Gospel carries a central theme: promise and fulfilment.

Matthew begins with a genealogy, tracing Jesus' lineage back through Israel's history. It is a reminder that the story of Christ is not a sudden break, but the fulfilment of God's promises across generations. Time in Matthew's Gospel is not simply about new beginnings, but about God's faithfulness. The Sermon on the Mount, the parables, and

the passion narrative all point to a God who keeps promises and brings them to completion in Christ. The promise of the coming of God's kingdom, where justice, love, and grace will reign for all creation.

For us, this means that every new beginning is not isolated, but part of God's unfolding story. A story that we are invited to join in once again. Not with fireworks, but with a single candle lit on a wreath as we remember those who came before us.

Advent opens the new year not with hurried resolutions, but by inviting us into a period of reflection and preparation. It is a season of waiting and watching, of hope and promise. Not a passive waiting, as an audience waiting to see a show, but an active waiting, a preparation, as we wait for the curtains to open. Advent is like preparing a home for a guest: tidying, setting the table, lighting candles. We prepare not out of duty, but out of love and anticipation.

Active waiting means shaping our lives in anticipation. Just as a theatre audience leans forward as the curtain begins to rise, Advent invites us to lean forward into God's promise.

The midnight countdown on the 31st of December may inspire us to change, but the quiet candles of Advent invite us to be transformed. We are invited to slow down, to reflect, and to prepare our hearts. We prepare by prayer, by acts of kindness, by listening more attentively to Scripture. We prepare by noticing where God is already at work, and by opening ourselves to be part of God kingdom at work in the world.

This preparation is not only for December. It sets the rhythm for the whole year ahead. Advent teaches us to begin with reflection, to root our resolutions not in fleeting determination but in God's enduring promise. Advent is our rehearsal for living the rest of the year with hope, courage, and joy.

So as we step into this new year, may your resolutions not depend on perfection, but on grace. May Advent be your true new beginning — a season that sets the rhythm for the year ahead, rooted in God's promise and fulfilled in Christ.

Rev'd Sophie



**HOLY
TRINITY
CHURCH**

THE COOKHAMS PARISH MAGAZINE

This magazine is published jointly by the Parochial Church Councils of Holy Trinity, Cookham and St John the Baptist, Cookham Dean

Items for consideration of inclusion should be sent to the Editor by 15th of the previous month. The inclusion of an article does not necessarily indicate the churches' support for any particular point of view expressed.

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COOKHAM DEAN**



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Please contact the Parish Office to arrange Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, or if you have an enquiry of any kind.



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Parish Magazine, Pew News and Worship Channel are on line!
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PRESENTS

A JAZZY CHRISTMAS WITH PAUL EDIS & FRIENDS


HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
Cookham, SL6 9SP
Friday 5th December 2025
7.30pm

Join us for a sparkling collection of Christmas hits reimagined as swinging big band numbers, sambas and much more. Performed by some of the leading lights on the UK jazz scene including Paul Edis (piano), Jo Harrop (vocals) and Vasilis Xenopoulos (sax), don't miss this fabulous way to kick off the festive season...



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HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

**For unto us
a child is born!**

CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE

Wednesday, 24th December at 4 pm

- A Live Nativity Scene with a real donkey and sheep brings the Christmas story to life in a beautiful setting.
- Children – come dressed as angels or shepherds!
- There will be snow in Cookham, with free mulled wine and hot chocolate for everyone.

**All are warmly welcome – families, friends, and visitors
for this joyful candlelit celebration of Christ's birth.**

Church News and Events

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH MUSIC

Sunday 30th November

11am: Parish Eucharist with Christingle (Alter Chorum)

5.30pm: ADVENT CAROL SERVICE (Youth & Men's Choirs)

Sunday 7th December

11am: Parish Eucharist (Men's Choir)

Sunday 14th December

11am: Parish Eucharist (Choristers' Mums' Choir)

5.30pm: Choral Evensong for Advent (Men's Choir)

Sunday 21st December

11am: Parish Eucharist (Youth & Men's Choirs)

CHRISTMAS EVE

11.30pm: Midnight Mass (Choristers' Mums' Choir)

CHRISTMAS DAY

10am: Parish Eucharist (Alter Chorum)

6pm: CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE (Youth & Men's Choirs)

A special Cookham tradition which started 70 years ago when Christmas Day fell on a Sunday. All welcome to a warm church on Christmas night for carols, readings and prayers to begin your evening's festivities.

Retiring collection in aid of THAMES HOSPICE

Sunday 11th January

11am: Parish Eucharist (Choristers' Mums' Choir)

5.30pm: EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE (Men's Choir)

Light in the long month of January, celebrating the season of Epiphany.

Sunday 18th January

11am: Parish Eucharist (Men's Choir)

Sunday 25th January

11am: Parish Eucharist (Youth Choir)

Sunday 1st February

11am: Parish Eucharist (Alter Chorum)

5.30pm: Choral Evensong for Candlemas (Men's Choir)

Keep watch for online offerings during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

youtube.com/@HTCCChoirs57

Sara Wood

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Parish Giving Scheme

We are very grateful for all giving to the church, without your support there would be no church. Thank you!

If you regularly put cash in the plate or using the card reader, have you considered the Parish Giving Scheme as an alternative method of giving?

It's very easy to sign up to a regular amount that would suit you. There's an option for an annual increase to be linked to inflation, but you can always have the option to change the amount at any time.

Bonus for you—you can forget needing to bring cash or a card to church.

Bonus for the church—less admin and counting, and, if you're a tax payer, Gift Aid will be claimed by the central organisers and passed to the church a few days after your payment.

If you are interested in giving in this way, please speak to either of our treasurers, Ros Hazeldine or Tim Sharples or visit www.parishgiving.org.uk



Trinity Talks Monday, 19 January The Bahamas - a personal perspective

Richard Poad's ancestors arrived the Bahamas in the late 18th century, so this country of 700 islands is part of his DNA. His talk will range from Columbus to rum- and drug-running - not to mention the Duke of Windsor, sent there as Governor to get him out of the way during World War II. Richard's personal perspective will touch on topics that never make the travel pages of the weekend newspapers.

Trinity Talks are held monthly at Bel and The Dragon in Cookham High Street. They celebrate the talents of people living in Cookham and its environs and raise funds for Holy Trinity Church.

Everyone is welcome, but capacity is limited, so it is advisable to check in advance. When reserving your place at £20 each by phone on 01628 527465 or email stephaniediggon@hotmail.com, please let me know of any food allergies. Pay cash on arrival from 6.30pm (for Prosecco and canapés). Talks start at 7pm and finish around 8pm.

Stephanie Diggon



Cookham Churches Together Fellowship Lunches

Here are our dates for your diary.

7th December	Christmas Lunch - St John the Baptist Vestry
11th January	Holy Trinity Parish Centre
8th February	St John the Baptist Vestry
8th March	Cookham Rise Methodists
12th April	Holy Trinity Parish Centre
10th May	Cookham Rise Methodists
14th June	St John the Baptist Vestry

Please book in advance by the Wednesday before:-

St John the Baptist - Lorna Sykes 01628 486874

Holy Trinity - Bernadette Clark 01628 530047

Cookham Rise Methodist - Kathy Rickman 01628 522797

SHOE BOX APPEAL 2025

Hello Everyone,

Wow, I want to Thank You All SO Much, for filling a Shoebox again this year. And a big Thank You to Miss Smith, the Head of Holy Trinity School, who encouraged lots of her children to fill boxes too.

I delivered 96 boxes in total, to the Blythwood Care collection point, and they were absolutely overjoyed with our efforts.

So, Thank You All again. This year they are being delivered to Ukraine and Kosovo.

When I receive some brochures with photos of folk receiving their Christmas boxes, I will put them on the table in the churches, for you to see the delight on everyone's faces. It is very rewarding.

Wishing You All a Peaceful Christmas,

With Love, JILL CRUSE

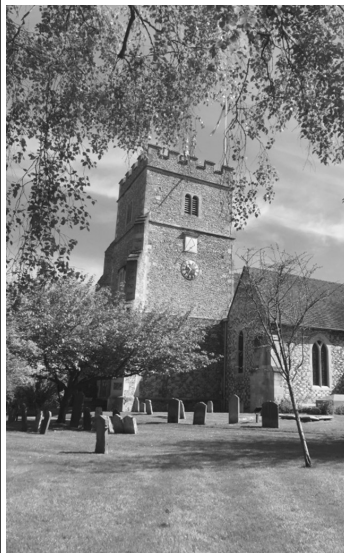


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We are looking for a Treasurer to help guide our church's finances with care and integrity.



This is a rewarding voluntary role supporting a friendly team in a Church of England parish that is also a registered charity. You will help with bookkeeping, simple reporting, and preparing annual accounts for the Charity Commission. An honorarium may be available to recognise the time and responsibility involved.

You do not need to be an accountant – just organised, trustworthy, and comfortable with spreadsheets or basic accounts software.

Training and support are provided. If you have a tidy mind, a kind heart, and a desire to serve your community, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Father Stephen Mills at vicarofthecookhams@outlook.com for an informal chat (and a strong cup of tea!). Come and help Holy Trinity, Cookham flourish – your contribution will truly make a difference.



Men's Breakfast

**Our next breakfast will be
on Saturday
10th January at 8.30am**

We are taking a break in December so our next breakfast will be in January.

We are still finalising arrangements for our guest speaker but as usual we meet at Holy Trinity Church Parish Centre, and we serve breakfast at 8:30am followed by the talk at 9:00am. Our maximum capacity is 40 so places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you have booked a place and find that you are no longer able to join us, please let me know for catering purposes.

If you wish to attend, please email me at: nmarkstockdale@hotmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you.

Mark Stockdale

Worship, Prayer and Study Online

We continue to livestream/record the main Sunday Service from St John the Baptist once a month - see our Diary of Services for exactly when.

In addition, occasional services are recorded at Holy Trinity Church and the choir record special musical offerings, usually once a month.



Our Worship and Prayer Channel



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Trinity Tots

**Starting 15th
January**

The London Welsh Male Voice Choir

What a truly wonderful celebration of choral singing from The London Welsh Male Voice Choir on November 1st!

Over 300 people filled the church and were treated to a very special night commencing with 'March of the Men of Harlech' as the choir walked through the audience to take their places on the raised stage.

The concert was given to support Elizabeth House and Holy Trinity Church and was the brainchild of Geraint Lewis who, in his 90th year, wished to make a contribution to the local community he loves so much. Geraint's rendition of 'Myfanwy' was a particularly poignant moment in the concert.

Thanks to his personal sponsorship of the evening over £8,000 was raised on behalf of the two chosen charities.



Parish Registers

Baptism:	Rory Flower
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Starting January 2026



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Holy Trinity, Cookham

Choirs

Youth Choir – open to any keen young singer, aged 8 and above. Choristers attend a weekly practice (Tuesdays, 6.30-7.05pm) and one, sometimes two, Sunday services a month. No special equipment or financial outlay needed. Choristers receive 'pay', based on attendance, at the end of each term.

Choristers' Mums' Choir – originally set up as an opportunity for choristers' mums to sing too, recently we have welcomed ex-choristers who have moved back to the area. With this widening of eligibility, we would be pleased to hear from ladies who might wish to sing with this friendly group. Practices: Wednesday, 6.55-7.30pm; one, sometimes two, Sunday services a month.

Alter Chorum – a choir for ladies aged 60+. Open to willing new recruits who would like to enjoy good company and joyful singing. Practices every other Tuesday, 5.50-6.25pm; one Sunday service every six weeks.

Men's Choir – Practices: Wednesday evening or Saturday morning; usually three Sunday services a month. Alto, tenor and bass voice-parts. Due to the difficulty of the music and the speed at which the choir works, very proficient sight-reading ability is necessary to thrive in this hard-working group.

Please contact Sara Wood (Director of Music) should you be interested in finding out about becoming a member of one of our choirs: sarawood44@hotmail.com



Ziggy's Music LIVE

will be helping to spread Christmas cheer in December with a special musical presentation of The Christmas Story. Through joyful songs, instrument playing, and engaging storytelling, we will celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. We warmly invite all babies, toddlers and preschoolers

and their grownups from the church community to join us; come sing, play, and share in the joy of this wonderful season together. Monday's in The Parish Centre at 10 & 11am. For more information visit :- <http://www.ziggysmusiclive.co.uk>.

Safeguarding

We are deeply committed to safeguarding within our churches and to ensuring the well-being of everyone in our community.

Both Holy Trinity and St John the Baptist have appointed Safeguarding Officers who, together with the Ministry Team and other church leaders, are dedicated to maintaining a safe and supportive environment.

Full details of our arrangements including how to contact our Safeguarding Officers are on the Home page of our websites.

St John the Baptist, Cookham Dean

Choir

We do need more singers of all ages and all voices, including Juniors, so if you'd like to join us, we'd love to have you!

Our numbers may be small but we still make a good sound to support our congregational singing and worship.

The choir sings at the 9.15 Sunday morning service plus occasional services. The Juniors rehearse on Fridays from 5.30 - 6.30. The seniors follow on to 7.15 As well as the hymns and a setting of the communion service we sing an anthem and a psalm each Sunday.

Please contact David Colthup on email: choirmaster@cookhamdeanchurch.org.uk or speak to him after the service on Sundays.

Families@4

Our Families@4 services are held on festival and special occasions through the year.

It's been a joy to see so many young families from across the Benefice in church, doing Bible readings, leading traditional prayers and interacting with reflective prayer activities. We often have over 60 people in church.



We have a faithful group of regular helpers, who coordinate sandwich making, baking, providing drinks, washing up, cleaning tables, hoovering up after the service. If you'd like to get involved as and when you're available please do chat to us and come and be a part of your church team.

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Christmas Eve - at 4pm**



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Birds of the Bible

Well obviously, the avian choice for this month has to be the Turkey; but hard as one might try, you won't find reference to such a creature in the bible! Of the 30 or so species we can choose from, one does however come to mind. With Christmas we celebrate the One who humbled himself for us, so what could be more appropriate than the humble Sparrow!

In Hebrew, Sparrows would normally be included within the term 'Tziporah' which occurs over forty times, but in fact this refers to almost any small bird. 'Sparrow' however appears on just six occasions, including Matthew 8:29 where Jesus Himself indicates that, despite the bird's 'lowly' status, God cares for each one of them. But even here we see the birds were being sold, for just a half-penny piece; why? For food. They were part of the staple diet for the poor. And Jesus' teaching is that, if God cares for even each of these, how much more does He care for us. (Still today, millions of small migrating birds such as Sparrows are trapped in lime on Mediterranean coastal hedges for serving at local cafes!)

Most bible translations of Psalm 84:3 opt for 'Sparrow', indicating the provision made for them to nest and raise their young and relating that to God's even greater care for us.

But what sort of Sparrow are we talking about in Israel? Spanish Sparrow is resident but mainly a bird of open countryside rather than domestic environments. And guess where the Dead Sea Sparrow might be found? Then there are Rock Sparrows occupying the mountain tops and migrant species include Pale Rock Sparrow. But prominent among all these is the humble House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), an abundant resident of domestic settings across the bible lands, as it is indeed here in our own 'Green and Pleasant land'.



Therefore, I would like to think this is the one referred to in the scriptures. But how is it doing here? Regrettably, UK numbers have declined some 60% in recent decades. A recent study in London found five whole boroughs with no records at all! This was reflected in the all-Berkshire survey for our latest County Bird Atlas, with dramatic declines in both rural and town environments, where 'neat' gardens and modern house design includes little facility for this bird of simple needs. (I did though once count c125 on feeders here at Broomhill Mansions!)

So, what could our Christmas present be to this diminutive but, in God's eyes, important species? Why not use January to plan a 'Wild About Gardens' make-over, a scheme WildCookham has been promoting for all its decade of existence. Give the mower a rest to allow some grass to do what it is designed to do.

[cont'd right]



So much to celebrate

Tackling the (already for many) catastrophic impacts of climate change and the loss of so much of our natural world can feel like a lost cause sometimes. So it's important to remember all the positive steps people are taking to ensure we have a world that's safe for future generations.

Looking back over the past year, WildCookham has much to celebrate. The Water Voles we re-introduced several years ago to the home of The Wind in the Willows are doing well; the work of recent years to bring back a wider range of wild flowers and insects to our local Commons is paying dividends with more colour and sand species on several of the Commons; new hedgerows have been put in to help restore some of the 300,000 miles of these crucial habitats destroyed in recent decades; plans are in place for new ponds, a key habitat for wildlife; our input to local government keeps up the pressure to address the environment and climate emergency; and a growing number of residents want to encourage wildlife on their land and are seeking our support. Add to that those using our walks and talks to increase awareness, as well as the many residents who are helping us with all this work, and you get a sense that maybe, just maybe, we really can make a difference.

One individual whose contribution we have celebrated is Lynne Peperell. Lynne was a founder member of Cookham Wildlife Supporters, our original name. Her energy and commitment have supported us in so many ways, but notably in organising many of our events and, most especially, in helping to run our Wildlife Gardens Awards. We said a fond farewell to Lynne at a party for volunteers in November and wish her and Richard well in their new life away from Cookham.

As we enter 2026 we are busy with longer term planning to help us focus on the main challenges. We see these as working with landowners to save as much of our local land as possible for nature and involving the whole community in this work. Watch out for more news of this. Meanwhile, here's one thing you can do: join in with the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch in January: it's a great way to see what's in your garden – and to get children involved. All you need to know is at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>.

If you can spare a little time for nature, drop a note to wildcookham@gmail.com or call 07739 337105. Look out for upcoming events at www.meetup.com/wildcookham. Keep in touch via wildcookham@gmail.com and on Facebook/Instagram. And have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mike Copland

Create some 'messy' corners. Provide a water feature and perhaps install some Sparrow nest boxes (they are colonial nesters).

We will shortly be celebrating the coming of our Saviour. Let us value these diminutive creatures as He values us!

Brian Clews, Wild Cookham



Cookham Rise Methodist Church Newsletter

E-mail crmethodist@gmail.com **Tel:** 07583 550821

Minister: Rev Vicci Davidson 07535 511421 rev.vicci@mail.com

For hall/church bookings contact Kathy Rickman on 01628 522797

Christmas Services

Thursday December 18th 7.30 p.m. Carols by Candlelight
Service of 9 Lessons and Carols led by Rev Vicci Davidson

Christmas Day 10 a.m. Service led by Kathy Rickman

Sunday Services for December 2025 and January 2026

For further information about these services please contact
Senior Steward, Kathy Rickman, on 522797

December 7th	10.30 a.m.	Rev Vicci Davidson
December 14th	10.30 a.m.	Evam Richardson
December 21st	10.30 a.m.	Jason Yannacopoulos
	3 – 5 p.m.	Teatime for the Soul – Carols and Tea
December 28th	10.30 a.m.	Ken Tuckey
January 4th	10.30 a.m.	Rev Vicci Davidson - Holy Communion and Annual Covenant Service *
January 11th	10.30 a.m.	Deacon Margaret Chipandambria
January 18th	10.30 a.m.	Yoko Refell-Wyse
	3 - 5 p.m.	Teatime for the Soul with Ecumenical Songs of Praise led by Rev Vicci Davidson **
January 25th	10.30 a.m.	Local Arrangement or Circuit Service at Windsor

* Covenant Service. This is a special annual Methodist Service to which all are welcome. We renew the promises we made at our confirmation and recommit ourselves to serving God and others

** Teatime for the Soul – January 18th 3 – 5 p.m. A short service with hymns chosen by the Cookham churches, prayers and a short reflection, followed by tea and cakes. We look forward to welcoming members of the Cookham Churches Congregations in this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Church Activities and events at the church

R.I.S.E. Alternate Tuesdays at The Crown, Cookham Moor. An ecumenical group reading and discussing the Bible and to which all are welcome. Further details from Barney Palfrey on 07963 755998 or at barnabaspalfrey@gmail.com

Come and Play for families of children under 5

Tuesdays 9.15 – 11.15, Fridays 10 – 12. Please see cookhamrise.comeandplay on Facebook for more details.

Cookham Community Allotment Every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 10.00 – 11.30am. Social gathering at the end of each session. All welcome. See separate article by Becky Pinniger on page 14

Thursday Circle December 4th 2.30 p.m. Visit to Flowerland Christmas Display.

Church Christmas Lunch Sunday December 14th 1 p.m. Please reserve a place with Kathy Rickman (522797) by Thursday December 11th.

Ecochurch thoughts and Biblical Commentary

The Earth has music for those who listen. Shakespeare

Psalm 100:1-2. *Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing!*

Advent 2025

'The Weary World Rejoices'

You are warmly invited to join the Methodist Church at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesdays November 26th, December 3rd, 10th, 17th, meeting in the church for our Advent reflections.

The famous Christmas Carol "O Holy Night" contains the line: "A thrill of hope! The weary world rejoices." As we enter the Advent season, do you feel weary? If so, you are not alone. You could even say that being weary and worn out is an acceptable place from which to approach this Advent season, because Advent reminds us that while we cannot ignore the troubles of the world, or our own pain and sorrow, the hope of Christmas isn't far away.

Malachi was the last Old Testament Prophet, and for 500 years after that, God appeared to the people of Israel to be silent. Did they cry out, wondering how long it would be before their hope, their salvation arrived? Although he may have felt far away to them, God was planning the most unexpected response to the needs of the world - the coming of Jesus.

Over the four weeks of Advent, we'll reflect on four perspectives of those present at the nativity scene.

Christmas Coffee Morning Saturday December 6th

10 – 11.30 a.m.

for the Garden at the Rise
Project and Church funds.

Cakes, books, gifts,
children's stall and toys,
jigsaws, jams and chutneys,
raffle

Methodist Minister Vicci writes:

Friends,

Sheila Cassidy writes in the book: Confessions of a lapsed Catholic – “Christian society in Britain has domesticated the Gospel. It is geared to loving God in moderation. We may give alms to the poor, visit the sick and the lonely, hold annual bazaars and flag days for those in need – in fact do any good works that do not threaten the pattern of our society. But to demand justice at the expense of people’s comfort of security – that makes us troublemakers.”

Well you can decide for yourself whether or not you think she’s right. But we have domesticated our thoughts about angels. We make cutesy little figurines, we put on annual plays in which tiny little four year olds in white pillow cases, with a sprinkling of silver tinsel stand before the congregations and proclaim with varying levels of confidence “You don’t need to be afraid”. No, of course I don’t need to be afraid! You are a third of my height, you weigh a 10th of what I weigh, if you do something I don’t like, I merely have to pick you up to stop you doing it – why on earth would I be afraid?

But the shepherds were afraid. The messengers of God inspire awe and the glory of God is both fearful and wonderful.

I wonder what feelings Christmas has brought for you this year?

- Awe and wonder? Stress and worry? Joy and peace?

I wonder as we think on angels and wise men, a baby and a star what comes into our minds?

- A time for over-indulgence of ourselves and our small relatives?
- A time for extra church services and a reorienting of our prayer life?
- A time for hope?

Let’s just stand for one moment today and allow ourselves to feel what we would have felt had an angel stood before us, and we, with no knowledge of how the story was to unfold, felt the glory of God around us.

God bless, Vicci

Other regular activities on church premises

Please contact the hall user for further information

Seated Exercises (07900 204001)	Mon 1.30- 2.15pm
Rainbow Guides (01628 532279)	Mon after school
Cantorum Choir Rehearsals	Mon 7.45 - 9.45pm
Big Band Practice (07809 594105)	Tues evenings
Chair Yoga	Contact for times
Tai Chi (debbie@taichi44.co.uk)	Wed 8 - 9pm
Balletbums (adults) (07841 610251)	Thurs 12.15 -1.00pm

The Wesley Hall is now available for regular use

On Monday mornings, Wednesday morning and afternoon, Thursday morning 9 – 11.30 a.m. Friday afternoons, Thursday and Friday evenings, and Saturdays daytime.

A warm, friendly and suitable venue for small exercise groups and meetings. Also available for one-off events including children’s parties.

Interested? Please contact Kathy on 01628 522797 for further details.

Stanley Spencer Gallery – Winter Gallery Tours

The Stanley Spencer Gallery invites you to join one of our three special winter Gallery tours on a day when the Gallery is closed to the public. These guided tours are usually only available to larger groups, but you can book individually for these events.

These tours will give you a unique opportunity to see a rare and captivating site: Christ Preaching at Cookham Regatta, Stanley Spencer’s monumental unfinished painting, brought down from its high perch for the first time in decades. It will go back to its high perch at the end of March, so now is the time to visit!

As an unfinished work, Christ Preaching at Cookham Regatta is a unique window into Spencer’s practice. You will see how he filled in the composition section by section, a method he learned at the Slade School of Fine art.

Your guided tour will start with a short description of Stanley Spencer’s life and then go around the exhibition, showing Spencer’s artistic journey through his life, and for individual works and major projects.

These Gallery tours are at 11.00am on December 8th, January 12th and February 9th, and cost £15, (excluding booking fee). You will need to book in advance through Eventbrite as numbers are limited. Please see the links below.

The tour will last about an hour, so perhaps the opportunity for a restaurant or pub lunch afterwards!

[Stanley Spencer Gallery Exhibition](#)
[Talks Tickets, Multiple Dates](#)
[Eventbrite](#)



St Elizabeth's Catholic Church Lower Road, Cookham

We welcome everyone to worship with us

Sunday Mass 9.15am



Christmas 2025

13th December at 7.30pm
Organ recital by candlelight
with mulled wine - £10.

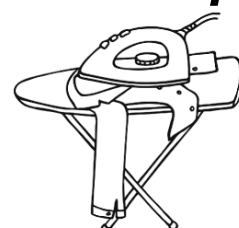
Christmas Day
Christmas Mass at 9.15am

Annette's Home Help

- ironing service
- doggy boarding/
walking service

Mobile: 07957 218789

Email: let_cantelupe_court@yahoo.co.uk



Services Calendar for December 2025

HTC - Holy Trinity, Cookham

SJB - St John Baptist, Cookham Dean

December 3rd - Wednesday

SJB 10.00 Holy Communion

December 7th - 2nd Sunday of Advent

HTC 11.00 Parish Eucharist
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

December 11th - Thursday

HTC 8.00 Holy Communion

December 14th - 3rd Sunday of Advent

HTC 11.00 Parish Eucharist
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

17.30 Choral Evensong for Advent
Isaiah 5:8-end; Acts 13:13-41

December 17th - Wednesday

SJB 10.00 Holy Communion

December 21st - 4th Sunday of Advent

HTC 11.00 Parish Eucharist
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-end

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-end

18.00 Nine Lessons and Carols

December 24th - Christmas Eve

HTC 16.00 Crib Service Live - see page 8

SJB 16.00 Families@4 Crib Service

23.30 Midnight Mass
Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-14

December 25th - Christmas Day

HTC 10.00 Christmas Morning Eucharist
Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20

SJB 09.15 Christmas Morning Eucharist
Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20
(this service will be livestreamed/recorded)

18.00 Christmas Carol Service

December 28th - 1st Sunday of Christmas & The Holy Innocents

HTC 11.00 Parish Eucharist
1 Corinthians 1:26-29; Matthew 2:13-18

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
1 Corinthians 1:26-29; Matthew 2:13-18

Prayer Diary - December 2025



1	Andrew the Apostle	Lord, as we remember Andrew the Apostle, help us to respond to Your call with faith and courage.
2	Tuesday	We give thanks for our church volunteers who quietly serve behind the scenes. May their dedication be blessed.
3	Francis Xavier, missionary	God of mission, inspire us through the life of Francis Xavier to share the Gospel with boldness and compassion.
4	John of Damascus, monk, teacher of the faith, c.749	May we learn from John of Damascus to seek wisdom and truth in our faith journey.
5	Friday	Bless those who prepare and serve refreshments at church gatherings. May their hospitality reflect Your love.
6	Nicholas, bishop, c.326	We give thanks for Nicholas, bishop, and pray for all who serve in leadership within the Church.
7	2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	We pray and give thanks for the HTC bellringers. May their joyful sounds call us to worship and community.
8	Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	On the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we pray for all expectant mothers and the gift of new life.
9	Tuesday	We pray for those who work in our local shops and businesses. May they be supported and encouraged.
10	Wednesday	Bless our children and young people. May they grow in faith, hope, and love.
11	Thursday	We give thanks for those who clean and care for our church buildings. May their work be appreciated.
12	Friday	Lord, bless those who travel this season. Keep them safe and bring them joy in their journeys.
13	Lucy, martyr, 304	As we remember Lucy, martyr, may we be lights in the darkness, shining with Your truth and grace.
14	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	We pray for our clergy, Fr Stephen and Rev Sophie, and all who minister in our parish.
15	Monday	We give thanks for Elizabeth House and all its staff and volunteers. May their care bring comfort and dignity.
16	Tuesday	Bless those who feel lonely or isolated. May they know Your presence and find companionship.
17	Wednesday	O Sapientia – O Wisdom, guide our decisions and lead us in paths of righteousness.
18	Thursday	O Adonai – O Lord, come and redeem us with Your mighty arm.
19	Friday	O Radix Jesse – O Root of Jesse, bring hope to those who feel forgotten.
20	Saturday	O Clavis David – O Key of David, unlock the doors of peace and reconciliation.
21	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	O Oriens – O Morning Star, shine Your light into every shadowed place.
22	Monday	O Rex Gentium – O King of the Nations, unite us in justice and mercy.
23	Tuesday	O Emmanuel – O God with us, dwell in our hearts and homes this season.
24	Christmas Eve	We pray for all preparing to celebrate. May joy and peace fill every home.
25	Christmas Day	We rejoice in the birth of Christ. May His love be born anew in us.
26	St Stephen's Day	We give thanks for all those who have died for their faith.
27	St John the Evangelist	We pray for those who work in healthcare and emergency services during the holidays.
28	THE HOLY INNOCENTS	Like Thomas Becket, may we stand firm in our convictions and seek justice.
29	Monday	We pray for all who begin new ventures in the coming year. May they be guided by Your wisdom.
30	Tuesday	Bless those who serve in education. May they inspire and nurture the minds of future generations.
31	John Wyclif, reformer	As we remember John Wyclif, reformer, may we seek truth and be bold in proclaiming Your Word.

Services Calendar for January 2026

HTC - Holy Trinity, Cookham

SJB - St John Baptist, Cookham Dean

January 4th - Epiphany Sunday

HTC 11.00 Parish Eucharist
Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

January 7th - Wednesday

SJB 10.00 Holy Communion

January 8th - Thursday

HTC 8.00 Holy Communion

January 11th - Baptism of Christ

HTC 11.00 Parish Eucharist
Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-end

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-end

17.30 Epiphany Carol Service

January 14th - Wednesday

HTC 10.00 Holy Communion and coffee - see page 6

January 18th - 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

HTC 11.00 Parish Eucharist
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

January 21st - Wednesday

SJB 10.00 Holy Communion

January 22nd - Thursday

HTC 8.00 Holy Communion

January 25th - 3rd Sunday of Epiphany - Conversion of Paul

HTC 10.00 Parish Eucharist
Acts 9:1-22; Matthew 19:27-end

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
Acts 9:1-22; Matthew 19:27-end
(this service will be livestreamed/recorded)

January 28th - Wednesday

HTC 10.00 Holy Communion and coffee - see page 6

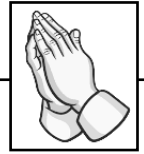
February 1st - 4th Sunday of Epiphany - Candlemas

HTC 11.00 Parish Eucharist
Hebrews 2:14-end; Luke 2:22-40

SJB 09.15 Parish Eucharist
Hebrews 2:14-end; Luke 2:22-40

17.30 Choral Evensong for Candlemas

Prayer Diary - January 2026



1	New Year's Day	God of new beginnings, bless this 2026 with hope and renewal.
2	Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops	We give thanks for Basil and Gregory. May their wisdom inspire us to grow in faith and understanding.
3	Saturday	Lord, bless those who work on weekends to serve others. May their efforts be fruitful and appreciated.
4	EPIPHANY SUNDAY	We pray for our HTC bellringers. May their joyful sounds continue to call us to worship and community.
5	Monday	Bless all doctors and medical staff. Grant them strength, compassion, and wisdom in their care for others.
6	Epiphany	On Epiphany, we celebrate the revelation of Christ. May His light guide us in every step we take.
7	Wednesday	We pray for those who feel burdened. May they find rest and peace in Your presence.
8	Thursday	Bless our teachers and educators. May they inspire minds and nurture hearts with patience and love.
9	Friday	We give thanks for foodbanks and all who support them. May they be places of hope and generosity.
10	William, Laud, archbishop, 1645	As we remember William Laud, may we stand firm in our convictions and seek justice with grace.
11	BAPTISM OF CHRIST	We pray for our clergy and lay leaders. May they be guided by Your Spirit in all they do.
12	Monday	Bless the staff and volunteers of Elizabeth House. May their care bring comfort and dignity to all they serve.
13	Hilary, bishop and teacher	We give thanks for Hilary. May we learn and grow through faithful teaching.
14	Wednesday	Lord, bless those who serve in quiet ways. May their hidden acts of kindness shine brightly.
15	Thursday	We pray for those who work in emergency services. Grant them courage and protection in their duties.
16	Friday	We give thanks for our church musicians and choirs. May their gifts uplift and inspire our worship.
17	Antony of Egypt, hermit, abbot	As we remember Antony of Egypt, may we find strength in solitude and peace in prayer.
18	2nd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	Bless all who work in healthcare. May their hands bring healing and their hearts offer comfort.
19	Monday	We pray for those who feel isolated. May they know Your presence and find companionship.
20	Tuesday	Lord, bless our local businesses. May they thrive and be a blessing to our community.
21	Wednesday	We give thanks for those who clean and care for our church buildings. May their work be appreciated.
22	Thursday	Bless those who serve refreshments at church gatherings. May their hospitality reflect Your love.
23	Friday	We pray for all who travel this season. Keep them safe and bring them joy in their journeys.
24	Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, 1622	We pray for the Anglican church throughout Europe.
25	CONVERSION OF ST PAUL	On the Conversion of Paul, may we be transformed by Your grace and called to serve with passion
26	Timothy and Titus, companions of Paul	We give thanks for Timothy and Titus. May we be faithful companions in sharing the Gospel.
27	Tuesday	Bless those who serve in education. May they inspire and nurture the minds of future generations.
28	Thomas Aquinas, priest, philosopher, teacher of the faith	As we remember Thomas Aquinas, may we seek truth and be bold in proclaiming Your Word.
29	Thursday	We pray for those who are anxious or uncertain. May Your peace calm them.
30	Charles, king and martyr, 1649	As we remember Charles, may we stand firm in our faith and live with integrity.
31	John Bosco, priest, founder of the Salesian Teaching Order	We give thanks for John Bosco and all who work with young people. May they be guided by Your love.

Cookham Community Allotment

We are constantly being advised in the daily press to follow certain steps and the result will be a fitter/longer-living/better-balanced/less-tired/happier individual etc etc. After one such article on 'the guide to super-ageing' in the *i* paper recently, one reader's response was quite emphatic. As a septuagenarian married over 50 years, who never needs to visit their doctor, he gave this simple piece of advice. "Rent an allotment within walking distance from home and garden organically. With a rental of less than £1 per week, the produce alone more than covers this." Indeed, fresh air, eating more vegetables, getting regular exercise, and being flexible in thinking are all benefits of growing your own and enjoying your own outdoor space with the option for social interaction should you need it.

Rent an allotment? At this time of year? It may not have as much appeal as during some balmy days in spring. However, now is in fact a very good time to take on an allotment. There are vacancies on all three sites in Cookham! Very little grows at this time of year, so nor do the weeds. By putting down weed suppressant membrane or cardboard, the beds can be left during the next couple of months. No double digging is necessary, especially if you follow the current thinking for 'no dig'. Order or have delivered organic matter such as manure, much of which may be available for free in this area. Let the earthworms do the work and your soil structure will benefit. Now is the perfect time to build yourself at least a couple of compost bays using wooden pallets, also available for free. Here you can put in a bottom layer of rough grass and sticks before grass cuttings and annual weeds are readily available to add. Leaves can be raked up now and stored in a chicken-wire cage easily erected in a corner. These will rot down and give you a good, free soil-improver for the following years. Shorter days give you time to plan what you hope to grow where, to make a list, and order seeds. By the time the days are getting longer and hopefully warming up you will be ready to start sowing and growing. For less than £1 per week (how much is that gym membership?) you can tick all the boxes to ensure a longer, healthier happier life, and who knows.... you might enjoy it too!

If you would like to join us before taking the plunge and taking on your own allotment, I guarantee you will learn something, have your questions answered, share in tasty produce and refreshments at end of gardening sessions.

For more information contact Becky Pinniger on 07821710204

Sessions are Tuesday and Saturday mornings on the Alfred Major allotment site 10.00-11.30

Apply to the parish office next to Cookham Rise School if you are interested in taking on an allotment.

Gardening sessions are temporarily halted during December and January. Our last Saturday session will be December 6th, Tuesday session will be December 9th. During January there will be a couple of indoor sessions for cleaning and sharpening tools, making soup, sowing sweet peas etc.

Please contact Becky Pinniger for more information in January on 07821 710204



Cookham and Cookham Dean Horticultural Society 2026

WEDNESDAY 28TH JANUARY

Snowdrops: Winter's White Gold
Katharine Woods, The Tea-Break Gardener

WEDNESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

Biodiversity in Garden Design – A Vital Element for Sustainable Landscapes
Jamie Langlands, Lead Designer, Oxford Garden Design

WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH

Spring Show

WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL

Pesticides – Are They Safe?
Andrew Halstead, Retired RHS Entomologist

WEDNESDAY 27TH MAY

Rothschild's Orchids - Dr Francesca Murray

WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

Seed Saving
Andre Tranquilini, Estate Manager, Waltham Place

WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER

NT Osterley House & Garden - Scenes from Ten Years as a Garden Volunteer
Katrina Roche, Gardening Writer and Blogger

WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER AGM AND CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Wonders of Migration
Brian Clews, Founder Member of WildCookham and WildMaidenhead

For more details please visit

www.cookhamandcookhamdeanhortsoc.co.uk



SHEEPHOUSE MANOR COTTAGES

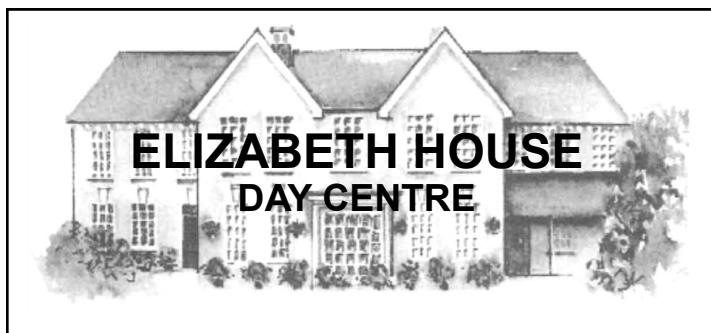
- Short term lets with pets, (dog run and 2 acres of land)
- Available to book from 2 weeks to 5 months
- Our 6 cottages sleep from 2 to 6 persons
- Flexible and stress free booking

We are in Sheephouse Road,
Maidenhead, SL6 8HJ

Perfect if between property purchases
or having remedial work done

Contact Caroline for a friendly chat
on 01628 776902

info@sheephousemanor.co.uk
www.sheephousemanor.co.uk



ELIZABETH HOUSE DAY CENTRE

We're using a great website called **#easyfundraising** to help raise money for Elizabeth House Cookham. easyfundraising will turn your everyday online shopping into FREE donations for us. All you need to do is sign up and shop via the easyfundraising website or App when you're shopping with over 8,000 retailers including eBay, Tesco, Marks & Spencer, Just Eat and more! Your online shopping won't cost you any extra and we'll be really grateful for your donations. Please sign up here: <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/elizabeth-house-cookham/7vhye0/c2s/0aQJMZev/CE908/facebook/>

We would like to welcome all our new members that have recently joined us, we would also really welcome any new member's that are interested in joining us too, we do have space from Monday to Friday, if you have a family member or friend that you feel may be interested in joining please get in touch, we do offer a free of charge trial day before becoming a member, if they are here for the day they will have the chance to enjoy a delicious lunch, cooked freshly by our wonderful Chef.

Room Hire

We're offering bright, comfortable rooms for hire, ideal for therapists, wellbeing practitioners, or small group sessions, if you would like to book a viewing or discuss anything in more detail please call Dawn on 01628 527621

If you would like to discuss things in more detail please contact **Dawn on 01628 527621**

**Christmas Tombola
at Elizabeth House**

✧ This is our last fundraiser of the year!
Please come along!

Saturday 6th Dec 2025 12pm till 2pm

We are looking for your kind donations
of Bottles, Chocolates, or any
Christmas gifts
Your donations would
be greatly appreciated

Please deliver Monday to Friday
between 09:30am and 3:30pm to:
Elizabeth House
Station Hill
Cookham
Berkshire
SL69BS

*Greetings
ISLAND*

Compassion Café

Please join us at our next regular meeting of Compassion Café on the first Wednesday of the month.



It is a safe and confidential environment and a place to connect with others who have been affected by bereavement or any kind of loss, and is a way to forge new friendships and connections.

If you would like to chat and hear more about our gatherings please email oakencoppice@hotmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you

Date: 1st Wednesday of the month

Time: 9.30-11.00 am

Venue: We no longer meet at Elizabeth House - please email us at the above address for details

COOKHAM VOLUNTARY SERVICES

A chance to take part in a key local community service!

CVS is a local self-funding community organisation, which provides an essential role taking people who need help with transport to get to medical appointments. We depend entirely on volunteers to meet the needs of members of the community.

Due to retirements and movements out of the area, we are still short of volunteers. If you live locally and have some spare time available, can you help?

We need volunteers in two areas: -

1. In the office at Elizabeth House 2-3 hours, one morning a week, to take requests for transport.
2. Drivers - we pay mileage rate and cover parking and other charges on trips to hospitals, usually local.



If you think you might be able to help, please contact the CVS office on 01628 523839 (10-12.00 Monday-Friday), or at pefc@tapestryoflife.co.uk, for further details.

Dial 01628

The big digital phone revolution is starting. Everyone will shortly need to transfer their existing BT landline connections to the new digital network. And some lines are already about to switch.

Amongst the first local organisations to go digital will be Cookham Voluntary Services and Elizabeth House.

In both cases the phone numbers will not change, but you will have to **dial the full number, including the 01628 area code**, even if you are dialing from another 01628 number.

So, make sure you make a note of this and if you are not already doing so start using the full 01628 number now. Rest assured, it will work even before the switchover.

For **CVS** the number to dial is **01628 523839**.

For **Elizabeth House** dial is **01628 527621**.



Cookham Parish Council

As a result of Neighbourhood Plan, the Parish now will receive 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy ("CIL") payable by developers on new housing developments in the Parish. Paragraph 9.4 of the Plan explained that: "Ideas for the spending of CIL receipts on projects in the Parish include, but are not limited to, those identified in Appendix 8 of the Neighbourhood Plan." The Parish Council can add to these Projects.

The 12 Projects in the original Appendix 8 range from improvements to green spaces and air quality to new walking and cycling routes. The Parish Council is now consulting on the addition of a new Project. This is to enlarge and enhance the Parish Cemetery and Chapel on Long Lane.

The Parish has outgrown the original cemetery, founded in 1906. The 1995 extension is already in use. With new housing planned for the Parish demand is likely to grow. The fullness of Holy Trinity and near-fullness of St John's Church cemeteries means that the Parish Cemetery is the primary remaining burial ground in the Parish. The Parish Council therefore feels that the cemetery needs to be enlarged. (A cemetery is acceptable green belt use since the land remains green and open.)

The Chapel is also over 100 years old: sadly, it shows it. It is draughty with little heating and generally needs an overhaul. There is no lavatory. There is no car park: mourners have to park in Long Lane, awkward for residents and potentially dangerous. It needs upgrading.

The full proposal can be found on the Parish Council website at www.cookham-pc.gov.uk. Comments can be emailed to office@cookham-pc.gov.uk or posted to the Council Office in High Road. There will be an open house from 10am – 3pm and a public meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 17 December, both in the Community Room there. Consultation is open until 5pm on Monday 20 December.

We are working to beautify the Parish. 400 bulbs are being planted by Councillors and volunteers in the Alfred Major Recreation Ground (where the order for a large new bin by the skate-ramp has now been placed) and elsewhere. We hope our daffodils will brighten spring.

Boringly but we hope wisely, we have adopted a new IT policy, updated our risk management policy, put in place a new half-yearly internal audit and attended to some trees over-hanging our neighbours in Groves Way. We are continuing our internal updating programme.

We have started the budget process for the 2026/7 financial year. RBWM's own budget cycle means that we have to decide our precept by mid-January. There will therefore be a budget update at Council on 2 December with the final decisions on 6 January.

It is good to report that the Environment Agency has completed erecting a reasonably good-looking and sensibly sized fence on the south-west wing wall of the weir as we agreed. Now we await, and will if necessary push for, the re-opening of the bridge across the weir to the footpath and the Lock.

Finally, we have created a new Planning Working Party. The Borough is about to start the process of updating the Borough Local Plan. We need to be organised and ready to fight for Cookham. We are likely also to want to update

[cont'd right]



Pinder Hall News

Pinder Hall Fundraising Update – Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has already donated to the Pinder Hall crowdfunding appeal. Every contribution—large or small—helps us to secure the future of this much-loved community space.

Pinder Hall belongs to all of us, and seeing so many residents support the campaign has been truly encouraging. If you haven't yet had a chance to contribute but would like to please go to:



<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/pinder-hall>.

Every pound helps us get closer to essential repairs and improvements.

Save the Date

Pinder Hall Fundraising Quiz Night!

To keep up the momentum (and have some fun along the way!), we are hosting a **Quiz Night** in February in aid of the Hall. It promises to be an enjoyable evening with friendly competition, prizes, bar and a raffle. Bring your own supper – prize for the best-dressed table!

Date: Thursday 5 February 2026

Venue: Pinder Hall, Lower Road, Cookham

Time: 7:30pm start (doors open 7pm)

Tickets: available soon - £90 per table of 6, or £15 per person

Whether you're a quiz enthusiast or just fancy a sociable evening out, we'd love to see you there. All proceeds go directly toward the hall's refurbishment fund.

Thank you once again for your continued support—together we can secure Pinder Hall for future generations.

The Pinder Hall - Registered Charity No. 300142



Ladies Probos Group

***including Maidenhead, Cookham
and Bourne End***

We are a small group of like-minded women, who enjoy fellowship, conversation and interesting speakers.

We meet at the Pines Hotel, Burnham from 12 to 3pm on the first Tuesday of every month and at The Feathers opposite Cliveden at 11am on the third Tuesday of the month for morning coffee.

If you would like to know more, please contact Helen Heard (Chairman) on 07789 504267

the Neighbourhood Plan to adapt to changes. We are grateful that the Cookham Society and WildCookham along with Shez Courtenay-Smith, and we hope Cookham's Footprint, have all stepped up to help us again.

To close, on behalf of the whole Parish Council I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bill Perry, Chairman,
Cookham Parish Council

Registered Charity No: 257224



THE COOKHAM SOCIETY

The Society has a very strong track record over 60 years looking after the interests of Cookham and its residents. This includes planning, traffic, parking, footpaths, flooding, and waterways. It is neither political nor sectarian and welcomes all who love this beautiful place.



If you care about Cookham as much as we do, please join us as a full member to make us stronger and more effective. Membership costs from just £5.00 a year by standing order and it's easy to join online at www.cookhamsociety.org.uk or call our secretary Lysette Penston Tel: 01628 854780



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Left cold by rising bills and a hard-to-heat home?

Welcome to winter, when dark evenings make us look forward to putting the heating on. But if you're concerned about rising bills or keeping warm, there are some simple things that will make a difference immediately.

At SaveEnergy we offer free energy advice, and our first suggestion is always 'don't heat empty rooms'. Turn radiators off and keep doors to unused rooms shut so they don't gather condensation. Check your boiler and set it at 60 degrees, any hotter and you're wasting energy; and check your heating thermostat. Usually 20 degrees during the day and 15.5 degrees at night is warm enough, unless you have vulnerable people at home. We think this season is what jumpers and fluffy slipper-socks were invented for, so enjoy your woollies or consider buying a heated blanket to stay warm without cranking the heating up. Once you're cosy, don't let the warmth escape. Draw your curtains and line them if you can, and check for draughts. A simple plastic draught excluder strip for windows and doors can make a big difference.

Finally, if there are areas of your house that never warm up or draughts you can't beat, book our Energy Advice Plus service, which includes low-cost simple practical measures to keep to cosy, or a Triple-A Energy Assessment to identify issues, including where you have insulation (and where you don't) or where thermal bridges are conducting all your lovely heat into the garden.

SaveEnergy is a local, community-owned business working across Maidenhead, Cookham and surrounding areas, offering free energy advice for all plus paid for home energy surveys and EPCs.

For more information visit <https://saveenergy.coop>; email info@saveenergy.coop, call us on 01628 947077.

We'll be at the Cookham Smart Energy Show on 7th Feb.



SMART ENERGY SHOW 2026 – 7th February

Helping make Cookham a greener, healthier place to live

This Show, following the success of the previous one, will give villagers an opportunity to meet and talk to some accredited local companies and installers. There will be experts who can advise on how to make your home more energy efficient, and how to incorporate smart energy solutions. In addition, Cookhams Footprint team of volunteers will be there to help guide you, including Toby Knight, a Building Surveyor and retrofit expert, who will be there to offer free impartial advice.

Smart Energy could cut bills, improve comfort and help tackle climate change.

Visit the show to discover:

- What grants are available.
- Whether your roof is suitable for solar panels.
- More about Air Source Heat pumps and talk to others who have them.
- Whether your house is suitable for cavity wall insulation.
- How Hybrid Systems work.
- More about Battery Storage options.
- More about EV (electric vehicle) chargers.
- Where to get an EPC (Energy Performance Certificate).
- How to get free help in making your home less cold & draughty.
- How to get free thermal images of your home.

Throughout the afternoon there will be talks covering topics such as Solar PVs and batteries, Air Source Heat pumps, as well as talks by WildCookham on how important it is to encourage wildlife into our gardens. Peter Gibbs, meteorologist and broadcaster, will start the talks explaining his enthusiasm for these technologies.

Moor Hall, Cookham, SL6 9QH - 1.00pm – 4.30pm

For more information visit:-

smartenergyshow.co.uk and cookhamsfootprint.co.uk

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Christmas Wrapped Up



The Maidenhead Support Group for Thames Hospice will be offering their Christmas parcel wrapping service at Nicholsons Shopping Centre in Maidenhead from **19th to the 24th December from 10am to 4pm** (Sunday 21st from 11am to 3pm)

Paper, tags and ribbons provided - donations to:

Thames hospice

THE JOLLY FARMER

COOKHAM DEAN



Have a Jolly good Christmas!

Christmas menu (three courses just £35!) available for pre-order throughout December (excludes Christmas and Boxing Day). Call 01628 482905 or book online via www.thejollyfarmercookhamdean.com. Scan the QR code to see What's On, including our Christmas opening hours.

And a very Merry New Year...

Dine in December and receive a 25% off voucher for a meal for up to four people in January or February (Ts and Cs apply). And book ahead for our Burns' Night weekend specials, 24/25 January 2026.



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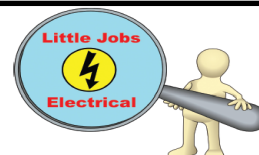
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Holy Trinity School

For many people Christmas is a special time of year; in a school the run up to the end of the Autumn Term and all that that brings is particularly magical. There is nothing more exciting than rehearsing the Nativity, planning parties, putting up the Christmas tree, designing cards and enjoying a Christmas lunch. It is a time of coming together, celebrating all that is good in the world and appreciating the people around us.

Our school ethos is firmly rooted in friendship and respect; not a day goes by without us celebrating the gentleness and thoughtfulness someone has shown another. This level of kindness, however, extends beyond the school walls and is far reaching.

Remembrance Day gives us all an opportunity to think about those who have made enormous sacrifices serving their country. The children understand this and all play their part in creating a very special moment when we go to the War Memorial in the village to pay our respects.

Perhaps you were present on Tuesday 11th November when our Year 6 pupils led everyone in our annual service of remembrance. Poems were read, prayers were spoken and the significance of the day was shared. A two minutes silence was marked before a poppy was laid and a song, reminding us of those who have fallen, rang out.

Children in Need, also in November, gave us another opportunity to come together and live out our vision. As was the case when we raised money for Macmillan Cancer Support and the Royal British Legion, and collected groceries for FoodShare, the generosity of all was felt.

This year, on the run up to Christmas, another project which everyone got behind was the shoe box appeal organised by Blythswood. Last year the charity sent over 85,000 shoeboxes to eight different countries – Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine and since their first Shoe Box Appeal in 1993 they have sent more than 2.8 million boxes – each one different, each one personal, each one an expression of care and kindness towards a stranger in need. Having heard about the project from Jill Cruse and then spoken about it in assembly, it wasn't long before the gifts started appearing. In total we collected fifty-six shoe boxes which we hope will bring warmth and joy to others this Christmas.

Christmas is a time to celebrate, to bring people together and to share in everything that is good in the world. Let's hope that by promoting the importance of service, whether it's at Christmas or any other time in the year, acts of kindness, friendship and compassion will prevail.

From everyone at Holy Trinity C of E Primary, we wish you a wonderful Christmas full of peace, joy and love.

Anna Smith, Head Teacher



Cookham Dean School

Half term holidays have been and gone and we are now certainly in the lead up to Christmas.

Last week was anti-bullying week with a theme of Power of Good. We asked the children to make a difference; to think about others and stand up for what they think is right. It was a thought provoking week when we asked the children to join together to make our world a better place.

Children and staff have already starting asking about Christmas – but one little girl was adamant that we shouldn't be talking about Christmas until 1st December. I agree but in a primary school that is hard to do! Christingle practises, nativity practises, carol service practises, costumes, nativity scenes and Santa's appearance to name but a few. Please note that any member of our community is invited to our many festivities – just look on the school website calendar for dates and times.

It is such a special time in a primary school with the excitement and busyness that comes with Christmas.

We are very much engaged with our seasonal Families@4 services run by the children. Sunday 30th November found the children making Christingles, singing and finding out all about the Christingle's meaning and all run by our fabulous Pupils 4 Praise.



On Christmas Eve at 4pm there will be the Crib Service in St John's - please do join us for our festivities.

Fenella Reekie
Head Teacher

Help a family in poverty this year



CAP (Christians Against Poverty) has launched its 2025 Christmas Appeal, to provide emergency aid and support to UK families in financial hardship this winter.

The appeal aims to raise funds to provide essential assistance such as: emergency food parcels, fuel top-ups,

free professional debt advice, and Christmas hampers or gifts, given in partnership with local churches and community groups.

CAP works with local church partners to deliver face-to-face help and support. You can donate directly or support local church initiatives creating Christmas hampers and providing emergency packages.

Details at: <https://capuk.org>

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Cookham Saint-Benoit Twinning

Twenty-two people from Cookham Twinning went to Saint-Benoit at the end of October for a long weekend with our twinned village. We stayed with local families and improved our knowledge of local French life, as well as our language skills, whatever our starting level.

The visit started with a reception at the Mairie (Town Hall) hosted by the Mayor of Saint-Benoit, Bernard Peterlongo. Cookham gave Saint-Benoit a copy of the Cookham Neighbourhood plan, an illustrated guide to the Thames Valley, and a photo-book of last year's visit of Saint-Benoit to Cookham. After some short speeches, Liliane Louvel, a Professor at Poitiers University spoke about the book that she is publishing about Stanley Spencer, so another link with Cookham. This will be the first book published in the French language about Stanley Spencer.

We toured the town hall building and noted the framed picture of Cookham that the Mayor keeps in his office. The council meeting room was suitably grand and can accommodate the 29 councillors that meet there.

On Sunday lunch was at the lovely Villa Gambetta Italian restaurant. Sadly just a week later the building suffered a major fire with significant damage, but no injuries.

On Monday the group went to Tours with a walking tour and a visit to the 'Musée du Compagnonnage', (Master Craftsman Museum). This is a unique French institution showing the work of specialist artisans who must pass rigorous tests to be accepted into the guild. Displays were of woodworking, leather, stone, leather and textiles.

As always, we were very well looked after, with good opportunities to sample French cuisine. Saint-Benoit will be visiting Cookham next October, and it's a great opportunity to hear about French culture, and perhaps improve your French GCSE skills!

Contact keith_le_page@hotmail.com for further information.

Cookham Dean WI

Meeting on Thursday November 13th, 2025

Our President opened the meeting, giving a brief report on WI matters and absent members.

Instead of a speaker this month we had a return visit from Maria Petrines. Maria has visited us twice before when we made fabric dolls and painted sunflowers. We wondered what she had in store for us this time! Maria is raising funds for her native Ukraine, still in the grips of war with Russia.



Maria is raising funds in support of children in the Ukraine who have lost their families due to this war. We were challenged to make a Christmas Angel, which looked like this when completed (with quite a lot of help!):

New members are always assured of a warm and friendly welcome. We meet at 2pm on the second Thursday of every month in the WI hall.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday December 11th, 2025 at 2pm.

Lorna Sykes

The WI hall is available to rent at very reasonable rates, information available at hirecdwihall@cookhamdeanwi.org.uk

Epilogue

A Prayer for Christmas ...

Dear Father,

Christmas is coming. It's all such a rush – planning, shopping, spending, wrapping, posting, stressing! What's it all about?

Lord, help us, in all the rat-race busyness, to make time to focus on that baby at the centre of it all. That baby who is Your Son, who was with You in the beginning and who, with You, created all things; that baby who brings life and light and hope and salvation; that baby who was and is Jesus, God, made man.

Lord, we thank You for that baby-gift to us – the greatest gift there has ever been. Thank You that because He came, grew up, lived, died and rose again, there is light in the darkness of this world's mess – light that can never be put out, that evil can never overcome.

Jesus is the Light of the World. Putting our trust in Him, we thank You Lord, for Christmas – for Your grace and love for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

And those Christmas cards...

We send an estimated 950 million Christmas cards in the UK each year. Royal Mail delivers around 150 million. On average, each person in the UK sends and receives about 17 cards.

This year the final Royal Mail Christmas posting dates are as follows:

Wednesday, December 17th:	2nd Class & Signed For
Friday, December 19th:	Royal Mail Tracked 48
Saturday, December 20th:	1st Class & Signed For
Sunday, December 21st:	Royal Mail Tracked 24
Tuesday, December 23rd:	Special Delivery

And John Wesley's New Year's Resolution...

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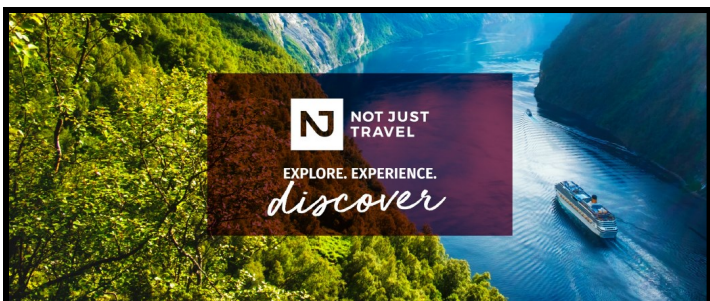
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