

## Diary of Church Events

### December

- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> **Ashcott:** Bellringing Practice 7.30-9pm.  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> **Ashcott:** Belfry Coffee House 10-12 noon.  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> **Shapwick:** Bellringing Practice 7.30-9pm.  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> **Chilton Polden:** Christmas Bingo in the Church Hall. Eyes down 7.30pm  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> **Edington:** St. George's Coffee and Mince Pies at Holywell House, Holywell Road, Edington.10.30-noon. Bring and Buy and Raffle.  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> **Ashcott:** Christmas Coffee Morning. 10am.  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> **Ashcott:** Men's Breakfast at the Piper's Inn. 8.45am.  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> **Ashcott:** Belfry Coffee House 10-12 noon.  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> **Catcott:** St. Peter's Christmas Coffee Morning at Court Farm, Steel Lane. 10.30. £1 for tea/coffee and cake. Raffle. Please come and join the chat and laughter, everyone welcome.  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> **Ashcott:** Bellringing Practice 7.30-9pm.  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> **Shapwick:** Messy Church 4-6pm  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> **Shapwick:** Lite Bite Lunch at St. Mary's Church. 12.30-2pm.  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> **Ashcott:** Belfry Coffee House *with short Christmas service* 10-12 noon.  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> **Shapwick:** Catcott school carol concert 7.30pm.  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> **Shapwick:** Bellringing Practice 7.30-9pm.  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> **Ashcott:** Belfry Coffee House 10-12 noon

### January

- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> **Catcott:** St. Peter's Christmas Coffee Morning at Langland House, Langlands Lane 10.30. £1 for tea/coffee and cake. Raffle. Please come and join the chat and laughter, everyone welcome.  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> **Chilton Polden:** Bingo in the Church Hall. Eyes down 7.30pm  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> **Ashcott:** Big breakfast 10 to 11.30am  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> **Edington:** St. George's Coffee morning at Val and Mark Coakeley's 'Pynes', Holywell Road, Edington. 10.30-noon. Bring & Buy, and Raffle.

### Bible Study Group

Continuing to look at Luke's gospel, led by Jen. Thursday 14 December.  
Call or email Rich for more details.

DECEMBER 2017



Hi folks,

It's that time of year again: mince pies, baubles, tinsel, 'Jingle Bells' and Slade's 'Merry Christmas Everybody'. Part of me enjoys the fun and festivity; part of me – and I'm not sure whether I should admit this as a vicar! – thinks "ugh!". I certainly think, "None of this before Dec 1!"

All of this is a distraction from the central reality of Christmas: that God became a human being in Jesus.

Sometimes we can be a bit too familiar with the story to realise just how astonishing this belief about Jesus actually is: that the creator of the universe, who set up and set off the Big Bang, who thereby created the galaxies, the stars and the planets, who created life itself – then chose to become a human being, living, dying and rising again among us humans on Earth.

Why? Because God wanted us to know the depth of his love for us. The life of Jesus is the fullest expression of God's character that we have: if we want to know who God is, we need to know Jesus.

So while I hope we each enjoy the Christmas festivities in different ways, the most important aspect of it all is not about tinsel or 'Jingle Bells', but about what happened in a manger two thousand years ago, when God arrived in human form.

Every blessing,  
Rich Tweedy  
[vicar@poldenwheel.co.uk](mailto:vicar@poldenwheel.co.uk)

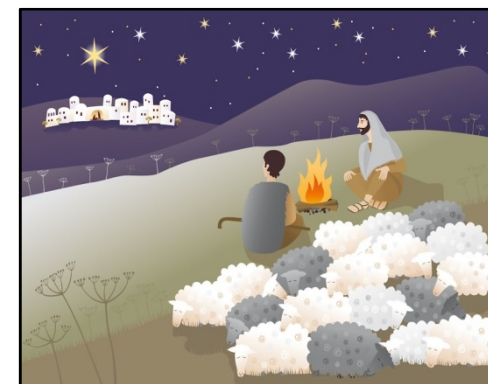


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## Advent Course

**Dates:** Mondays at 7.30 from Nov 27  
**Venue:** Chilton Polden  
 Sunday School room  
**Hosts:** Fred and Margaret

This is an opportunity to get away from the hustle and bustle of the season, and to go on a devotional journey to prepare for Christmas.



Fun, food & friendship for young families – with a Christmas theme!  
 In **Shapwick Church** 4-6pm, **Dec 16.**  
 Next Messy Church: **Jan 20**



### Men's breakfast

**Sat Dec 9**, 8.45am, at the Piper's Inn in Ashcott. The speaker will be Richard Knight from the church in Walton.

### Carol Services in the Polden Wheel

**Ashcott** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 6.30  
**Burtle** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 6.30  
**Catcott** Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> 10.30  
**Chilton Polden** Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 10.30  
**Edington** Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 6.30  
**Shapwick** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30



### Church Contacts

Vicar:	Rev Rich Tweedy	01458 210260
	vicar@poldenwheel.co.uk	Day off Friday
Parish Administrator:	Sue Ball	01458 210260;
	admin@poldenwheel.co.uk	Office hours: Tues – Thurs 9am – 1pm
PCC Treasurer:	Brian Tilbury	01278 722208
All Saints, Ashcott:	Ross Everson	01458 210608
St. Philip & St James, Burtle:	Alison Everett	01278 723736
St Peter's, Catcott:	Martin Melia	01278 722808
St Edward's, Chilton Polden:	Anne Lush	01278 722408
St George's, Edington:	Rosie Tilbury	01278 722208
St Mary's, Shapwick:	Jan Jones	01458 210804

## Church Services in December 2017

### Sunday 3 December – Advent 1 (Purple)

9.00 *Catcott* Holy Communion (BCP)  
 10.30 *Edington* Informal Worship  
 10.30 *Ashcott* Holy Communion (CW)  
 6.30 *Edington* Praise 'n' Prayer

### Thursday 7 December

6.30 *Shapwick* Singing around the Christmas Tree

### Sunday 10 December – Advent 2 (Purple)

10.30 *Shapwick* Café Church  
 10.30 *Chilton Polden* Holy Communion (BCP)  
 4.00 *Ashcott* Christingle  
 6.30 *Burtle* Carol Service

### Sunday 17 December – Advent 3 (Purple)

10.30 *Catcott* Family Communion (BCP)  
 10.30 *Chilton Polden* Informal Carol Service  
 6.30 *Edington* Nine lessons and carols

### Wednesday 20 December

7.30 *Shapwick* Carols by candlelight

### Friday 22 December

6.30 *Ashcott* Carols

### Sunday 24 December – Christmas Eve (Purple)

5.30 *Edington* Nativity  
 11.30 *Catcott* Midnight Communion Service  
 11.30 *Chilton Polden* Midnight Communion Service

### Monday 25 December – Christmas Day (White)

9.00 *Burtle* Christmas Communion (CW)  
 10.30 *Shapwick* Family Fun Service  
 10.30 *Ashcott* Christmas Communion (CW)

### Sunday 31 December – Advent 2 (Purple)

10.30 *Catcott* Communion with Carols (CW)

### Sunday Readings for December

**3 Dec:** Isaiah 64.1-9; Psalm 80.1-8; 1 Cor. 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-end  
**10 Dec:** Isaiah 40.1-11; Ps. 85.8-end; 2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mark 1.1-8  
**17 Dec:** Isaiah.61.1-4,8-end; Psalm 126; 1 Thess.5.16-24; John 1.6-8, 19-28  
**24 & 25 Dec:** *Either* Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 98; Heb.1.1-4(5-12); John 1.1-14  
*or* Isaiah 9.2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 3.4-7; Luke 2.1-14(15-20)  
**31 Dec:** Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21

### Midweek Holy Communions

Wednesday Dec 20.  
 Edington (in the School Room) 10:30 *Preceded by coffee at 10am.*

Thursdays Dec 7 and 21  
 Ashcott, 10.00am.

*All are welcome.*