



Winter 2024

Churches Together in Kingswood

Christingle

**Sunday 1st Dec
6pm St Mary's**

Supporting the work of the children's society. Please bring any collection boxes handed out at school.

Join us for hot chocolate first at 5:40



Gift Service

**Sunday 8th Dec
10:30am Congregational Church**

Please buy a gift suitable for a child and bring it **unwrapped**, so that parents being supported by the food bank can choose a gift for their children.



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR **STROUD DISTRICT FOODBANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
Advent Sunday 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Christmas Eve 24						

Reverse Advent Calendars

Collect a box from the porch at St Mary's from 1st Dec. Then just add an item for **Stroud District Foodbank** every day, and bring it all back to St Mary's on Christmas Eve.

Carol Services

Sunday 22nd Dec

**Congregational Church at 10:30
St Mary's Church at 6:00pm**

Enjoy traditional carols and readings in our village churches, followed by refreshments.



Carols on The Chipping

Monday 23 Dec 6pm
Collecting for Stroud District Food Bank



Christmas Eve Crib Service

6pm St Mary's

The start of our Christmas story in verse and song specially for children.



Christmas Day Family Services

**10:00 Congregational
10.30 St Mary's**

Greet your friends and neighbours as we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus.



Epiphany Crib Service

**Sunday 5th Jan
6pm St Mary's**

Our story in verse and song resumes as the kings arrive...



Join us for hot chocolate first at 5:40



**Saturday 11th Jan
10:00
Lower School Room**

A morning of fun for pre-school and primary school aged children with crafts, stories and song.

Candlemas

**Sunday 2nd Feb
6pm St Mary's**

The Christmas season ends with lots of candles as we share the story of Jesus being taken to the temple just 40 days after his birth.

Join us for hot chocolate first at 5:40





“What can I say about Christmas that hasn’t been said before?”

I wondered. And then it occurred to me that that, in fact, is what the first Christmas was. It was the saying something that hadn’t been said before... it was the Word of God coming into the world in a new way for the first time. “The Word became flesh”. We experience words through our ears and our minds, but we experience flesh with all our senses. Indeed, our eyes, mouth, nose, tongue, fingertips as well as our ears are part of our flesh. Even our emotions are bound up with our flesh... when we are happy, we feel lightheaded, when we are sad, it strikes us as physical pain. Jesus, God’s Word made Flesh, engages with us at every level of human experience.



Our Christmas services engage the senses and the emotions. They provide us with ways to draw near to God in many different ways, and remind us that He in turn draws near to us in many different ways. Perhaps too often in our services, we restrict ourselves too much just to words... and perhaps that is why they often fail to engage people as fully as do our Christmas services. As one wag once put it, “The Word became flesh... and the church has spent most of the time since trying to turn that flesh back into word”.

Perhaps we need to think about ways to change that during the rest of the year. But in the meantime, we are already quite good at doing it at Christmas! So come along and enjoy what is on offer in our churches this Christmas... and let’s work together to find ways that help us to engage with God in all his fullness the rest of the year round.

Christmas Colouring



Christmas Wordsearch

F	D	O	N	K	E	Y	E	S	A	H	O	Z	J	Y	U
T	R	B	A	B	Y	Y	S	T	A	B	L	E	O	V	N
U	S	A	Y	C	A	E	S	A	R	H	G	N	S	P	O
Y	P	N	N	O	R	I	N	R	Y	F	O	N	E	A	J
Y	J	G	C	K	M	M	I	A	L	P	L	A	P	W	E
S	E	E	R	D	I	Y	C	S	R	F	D	V	H	T	S
H	B	L	I	Y	J	N	R	I	K	M	A	R	Y	J	U
E	C	S	B	A	W	T	C	R	R	T	U	K	S	D	S
P	K	F	W	O	O	R	H	E	H	N	Y	S	D	E	D
H	I	C	A	T	T	L	E	T	N	U	W	O	I	L	A
E	N	R	A	S	O	P	E	D	Y	S	H	E	R	O	D
R	G	Y	D	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	E	R	D
D	S	C	A	R	O	L	S	W	E	H	L	P	A	P	G
S	J	D	F	O	K	N	I	G	A	I	V	K	P	S	T
C	E	N	S	U	S	N	P	E	P	I	P	H	A	N	Y
I	G	S	T	H	W	E	A	F	W	Y	S	T	A	R	Q

ANGEL
BABY
BETHLEHEM
CAESAR
CAROLS
CATTLE
CENSUS

CRIB
DONKEY
EPIPHANY
FRANKINCENSE
GOLD
HEROD
JESUS

JOSEPH
KINGS
MARY
MYRRH
SHEPHERDS
STABLE
STAR