

**DECEMBER 2025**

**75p**



# CONTACT



Parish of Hythe



**Matthew 1:23:**

**"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)"**

# SUNDAYS AT ST JOHN'S

**YOUR CHURCH,  
YOU'RE WELCOME**

9:30am

**BUBBLE CHURCH**

10:15am  
Morning Worship

11:15am  
Holy  
Communion

5:30pm  
2nd Sunday of the month  
Evensong  
(British Summer Time only)



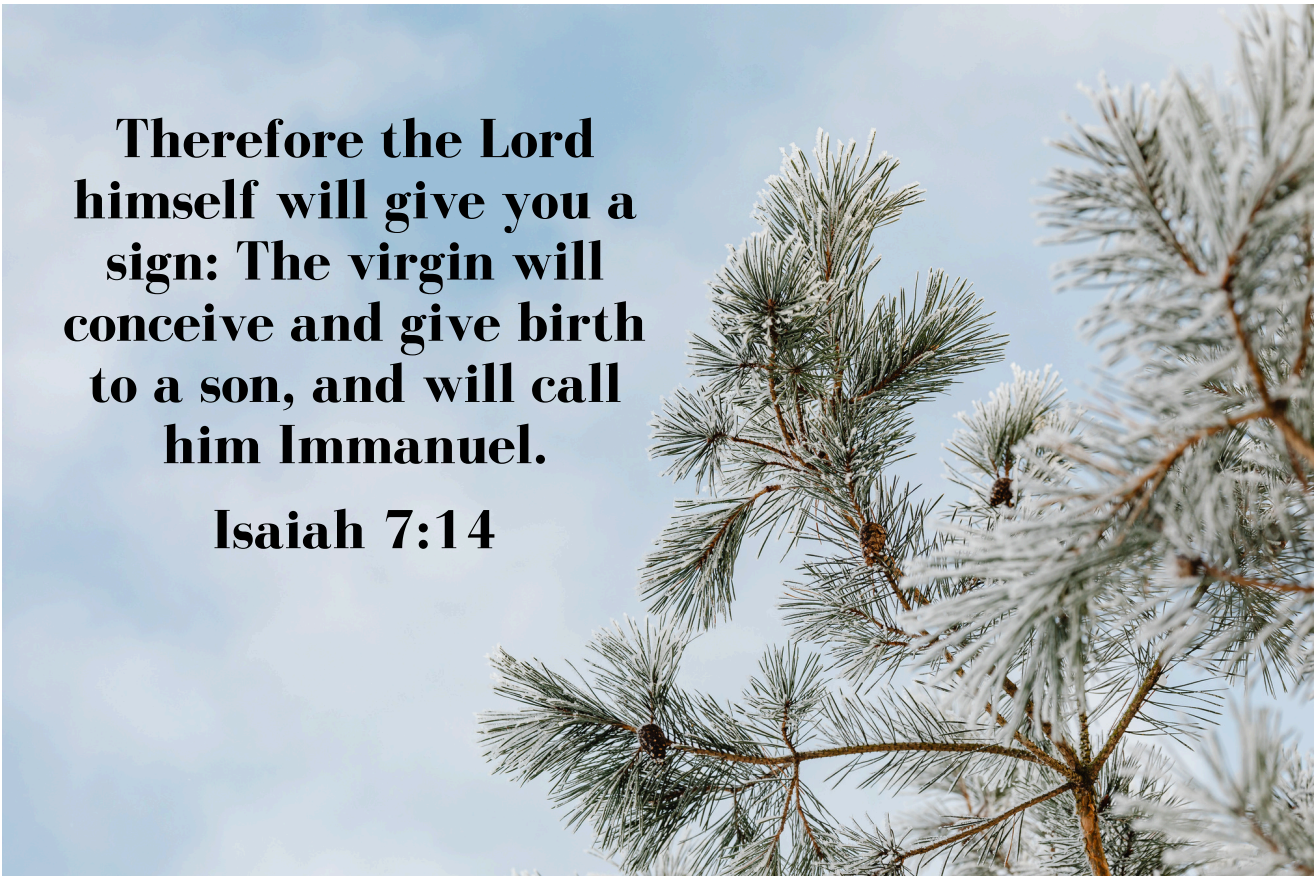
Some of our services are live-streamed to Zoom;  
If you would like to join us online, please contact the Parish Office,  
and we will send you the link! [office@stjohnshythe.org](mailto:office@stjohnshythe.org)



Parish of Hythe

# ***DECEMBER 2025***

## ***Notices and Diary Dates***



**Therefore the Lord  
himself will give you a  
sign: The virgin will  
conceive and give birth  
to a son, and will call  
him Immanuel.**

**Isaiah 7:14**

Welcome to our December notices and diary dates.

If you have a notice to be included in future months, please email [office@stjohnshythe.org](mailto:office@stjohnshythe.org)

In order to help us save on our printing costs, if you don't already receive this by email and would like to, please email [office@stjohnshythe.org](mailto:office@stjohnshythe.org)

## **Sundays in December**

### **Sunday 7th December**

9:30am Bubble Church at St John's

10:15am Morning Worship at St John's

11:15am Holy Communion at St John's

4:00pm Christingle Service at St John's

### **Sunday 14th December**

9:30am Bubble Church at St John's

10:15am Morning Worship at St John's

11:15am Holy Communion at St John's

5:30pm Festival of Carols at St John's

### **Sunday 21st December**

9:30am Bubble Church at St John's

10:15am Morning Worship at St John's

11:15am Holy Communion at St John's

4:00pm Family Carol Service at St John's

### **Sunday 28th December**

9:30am Bubble Church at St John's

10:15am Morning Worship at St John's

11:15am Holy Communion at St John's

## **Other Services and Events in December**

**Every Wednesday** at 10:30am - Midweek Communion at St John's (except Christmas Eve)

### **Friday 5th December**

3:30pm Messy Church at St Anne's

### **Saturday 6th December**

10:00-11:00am Who Let the Dads Out? in St John's Hall

### **Thursday 11th December**

10:30am Mothers' Union Carol Service at St John's

### **Wednesday 24th December**

2:00-3:30pm Crafts and Dress-up Nativity at St John's

5:30pm Christmas Eve Communion Service at St Anne's

11:15pm Midnight Communion Service at John's

### **Sunday 25th December**

10:00am Christmas Morning Family Communion at St John's

## **Weekly Activities**

### **Mondays**

1:00pm Little Footprints Baby Group at St Anne's (except 29<sup>th</sup> December)

### **Tuesdays**

9:30am Coffee Shop in St John's Hall (until 16<sup>th</sup> December)

10:00am Coffee Morning at St John's (except 30<sup>th</sup> December)

### **Wednesdays**

12:00pm Lunch Club in St John's Hall (until 17<sup>th</sup> December)

### **Thursdays**

1:00pm Toddler-Winks Toddler Group at St Anne's (term-time only)

### **Fridays**

6:00pm Youth Club in St John's Hall (term-time only)

### **Saturdays**

10:00am Coffee Morning at St John's (except 27<sup>th</sup> December)

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to your December edition of The Parish of Hythe, 'CONTACT' magazine.

Do you have a question, query, quandary that you would like help with? Spiritual, practical or otherwise? Why not email [contact@stjohnshythe.org](mailto:contact@stjohnshythe.org) by the 15th of the month, and we'll see if we can come up with an answer to your Q!!

*Reverend Lee*

## GIVING



Giving is part of our worship of God, and a way of showing commitment to His ministry in the Parish. If you would like to contribute to the work of our Parish, please use the QR code on this page to find out how, or visit [parishgiving.org.uk](http://parishgiving.org.uk) to set up regular giving.

In Church, we also have a card machine which is easy to use and saves us handling cash. Please contact the Parish Office for further information or if you require help with this.'



## VICARS LETTER

As I write this, we are exactly half-way through November, and Advent is not creeping up on us anymore, it's in full sprint! The new organ is in pieces in the sanctuary, Christmas trees and associated rotas for opening the church are beginning to appear, and 'Black Friday', with its consumerist approach to the season has just gone by. Thoughts turn to Christingles, carol services, candles..... and the countdown begins. But the countdown to what?

How will you spend this advent? There are many ways: advent calendars of all shapes, sizes and budgets! Advent candles to light and take some time in prayer and reflection! Advent apps from the Church of England any many others! And of course the mass planning of feasts and festivities. Its a busy season, thats for sure....but don't forget who and what the season is all about....Emmanuel, God with us!

So celebrate Him this Christmas. Remember the reason for the season. And may peace rain on your household as you gather.

*Reverend Lee Davies, Vicar*

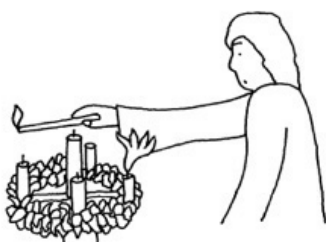
### ADVENT HAZARDS



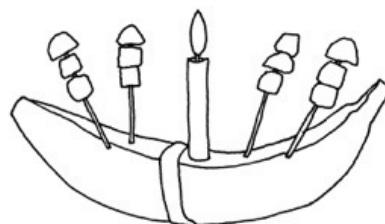
TABLES BUCKLING UNDER SHEER  
WEIGHT OF MINCE PIES



UNREST OVER THE CORRECT WEEK  
TO LIGHT THE PINK CANDLE



ADVENT WREATH FIRES



SUPERMARKETS RUNNING OUT  
OF ORANGES

Cartoonchurch.com

## PRAYER & DISCIPLESHIP

### **The Church of England's Advent and Christmas theme for 2025 revolves round a single word: Joy!**

Our churches and cathedrals will - as always - be seeking to make the most of the opportunity December brings to share The Joy of Christmas with their communities.



**The great joy of Christmas, of course, is the good news the angel declared to the shepherds - the news of Jesus' birth as Emmanuel (God With Us).**

To help congregations to prepare for the joy of Christmas, we have a unique Advent resource exploring the symbolism behind the hymn 'O Come Emmanuel'.

With daily reflections by Jane Williams, Chris Russell, Esther Prior, Philip North, Muthuraj Swamy, Tanya Marlow and David Hoyle. The reflections will appear on the [Everyday Faith app](#) (available from the app store, or Church of England Website) from 1 to 24 December, accompanied by a range of online music, artwork and creative suggestions for local use.

For more than a thousand years, Christians have prepared for the nativity of Christ with the Advent Antiphons – an ancient and rich tapestry of biblical titles for Christ – on which the much-loved hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel is based.

Find out more about the Church of England's Advent series by visiting <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/advent-and-christmas-theme-joy-christmas>

## SCRATCH!

We will once again be a collection point for this much needed charity!

There will be a collection trolley on Sundays in Church and midweek, in the hall entrance.

Thank you in advance for your generous donations!

## Angels!

Thank you to everyone who's been involved in making angels this year. We have so many!!

Please can you ensure that all angels are with Sue Blomley or in the Parish Office by the end of November, so that we can start distributing them?

*Sue Blomley*

**CHRISTMAS COMPLETE 2025**

Your donations will help to provide parcels of toys and gifts to local families, where children might otherwise go without presents this Christmas

We need donations of: -

- Books
- Games / Puzzles
- Soft Toys
- Colouring books, pens, stationery
- Toiletries & other teenage gifts
- Age relevant toys
- Sweets & Chocolate
- Boxes
- Wrapping paper & tape
- Finance

For further information and to find out about volunteering, please visit our website - [www.scratchcharity.co.uk](http://www.scratchcharity.co.uk)  
Email - [cc@scratchcharity.co.uk](mailto:cc@scratchcharity.co.uk)  
Tel: 023 8077 3132

Please scan above to visit our Amazon wish lists or to make a financial donation

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

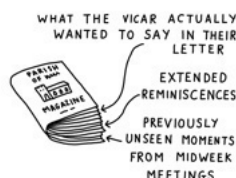
THE BENEFITS



USE OF THE SECRET MEMBERS-ONLY LOUNGE



PREVIEWS OF SERMONS THE NIGHT BEFORE RELEASE



A SPECIAL BUMPER EDITION OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE



A 'GET OUT OF A ROTA FREE' CARD



PRIORITY LANE AT AFTER-SERVICE COFFEE



A BADGE, AND SOME STICKERS

CartoonChurch.com

## SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY REFLECTION

Sunday 16th November was safeguarding Sunday! Bishop Rhiannon, the Bishop of Southampton wrote the following reflection, to help us think about our approach to safeguarding. For further information on safeguarding in the parish, please visit <https://www.stjohnshythe.org/parish-of-hythe/safeguarding/>

### A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK FROM +RHIANNON

As we approach Safeguarding Sunday (November 16<sup>th</sup>) in our churches I'd like to share with you a beautiful prayer by the wonderful poet, Gerard Kelly. It is a prayer I'm praying over all those that read this. It describes a sense of deep safety in God which He intends for all and which we, his servants, are called to foster everywhere.

In the centre of your storm  
may you discover  
what it is to be still;  
still loved  
still known  
still held  
still at peace,  
though the pieces  
fall around you.  
When you feel  
at your most powerless  
may his presence  
fall like tears.  
May it settle all around you.  
May it soften and surround you,  
his comfort a cocoon for you,  
his pulse the pace you hold to,  
his breath the only sound  
you need to hear.  
When the harshest howl of pain  
you've ever known

erupts within you,  
may it meet  
the gentle strength  
of his embrace.  
May you know  
when fear enfolds you  
that he holds you.  
May you sense  
when darkness falls  
he sees it all.  
On the toughest trail  
you've travelled  
may you taste  
the abundance  
of his beauty,  
the wideness  
of his mercy,  
the true and  
tender tone  
of his great love.



## **SPOTLIGHT ON EMILY: BCM & TRAINEE BPP!**

My name is Emily, I'm a children's nurse, and I'm married to our lovely vicar, Lee. We've been married for almost 30 years and have 4 adult children, a daughter in law and a brand new granddaughter. Along with our Romanian rescue dog and 2 guinea pigs all eight of us live in the vicarage- it's a good job it's a big house!

I grew up in Stevenage in a Christian family and some of my earliest memories include attending an Anglican church with my Grandma (who played the organ) as well regularly going to the Quaker Meeting House with my parents.

Although Christianity has been a part of my life through my upbringing, it wasn't until Saltmine Trust came to do a schools mission in my town in 1990 that I realised there is more to faith than attending church every week and just knowing about Jesus. Since then I have actively sought to be a disciple of Jesus through personal prayer, reading my bible and inviting Him to be part of my day to day life.

My journey as a Christian has taken me on some interesting adventures all over the world but it is in the ordinary, mundaneness of life that I find my faith has grown the most.

In 2018 I completed the Bishop's Commission for Mission training in Worship. I had already been involved in leading worship for many years, from being in the choir, in the worship band, leading the prayers or being the service leader. The BCM training gave me so much more knowledge, skills and resources to equip me for the role I was playing in church.

In St John's I use these skills as part of the wonderful Bubble Church team. I especially love leading the services as it is such a joy to see all the young families having fun as they worship God and grow in their faith.

When Lee introduced the new service patterns last year, this made room for a new contemporary service to begin. I was really excited to be able to use my creative skills to re-imagine a church service



and help make faith more accessible to new people. I remember saying to Lee 'I'll come up with the ideas around the bible reading and you can do the talk.' I saw it as 'playing to our strengths.'

However, as is often the way, God had other plans! Sadly Lee became ill and had to take several months off work. In his absence many of us in the congregation took a step up. For me this meant reluctantly agreeing to lead the 10:15 service without Lee and doing the talk as well.

I have always said that I am not a preacher, or someone who delivers sermons and so it wasn't until August 2024, when I led the 10:15 service that I preached for the first time. I felt so far out of my comfort zone! I still do every time I do the talk. But at the same time I feel a peace, God's peace that passes all understanding. A pastor of ours many years ago said 'God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called.'

I am currently doing the Bishop's Permission to Preach (BPP) training, and look forward to learning more as I engage with this training.

Maybe God is calling you to 'step outside your comfort zone' and give something a try? Why not attend a BCM taster evening at the Diocese or speak to Lee, who will gently encourage and give you opportunities to explore further? *Emily*



# Little Footprints

Inside & Out



Are you expecting? Just welcomed a new baby to your family?  
We have the group for you!

Monday's 13:00 - 14:30  
(Except Bank Holidays)

St Anne's Community Centre,  
Warry's Close, Butts Ash, SO45 3QR

Story Time • Arts & Crafts • Scales • Refreshments

Our FREE 2<sup>nd</sup> hand shop • Support • Toys and Books

Song Time • Expecting mums welcome • Themed Talks



**This group is run by the parish of Hythe & is donations only.  
Week by week basis, No booking needed.**

Chris McMahon | Children's and Families Pastor | 02380 844336 | [families@stjohnshythe.org](mailto:families@stjohnshythe.org)

# TODDLIWINKS



So at Toddliwinks we have been having fun and thinking about Remembrance and making Poppy Pictures and started making decorations for our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival.

Chris



## MESSY CHURCH

At Messy Church our theme was 'Compassion: being kind to all people'! We thought about how it felt to have plenty, and how can we share, how else we can be generous and kind, how can we look out for the most vulnerable.

We used different seeds to decorate a pumpkin, and thought about the harvest and collecting seeds to plant a different time, thanked God for the harvest. We counted 320 pumpkin seeds from one pumpkin, and thought about how each of us can plant many seeds of faith, love and kindness in the way we live our lives. We created prayer trees with things we are thankful for, decorated a collection tin so we can collect at home for a chosen charity ie: Waterside Foodbank and made bracelets to give to someone else.





## LITTLE FOOTPRINTS INSIDE & OUT

At Little Footprints, we have been having fun together, and starting to make decorations for our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival.



## **LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS!**

On the Saturday before halloween, a team of volunteers from our church community gathered outside St John's and welcomed all the families and children who were taking part in the villages halloween trail. We had over 500 children & families visit us, received a gift bag contained a glow stick, a sweet and some information on services coming up. We had bubbles blowing, lights shining and christian music being played to create a lovely atmosphere!

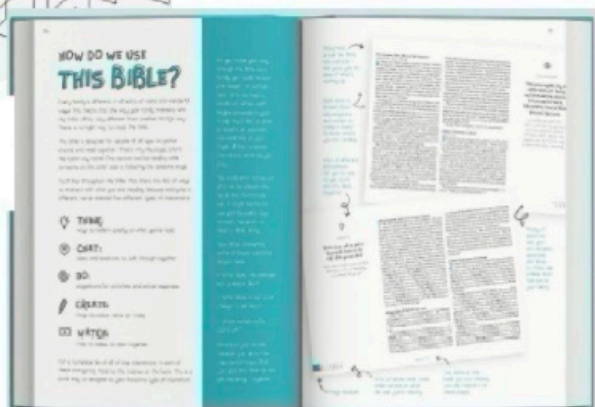
Thank you to everyone who helped stuff bags, youth club for carving our pumpkins and Kevin & Wendy for the loan of the lights.



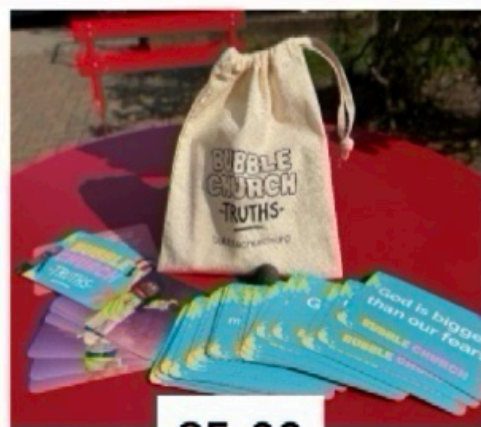
## APPEAL: BIBLES FOR BUBBLE CHURCH FAMILIES



£30.00



Would you be able to sponsor a new family in St John's & St Anne's to help them continue their faith journey?



£5.00

We are thrilled to have baptised children from two Bubble Church families, this year and have more children and adults coming forward for Baptism & Confirmation who are part of our fellowship.


**Good News Family Bible** - We have presented bibles to these families and will be offering them a chance to join together and explore them as a family with other families.

**Bubble Church Truth Cards** - a new resource to equip parents and children to keep growing in their faith at home, especially where they might be beginning a journey of faith together.

The idea is simple: a pack of cards in a drawstring bag that contain simple truths from God's amazing true story, the Bible, along with Bible verses that go with each of them. The truths will be familiar to Bubble Church families, as most are taken from the liturgy and songs.

If you are interested in sponsoring a family with either of these gifts please talk to Chris McMahon, Children's & Families Pastor, who can explain more how it all works.

Tel: 02380844336 Email: [families@stjohnshythe.org](mailto:families@stjohnshythe.org)




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## **New Forest Martial Arts**

### **Classes:**

#### **KARATE**

Mon 4.30pm Juniors  
Applemore Health & Leisure

Tues 4.10pm Tots 3 - 6 yrs  
Applemore scout Hall

Weds 6.30pm Mixed class  
Bartley Jnr School

Sat 10am beginners/mixed  
Applemore Scout Hall

#### **JIU JITSU**

Tues Mixed 6.30pm  
St Johns Hall Hythe

Thurs Mixed/Adv 6.20pm  
Marchwood Scout Hall

#### **TAI CHI**

Mon Colbury Memorial Hall 09.30

Tues: Royal British Legion Bartley 09.30

Tues Dibden Purieu Scout Hall 09.30

Fri Dibden Purieu Scout hall 09.30

All enquiries please to:  
Sensei Crawford 6th Dan  
07902 929 400

[sensei@newforestmartialarts.co.uk](mailto:sensei@newforestmartialarts.co.uk)  
[www.newforestmartialarts.co.uk](http://www.newforestmartialarts.co.uk)



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These are fun filled sessions with plenty of variety and practical self-defence

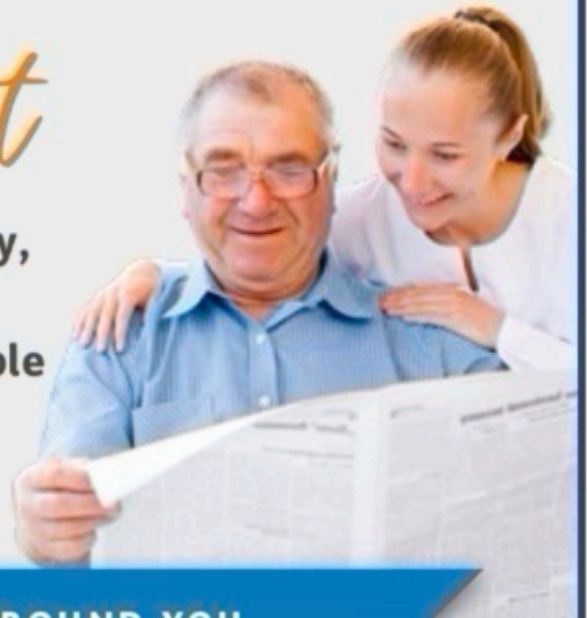
**One-one lessons**  
Open to any student  
Limited spaces available  
Please apply to Sensei  
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## WHO'S WHO?



Reverend Lee Davies, Vicar

07809682085

[vicar@stjohnshythe.org](mailto:vicar@stjohnshythe.org)

Mr Craig Fowkes, Church Warden & PCC Secretary

075462187

[craigfowkes@aol.co.uk](mailto:craigfowkes@aol.co.uk)



Mrs Sue Blomley, Licensed Lay Minister

023 80849482

[sue.blomley@gmail.com](mailto:sue.blomley@gmail.com)



Reverend Edgar Ruddock, Retired Priest



Mrs Chris McMahon, Childrens & Families Pastor

023 80844336

[families@stjohnshythe.org](mailto:families@stjohnshythe.org)



Mrs Hannah Rowlandson

023 8084436

[office@stjohnshythe.org](mailto:office@stjohnshythe.org)



# Steve's Piano Tuning and Repairs

**Steve Robson**

**19 Depden Gardens,**

**Dibden Purlieu**

**S045 4RX**

**Tel: 07476 815497**

**Mob: 07905 451131**



Pick of the Archives #83

Pick of the Archives #74



Derek's new year's resolution to have an early morning quiet time every day was going well!

©Andy Robb

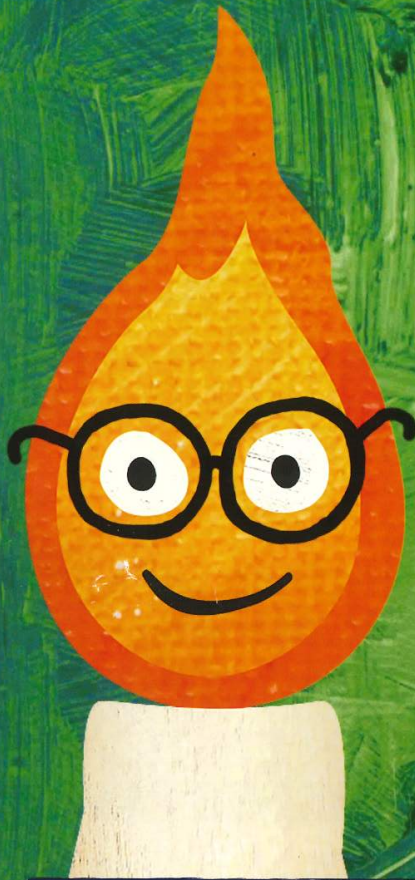


Let the Christmas service marathon begin!

©Andy Robb



**The  
Children's  
Society**



# Let's come together to **celebrate** **Christingle.**

Christingle is a great way for communities everywhere to get together this Christmas to catch up, make some special memories, and have fun.

**Come and join us!**

**St John's Church, Hythe**  
**Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**4pm**  
**Everyone is welcome!**

**christingle.org**

MCB479e/0525\_XTC008\_24 © The Children's Society 2025. Charity Registration No. 221124.

Scan the  
QR code  
to find  
out more.



**FESTIVAL OF CAROLS**



**SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

5:30pm  
St John's Church, Hythe

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND **JOY**

**EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE**



**SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

5:30pm  
St John's Church, Hythe

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND **JOY**

**FAMILY CAROL SERVICE**



**SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER**

4:00pm  
St John's Church, Hythe

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND **JOY**


**MIDNIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE**



**WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

11:15pm  
St John's Church, Hythe

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND **JOY**



# BUBBLE CHURCH

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
9:30am Bubble Church Christingle



Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
9:30am Angel Service

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December  
9:30am A very special baby

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December  
2:00-3:30pm Christmas Crafts and  
Dress-up Nativity




Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December  
9:30am A message for the wise men



# BUBBLE CHURCH

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS  
AND DRESS-UP  
NATIVITY



*Christmas Eve  
2:00-3:30pm  
St John's Church*

# CHRISTMAS DAY



**THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup>  
DECEMBER**

**10:00am**  
**St John's Church, Hythe**



**THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**

**JOY**

## **HYTHE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2025**

From Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November to Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, St John's Church will be transformed into a magical forest of Christmas trees for the annual Christmas Tree Festival.

Visitors to the festival can admire a stunning display of Christmas trees, each uniquely decorated by residents, families, schools, businesses, groups, and local organisations. Additionally, the church's own Remembrance Tree will be on display, providing a special space for reflection.

Father Christmas will make special appearances on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, and again on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December. To book a visit to Santa's Grotto, please see the booking details provided: <https://hythe2000.org/christmas-tree-festival-2/>

The festival provides various fun activities for all ages.

Refreshments will be served throughout the event, and visitors can participate in an all-age scavenger hunt. There will also be several contests, including drawings for a festive hamper, a Christmas cake, a sweet hamper, and more. Guests are encouraged to vote for their favourite tree designs.

Throughout the festival, attendees can place bids on a tree or wreath by completing a silent auction form. At the end of the event, the winning bidders will be notified, and trees and wreaths can be collected from 11th December.

If you would like to donate a tree or a wreath. If you have a spare couple of hours, we also invite you to consider volunteering at the festival. Please get in touch by emailing [hythe2000@gmail.com](mailto:hythe2000@gmail.com) or calling 079464 23260.



# CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, HYTHE, SO45 6BP

SATURDAY 22nd NOV —SATURDAY 6TH DEC 2025

Church open daily from 10:00 - 5:00 **FREE!**

## *Visit Father Christmas*

SATURDAY 22nd NOV and SATURDAY 6TH DEC 2025

Limited spaces booking essential.

Book your visit

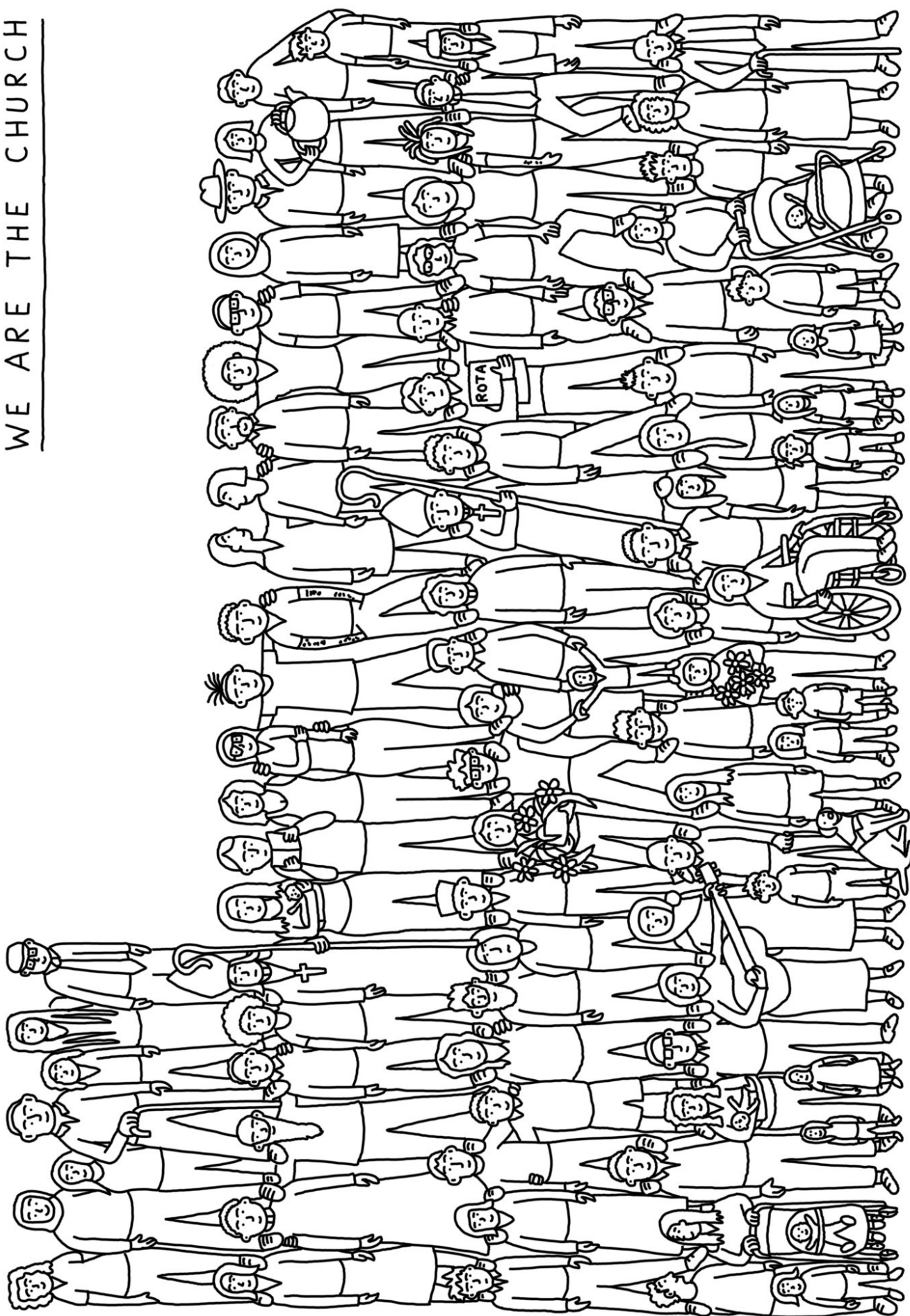
[www.hythe2000.org](http://www.hythe2000.org)

Charity 1095039

Money raised for Hythe 2000 Charitable Trust & St John's Church.

Hythe 2000 supports Smarties Carer &, Toddler Group, IT 4 All  
and Community projects

# WE ARE THE CHURCH



## MOTHERS' UNION

Many thanks to all who contributed to our 'pre-Advent' celebration when we enjoyed Jan D's musical quiz, and a shared tea. Jan E manned the tea pot, and many hands were busy in serving, washing up, and clearing away. Donations were collected for the Women's Refuge.

There will be no official meeting in December due to hosting the Mothers' Union Deanery Carol Service on Thursday December 11th at 10:30am at St John's Church. Please come if you can. All are very welcome.

Our AGM will be held at 2:30pm at St John's Hall on Thursday 8th January. Subscriptions will be paid, and we need speakers for our 2026 meetings, so please come with some ideas. The sales table will be white.

Congratulations to Veronica on training for, and obtaining, her Bishop's for Mission training.

Wishing everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

*Sue Harvey*

*Jane Smith*

## HARVEST FOODBANK COLLECTION



Amongst a backdrop of unpacking, sorting, and flatpack assembling we welcomed the Vicar of St John's Hythe today, who dropped by with a fantastic Harvest donation.

We gave Lee a brief tour of the new premises which we are excited to share with you all once the paint is dry, the building dust settled, and last bits are installed and we are ready to go!

Thank you to all who supported the St John's Harvest collection, it's very much appreciated!

*Waterside Foodbank*

# WATERSIDE BEREAVEMENT GROUP

St John's Church Hall, Hythe

First Wednesday of every month,  
starting 5th November 2025,  
1:45–3:00pm

The Waterside Bereavement Group welcomes anyone who has experienced loss — whether of a family member, friend, or much-loved pet. It's a gentle, supportive space to talk, connect, and build new friendships with others in your community who share similar experiences.

Tea and coffee will be provided.

For any queries, please contact  
Waterside Funeral Home  
02380 840202  
[waterside@funeralpartners.co.uk](mailto:waterside@funeralpartners.co.uk)



games

Our Next



crafts



Christmas

Friday 28th November  
at St John's Church, Hythe  
or

Friday 5th December at  
St Anne's Church, Butts Ash

3.30pm till 5.00pm



a hot  
meal



donations  
only



stories

For more information contact Chris  
email: [families@stjohnshythe.org](mailto:families@stjohnshythe.org)  
or call: 02380 844336

