



The Advent & Christmas Season

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as we prepare to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation, and also look ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. Advent falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas.

The Moravian custom of Christingle has been revived in recent years with the encouragement of the Children's Society, and our service takes place on 8th December. The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (*Gaudete* or 'Rose Sunday', and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations.

The celebration of Christ's incarnation at Christmas is, with Easter, one of the two central points of the Christian year. We wonder at the mystery of God's dwelling among us in the fullness of humanity, foretold by the prophets and born of Mary. Christmas is however much more than simply the celebration of Jesus' birth, as we are reminded, amid the celebrations, of the profound truth of the Word made flesh. In the complex times we face, this deeper understanding provides comfort alongside the joy of the season.

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The Christmas crib service which we celebrate on Christmas Eve afternoon originated with St Francis of Assisi in the 13th century. Christmas carols were a medieval tradition, notably developed from the end of the nineteenth century. We have an informal Carol service in the church garden at 6pm on the 19th December and a traditional service of Lessons and Carols on 22nd December.

The Christmas season is often celebrated for twelve days, ending with the story of the wise men visiting Jesus at the Epiphany. However we continue to celebrate in other ways until Candlemas on 2nd February. We remember St Stephen (26th), the first Christian martyr, St John (27th), and the Holy Innocents (28th), drawing our attention to the plight of so many children who suffer in our world just as those who suffered at the hand of Herod as he sought to murder Jesus as an infant.

In January we also remember the conversion of St Paul, the crucial moment leading to him being the apostle to the non-Jewish world. Finally between 18th-25th January we celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, as we come together with fellow Christians here in Barnes and around the world, remembering Jesus' call for us to be united in him.

Advent Sunday

1st December 2024


**8am Holy Communion
(BCP)**

**10am All Together
Advent Parish Eucharist**


**6pm Advent Carols
at St Michael's & All Angels**



CHURCHES TOGETHER in BARNES
SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS



ADVENT CAROLS
Sunday 1st December 6.00pm



**A service of seasonal anthems,
poetry, hymns and readings
followed by refreshments**

The Wisdom of Benedict

*Spiritual
exercises for
modern life*

*10.30 - 11.30am
Melvill Room*

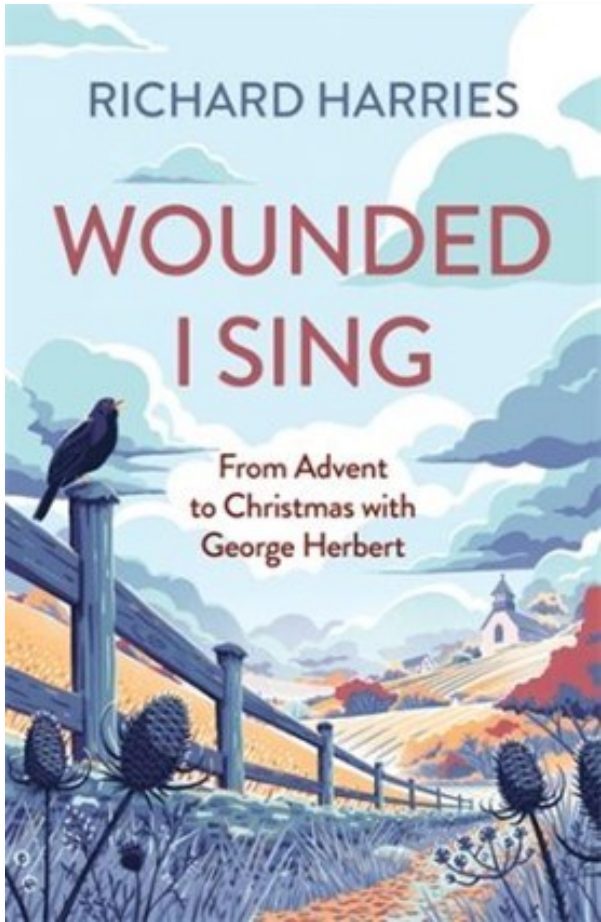
*14th & 28th
November*

*5th & 12th
December*

*Drop in
sessions*

with Rev'd James Marston

Advent & Christmas



Advent, like Lent, is a time of preparation. Many Christians like to deepen their Christian experience through daily reading, reflection and prayer. To this end, Bishop Richard Harries, has produced

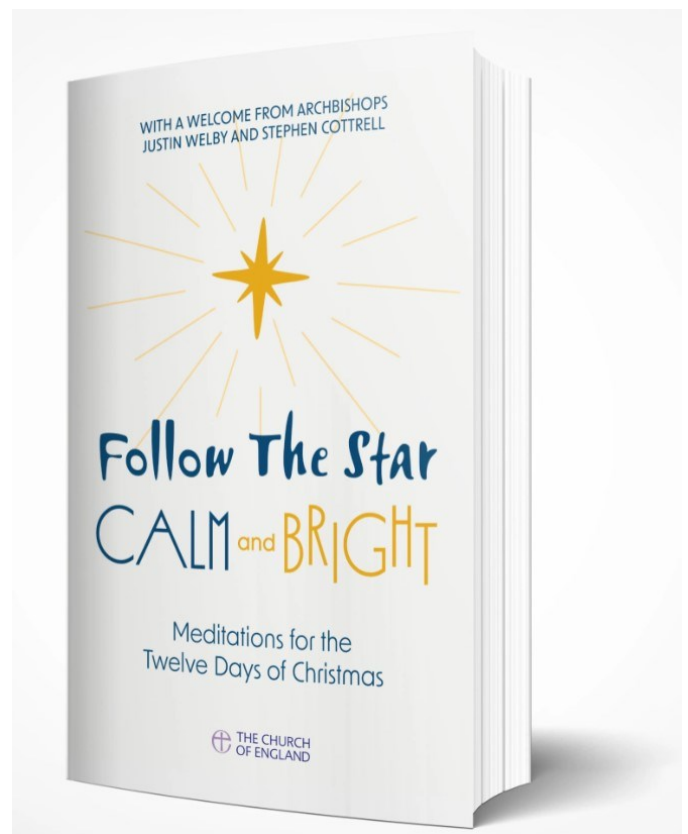
Wounded I Sing: Advent to Christmas with George Herbert

a poem a day with his reflections. Available at Barnes Bookshop and on Amazon.

Follow the Star Booklet

December can feel like chaos – full of social events, services, Christmas presents to buy, never-ending to-do lists and the pressure to create the perfect Christmas. But in the midst of this chaos, churches offer an opportunity to find peace. Taking inspiration from the world-famous carol ‘Silent Night’, it invites us to step into the still centre of the Christmas story where ‘All is calm, All is bright’.

There is a meditation for each day from Christmas Eve to the Eve of Epiphany (5 January), with a reflection, challenge and prayer based on a short Bible reading, designed to help us find moments of calm as well as bright joy through the season.



Advent & Christmas



ST MARY'S
BARNES

In the heart of our community

Would you like a haven of peace and a chance to focus on the meaning of Christmas?

Advent

Quiet Afternoon

Saturday
14th December

12.30 to 4.30pm

The quiet afternoon will begin with refreshments & short reflection, with suggestions for individual prayer & reflection in any part of the church or Langton Chapel.



www.stmarybarnes.org



CHRISTINGLE SERVICE SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2024 AT 4PM



Come to this special service as a lovely way of getting ready for Christmas. This year we will have fun making our Christingles, with refreshments, before lighting them in a short informal service. Oranges and materials all supplied! The Christingle tradition started in Germany in the 18th century and is now a regular part of Christmas preparations here in England.

   @stmarybarnes

Do join us for this special service

WWW.STMARYBARNES.ORG

Christmas Carol Services

Thursday 19th December 6pm

Informal Carol Service outdoors by the crib

Sunday 22nd December 6pm

Traditional Lessons & Carols in church

St Mary's Barnes Christmas Card Shop is now open!

www.stmarybarnes.org/shop/

see link under News menu header on our website



There is a wonderful new linocut Christmas Card design for 2024 by Dermot Trimble, a congregation member. All cards are sold in packs of 10 for £5. Cards will be on sale after the 10am service on Sundays.



CHRISTMAS AT
ST MARY'S
BARNES



Christmas Eve

3pm Crib Service

11pm Midnight Eucharist with Carols

Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Christmas Eucharist with Carols

11.30am All Age Informal Service with Carols

No Evensong

Sunday 29th December

First of Christmas

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Parish Eucharist

No Evensong

Sunday 5th January 2025

Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am All Together Parish Eucharist

6pm Healing & Wholeness

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