



December 2025



The JOY of Christmas

The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people'. (Luke, 2:10-11).

Our next **Teatime Church Service** takes place at the church from 4pm – 5:15pm on Sunday 7th December and it will be all about the JOY of Christmas. The great joy of Christmas, of course, is the good news of Jesus' birth as Emmanuel (God With Us).

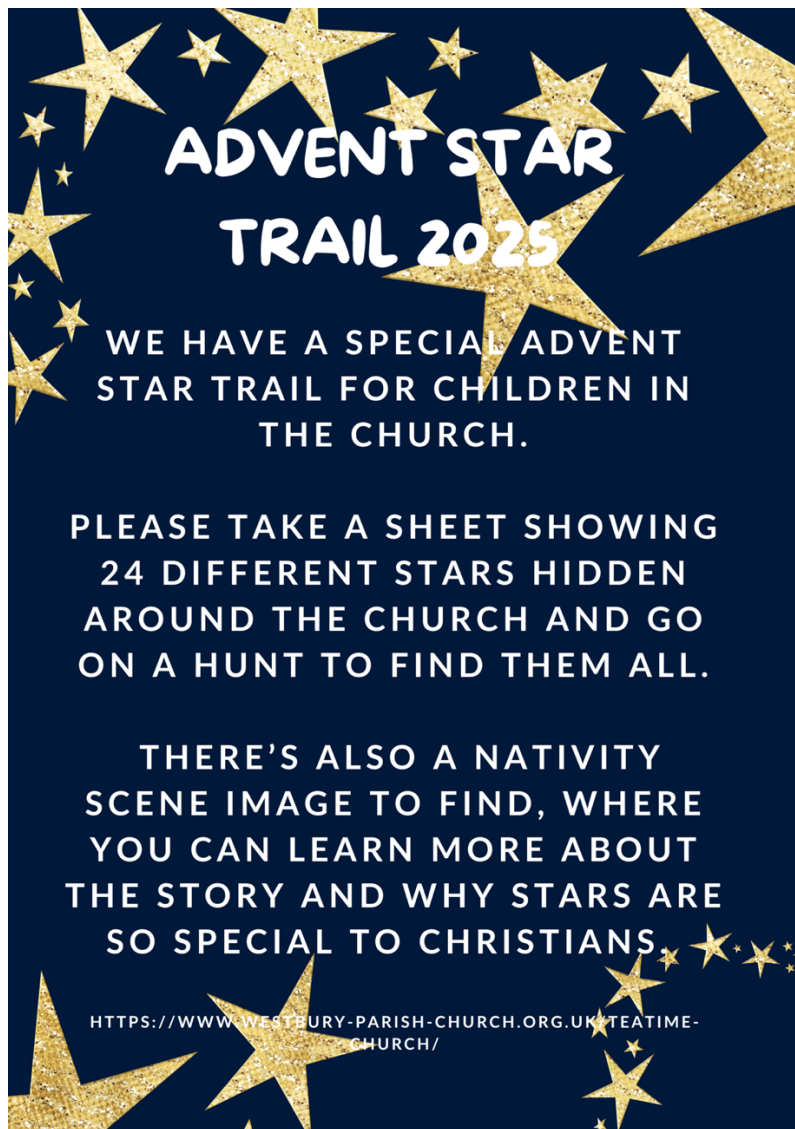
This service will have the focus of stars – decorating hanging stars, church star trail, star biscuit decorating (all ingredients will be displayed), digging for stars, creating JOY posters, star lights, Nativity craft and star-based songs accompanied by live music... and remembering the special star that led the wise men to the new baby Jesus and the great joy that came with his arrival.



The Church of England has weekly activity and colouring sheets to complete during each Sunday of Advent, based on the Joy of Christmas. Please find them at <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2025-09/joy-weekly-advent-activity-and-colouring-sheets-final.pdf>

Special All-Age Service: Sunday 21st December at 10am

Please join us on Sunday 21st December at 10am for our **Special Christmas All-Age Service** led by the children from Sunday Club and Teatime Church. Colouring sheets and toys will be available at the back of the church for younger children and older children are encouraged to participate as much as possible. Please do join us for festive music and a special children's presentation.



Please visit <https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/advent-christmas/> for the complete list of our Advent and Christmas services this year. In December, families and children will particularly enjoy our **Christingle Service** on Sunday 14th December, our **Special All-Age Family Service** on Sunday 21st December and the lovely **Crib Service** on Christmas Eve. In addition, why not come on our Advent Star Trail from Monday 1st, and see if you can find the 24 stars hidden around the church, guiding us to Christmas Day!

The Christmas Story



The Christmas Story can be found in the Bible in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew: Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 2: 1-12

Christmas is a Christian holy day that marks the birth of Jesus, the Son of God. Advent is the period just before Christmas Day. It means 'coming' and is all about preparing for Christmas Day. Christmas Day takes place each year on 25th December.

Christmas Day celebrates when Jesus was born to a woman called Mary who was engaged to Joseph, a carpenter, in the town of Nazareth in Galilee. Mary was visited by an angel who told her that she would give birth to a baby called Jesus. Jesus was born in Bethlehem because Joseph and Mary had travelled there to take part in a census (where information about people is collected) which the Roman rulers had ordered.

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, the local inn was full with people returning for the census. The innkeeper let them stay in his stable for animals. It was here that Mary gave birth to Jesus.



Jesus was visited by three Wise Men from the East who had followed a special star to Bethlehem (this is known as the Epiphany – when Jesus was 'revealed' to the world, which we will be thinking about more at Teatime Church in January). The star they followed was no ordinary star, comet, planet or eclipse. The Wise Men were experts in astronomy and had often studied the night sky. This star was exceptional, and God had provided it. It behaved as no other star had and led the Wise Men to Jesus.

The Wise Men presented Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, which each represented something about Jesus. Gold was the symbol of royalty – a gift for a king, frankincense was the symbol of prayer – a gift for a priest, and myrrh was a burial ointment – a gift for one who would die.



An angel also guided some poor shepherds to Jesus. The fact that Jesus was visited by rich, wise men; poor, humble shepherds; and both Jews and non-Jews, shows that Jesus came for *all* people of *all* backgrounds.



Christians believe that God sent Jesus to live as a human being in order to save humanity from the consequences of its sins – the bad things that people had chosen to do which had separated them from God.

Christians also believe that through the death and later resurrection of Jesus on Easter Day, this broken relationship with God was restored.

Christmas Day celebrates the day this amazing baby, Jesus, was born – it's his birthday! Christians believe that God loves the whole world and gave Jesus as a gift to us all. He brought love, hope and joy to the world. Christians model themselves on the life and teachings of Jesus – Jesus taught people to love God and to love their neighbour.

So we have good reason to celebrate Christmas – Jesus was the greatest Christmas present of them all!



You can click here to access a video about The Christian Story of the First Christmas
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/z7fp382>

Story: The Littlest Star

The tale of Wise Men looking for Jesus



Have you ever looked at the stars in the sky?

How many stars do you think are up there?

This is a story about a special star that God put in the sky a long time ago.

High up in the sky, many years ago, a baby star began to shine.

'That's not much of a light', said the other stars. 'You'll NEVER be as bright as we are!'

The little star was very cross. Of course her light wasn't as bright as theirs – but just wait. She'd show them. She had a very special job to do.

The little star knew that God had made her for a reason. She didn't know what the reason was but she was going to shine as brightly as she could for as long as she was needed.

Meanwhile, down below on the earth some very clever people were watching the skies every night. They were looking for a sign that would show them that a new king was going to be born.

They thought that they might see the sign in the sky.

One night, as they were looking very carefully at all the different stars in the clear, dark sky, they noticed that a new star had appeared. It had a very weak light at first, but it grew brighter and brighter until it was the brightest star in the whole sky.

'Hurrah!' they shouted. 'That must be the sign. Let's go and find the place that it's shining on.'

'I wonder what the new king's home will be like?' said one of the wise men.

'I expect it will be a beautiful palace' answered his friend. 'Let's hurry up and find out.'

'What shall we give him when we get there?' asked another man.

'Let's take a bar of gold,' said Mel, 'because he's going to be a king.'

'I think we should take some frankincense,' said Cas, 'because he's going to be special to God, like a priest.'

'You know,' said Bal, 'I have a feeling that his life is going to be hard and that he might not live very long. I think we should take some myrrh to show that he's going to suffer.'

So they packed up their gifts, loaded their camels and set off on the long journey to look for the new king.

And up in the sky the baby star smiled down on them as she twinkled more brightly than ever.

'I knew God put me here for something special,' she thought to herself as the wise men gazed up into the sky and followed her light to the baby Jesus.

Our monthly prayers

Dear Jesus,
A star showed the wise men how to find you.
Please help us find you every day in our lives.
Amen



May the star of wisdom guide us
when we are troubled;
the star of kindness guide us
when we are hurting;
the star of friendship guide us
whenever we feel alone.
And may every journey, short or long,
bring us nearer to God
and those we love.
Amen

Community information

Toddlers Together: Our parent and toddler group



Toddlers Together, our parent and toddler group held at Westbury-on-Trym Methodist Church Hall, runs every Thursday 10-11:15am during term time. All are very welcome! Details can be found on our website <https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/youth-and-family/parents-and-toddlers/>. This term finishes on 18th December and starts again on 8th January 2026.

Christmas Tree Sale: Saturday 6th December at the church



The church's annual Christmas Tree Sale is being held on Saturday 6th December, 9am – 2pm, in the Churchyard. Please visit <https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/bellringers-christmas-tree-sale/> for more information. Trees must be pre-ordered.

Two PCC Vacancies – could you give up some time to be on our church PCC?



The responsibility for setting the direction of the Parish Church is shared between the Clergy and our Parochial Church Council (PCC). Working within the guidelines of the Church of England we have considerable autonomy to ensure our worshipping community provides outreach to all in the local area, supports our Church School and cares for the congregation through prayer and practical support. We have significant impact locally through social events, Café in the Church, a Summer Fair, the Remembrance Sunday events as well as providing exciting opportunities for Children and young people and the elderly.

People who are communicant members of the Church of England are welcomed to join the PCC and as we approach the next election in May we hope to attract a wider representation from Christian Parents to join the Council. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to join us and can provide a 'taster experience' at the next meeting in January to let you know what is involved as well as conversations with the Church Wardens and Fr Andre. Please contact Georgie in the first instance if you would like to know more. David McGregor, Vice Chair of PCC

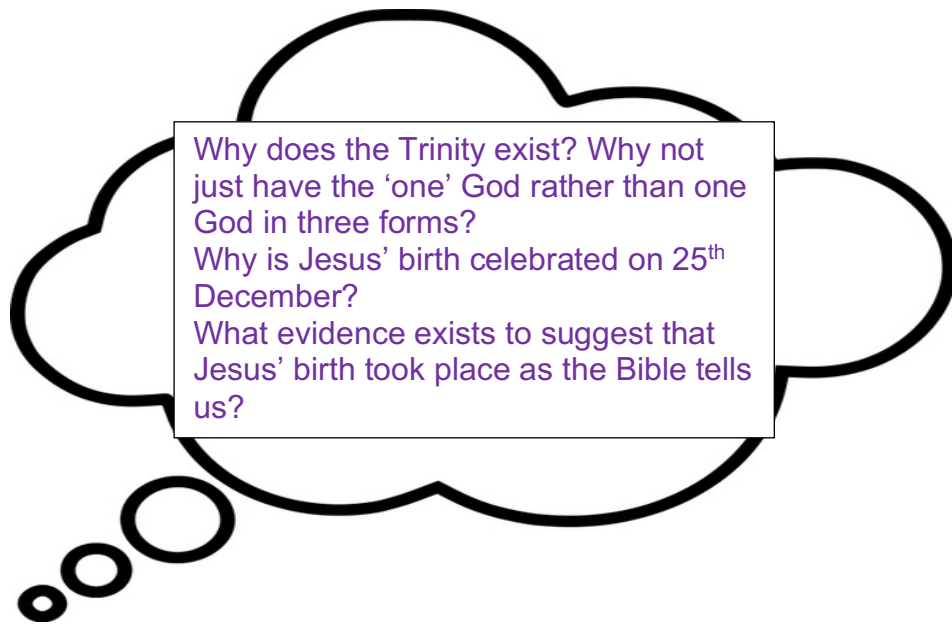
The Mix Christmas Event: A message from The Mix

The Mix is all about seeing young people having a life-changing encounter with Jesus. The Mix is a Christian worship event for church youth groups of the Bristol region, though we welcome teens of any or no faith. We are joined by several other 11-18 year olds to worship Jesus, hear from engaging speakers, play fun games, hang out with other young Christians and meet with God in prayer. The Mix team is led by Müllers as part of their mission to "Strengthen the Church to meet the needs of the vulnerable." Find out more about The Mix at <https://www.themixbristol.co.uk>

Join us on **Friday 5th December, 7pm - 9.30pm** at Woodlands Church BS8 2AA for The Mix Christmas Taskmaster Challenge! Join in with a number of Christmas themed challenges to win prizes and be crowned The Mix Taskmaster ultimate champion! There will be guest speakers, festive sweet treats and Best Christmas Jumper Prize - come ready in your most festive jumpers, tinsel, and Santa hats! At our last Mix event, over 400 young people came along to worship, pray, and hear

the Gospel. We love seeing what God is doing around the Bristol region and through The Mix, and are praying that even more young people in our city would have life changing encounters with Jesus.

Some questions for the whole family to think about at home...please do come to Teatime Church with any questions that you have!



Please click on the following link if you would like to donate to Westbury on Trym PCC to support the work and mission of Holy Trinity Church, Westbury-on-Trym. Thank you

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/westbury-on-trym-holy-trinity-bristol/>

MERRY CHRISTMAS

From Georgie and the Church Team

familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk



TEATIME CHURCH DATES 2026



TEATIME CHURCH IS OUR MONTHLY SUNDAY SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. IT'S A VERY RELAXED SERVICE WITH CRAFTS, TOYS, LEGO, SINGING, STORY TIME AND PRAYER FOLLOWED BY SUPPER FOR THE CHILDREN AND REFRESHMENTS FOR THE ADULTS. THERE IS PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CHILDREN TO MOVE AROUND AND MAKE SOME NOISE, ENJOYING THE BEAUTIFUL CHURCH SURROUNDINGS WHILST LEARNING ABOUT GOD'S LOVE FOR THEM ALL. ALL ARE VERY WELCOME!

THE SERVICE IS HELD AT THE BACK OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH FROM 4 - 5:15PM

11TH JANUARY
15TH FEBRUARY
8TH MARCH
APRIL: GOOD FRIDAY CRAFTS
17TH MAY
21ST JUNE
12TH JULY
20TH SEPTEMBER
4TH OCTOBER: HELD DURING THE HARVEST FESTIVAL AT WOT METHODIST CHURCH
15TH NOVEMBER
6TH DECEMBER

[HTTPS://WWW.WESTBURY-PARISH-CHURCH.ORG.UK/TEATIME-CHURCH/
FAMILYWORKER@WESTBURY-PARISH-CHURCH.ORG.UK](https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/teatime-church/familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk)