

Open to God. Open to one another. Open to the community.



First Reading
Psalm
Second Reading
Gospel Reading
Hymns

Sunday 14th December 2025
3rd Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10
 Magnificat – The song of Mary
 James 5:7-10
 Matthew 11:2-11
 288 Hark the glad sound
 280 Hail to the Lord's anointed
 91 Brother, sister, let me serve you
 631 Purify my heart

	Bible Readings	Activities
Mon 15 Dec	Matthew 21:23-27	2.30-3.30pm Tea & Tinies 4pm-5.30pm Family Activity Session 7.30pm Advent Course in Church
Tues 16 Dec	Matthew 21:28-32	10am-12pm Board Games Café 2pm Memory Café
Weds 17 Dec	Matthew 1:1-17	11am Service
Thurs 18 Dec	Matthew 1:18-24	2pm Over 50s – Christmas Bingo
Fri 19 Dec	Luke 1:5-25	10am-12pm Community Coffee 10-11.30am Full Hearts Friday 2pm -4.30pm SNAC – Knit & Natter
Sat 20 Dec	Luke 1:26-38	

To watch the live stream of our Sunday service please go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/@stnicolasearley1496/featured>

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”

Matthew 11:10

PRAYER

Collect: God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

A PRAYER FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Dear Lord,
Please allow me to
embrace Advent in the way
the Church intends: as a
way to prepare for Your
arrival. May everything I
do-every gift I send, every
party I attend, every meal I
share-remind me to
prepare space in my heart
for You.
Amen.

Prayer at St Nicolas There are a group of people who love to pray for anything which is on your mind. You can contact Jenny Bryce at 07963 905663 or the office on office@stnicolas.org.uk or write a card and put it in the prayer box in church. All requests in the box are prayed for on a Sunday morning by our Prayer Ministry Team.

Please feel free to join our **6pm Prayer group every Sunday** on [Zoom](#) Meeting ID 872 7137 1558 we will be praying for the needs of the world and our community.



Christmas Joy!

**FAMILY ACTIVITY
POP-UP SESSION**

Tonnes of festive table top crafts
Gingerbread & biscuit decorating
Christmas Story trail & treat
Festive cheer & cafe!

MONDAY DEC 15TH 4-5.30PM
ST NICOLAS CENTRE EARLEY

Organised by the magical elves at... **St Nicolas Church + Centre** & **Oasis church unity**

SCAN THE QR CODE OR TEXT LOUISE 077340419693 TO BOOK IN

BOOK IN!
SCAN HERE

£4 PER CHILD OR £10 FOR A FAMILY! UNDER 2'S FREE

St Nics Advent Course – continues this Monday 15th and 22nd Dec at 7.30pm, in Church

Creating Space: An Advent Journey The theology of the womb, and Mary's courageous, costly "yes" that made room for God in her very body. As we journey through Advent, may we learn to wait with wonder, to make space with courage, and allow Christ to be formed anew in the womb of our hearts.



Save the date!

I know we haven't got to Christmas yet but I know how busy everyone is so please make a date in your new 2026 diaries for **Sunday 22 March 2026** when we will be holding a **Lent Lunch** after the Sunday service. We will be serving a simple meal of soup and a roll and hope as many of you as possible will be able to come.



Thank you from the newly weds!

We'd like to send a massive thank you to everyone at St Nicolas who helped to make our wedding day so wonderful.

Alex and Julia Wren

We wish every happiness and blessing as they embark upon married life 😊



Crib & Christingle Service

4pm Weds 24 Dec

Come and make your christingle, join in with the Christmas story and enjoy some carol singing!

Service approx. 1 hour lead by Rev Mark, Julia & Eleanor

St Nicolas Church, Sutcliffe Ave R66 7JN

Wycliffe Church is one of several churches holding Bed4Night from January - end March.

They are looking for some volunteers to join a great and friendly team; most help every second week, so it is not an onerous commitment.

They need help from 7 Jan - 25 Mar:

Wednesday evening from 7-9:30pm. They are covered, but would like 1 or 2 prepared to be reserve, in case of illness etc.

Wednesday overnight 9:30pm to 7:30am: they have one gentleman helper, but need one lady overnight, and one lady and one gentleman prepared to be reserve. Thursday morning 7:30 to 9am, they are nearly covered, but need 2 more, and 1 or 2 prepared to be reserve, in case of illness etc. Please contact Simon Bird on 07547 424 246 if you can help.

Memory Café



Join us for tea, chat and light recreation in a friendly atmosphere! The cafe is particularly designed for people who live with some form of memory loss and their carers, but everyone is welcome!

Third Tuesday of every month!

2:00 - 3:30pm in the St Nicolas Centre

Sutcliffe Avenue Earley RG6 7JN

Tel: 0118 966 9080



Stnicolas.org.uk



Office@stnicolas.org.uk



[Earleystnics](https://www.facebook.com/Earleystnics)

Charity No: 1138037

Blue Christmas

Remembering those we loved and lost
Finding comfort, healing and hope.

Tuesday 16 December at 7pm

Wycliffe Baptist Church
233 Kings Road
Reading, RG1 4LS



GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS WITH

EARLEY REPAIR CAFE

SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 10AM - 1PM,
CENTREPOINT COMMUNITY CENTRE, CHALFONT CLOSE



This Sunday,
14th December
10am - 1pm
Centrepont
Community
Centre (next to
Lower Earley
Library)
No booking
required, just
pop in
No charge,
however
donations are
very much
welcomed to
help us with
running costs
etc.



St Nicolas
Church + Centre



Christmas CAROL SERVICE

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas with our festive Carol Service. Gather with family and friends to enjoy melodies and readings as we prepare for Christmas! We will be joined by the Barberette Singers and the 5T's brass ensemble!

Friday 19 December 6pm

Refreshments served afterwards

You're all invited!

ST NICOLAS CENTRE SUTCLIFFE AVENUE, EARLEY RG6 7JN

OFFICE@STNICOLAS.ORG.UK CHARITY NO: 1138037

STNICOLAS.ORG.UK



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Joy to the Community

CAROL SINGING & CHRISTMAS

FAMILY CRAFTS

Come & celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with us! ✨

Saturday 20th December 2025

Loddon Valley Leisure Centre RG6 4GD

★ **Free Entry** ★

2:30 – 3:30 PM — Christmas Family Crafts

4:00 – 5:00 PM — Christmas Carol Singing

A festive afternoon for all ages.

Everyone welcome on the day. Please scan the QR code to guarantee your seat.



SCAN ME

HOSTED BY  **TRINITY & EARLEY**

LEBC
Lower Earley
Baptist Church



'Love thy neighbour, as God loves you' – Bishops respond to rise in 'Christian nationalism'

Our bishops have urged churches across the diocese to continue to build strong and united communities across the Thames Valley following reports a rally will be held in London this weekend, purporting to put 'Christ back into Christmas'. The rally, organised by Unite the Kingdom, is part of a rise in Christian nationalism which Bishop Steven, Bishop Dave and Bishop Mary have called on Christians to respond to with love.

Bishop Steven said: "Christ has always been at the centre of Christmas

and our celebrations of the greatest gift of all. Jesus was born a refugee, in the Middle East and in poverty, running from those who were intent on harming him.

"The adoption of Christian values to exclude or ostracise others is the exact opposite of Jesus' teachings. At the centre of the love he showed us is the love he called for us to have for everyone. Love thy neighbour, as God loves you. We must love our enemies and welcome the stranger, whoever they are."

Bishop Dave, who leads the diocese on equality, diversity and inclusion, added: "I have spoken to communities in Milton Keynes who are worried about the rise in hate and intimidation. When reflecting on Christmas, we should remember Jesus loved foreigners, and loving

refugees, those whose skin colour and culture are different from our own, is how we are called to be as Christians.”

The Diocese of Leeds has created some posters (pictured above) to spread love not hate this Christmas. They are part of a wider ecumenical response and are supported by the Joint Public Issues Team, a partnership between the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church.



A great light - Bishop Mary's Advent prayer
Bishop Mary shares a prayer for Advent, as we look to the Christmas lights around us as reminders of a hope for December and beyond. Read below or listen [here](#)

I'm recording this short Advent message at about four o'clock in the afternoon. It's a moment when people all around the country are holding similar conversations. Some people are saying, 'Look how dark it is already!' And other people are saying, 'I can't believe how early

it gets dark!

The clocks change of course every year. The days in December always get darker, and yet somehow we're surprised by this.

It's not only the shortening of the days that can make the world feel darker. We only have to watch the news to hear about stories of conflict, to see the aftermath of natural disaster, to feel that the world is more difficult, bleaker, darker than we would like. And then in our own lives, we can feel the darkness come closer to us as family and friends suffer illness or bereavement or struggle with their mental health or have concerns about redundancy or housing. These too can make us feel that we are walking in darkness.

And so I always really look forward to that moment when in carol services we hear those great words from Isaiah;

'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.'

As Christian people, we know this light is not one that we can make appear because we flick a switch or strike a match. We know that this light is the person of Jesus Christ, the person who, as the prologue to John's gospel tells us, was the true light which enlightens everyone.

My prayer for you is that as you light the Advent candles in church, as you hold on to a lighted Christingle, or a candle at a carol service, as

you enjoy the Christmas tree lights in your own home or drive around your neighbourhood and see the lights on our streets and houses, my hope and prayer is that those smaller lights will point you to the great light, to Jesus, who is coming into the world. That light assures us that even if we walk through the darkest valley, we are accompanied. And that light shining in Bethlehem is a promise that one day the whole world will blaze with the glory of God when the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords returns as he promises to establish his just and peaceful rule.

I pray that every time you see these beautiful Christmas lights, you would be filled not only with wonder, but also with hope. Because in the darkness, you are accompanied. And one day, the darkness will be overcome with brilliant light. I pray for a good Advent for you, a time of watching and waiting. And then when it comes, the happiest of Christmas, because the light has come into the world.



Fresh Perceptions of Reality: Where science meets spirituality

Join leading scientists and thinkers, including Bishop Steven, for a rare afternoon exploring how modern physics, cosmology and consciousness research are reshaping the biggest questions of all.

Building on [his most-read Substack piece](#), Bishop Steven will reflect on why so many scientists are rediscovering the deep rationality of belief. The event will take place at Wolfson College, Oxford, on 23 January from 2-6pm.

[Book your free place via Eventbrite.](#)

*Joy
To The World*

St Nicolas
Church + Centre



CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT
EARLEY SY NICOLAS CHURCH

Fri 19 Dec 6pm

Carol Service in Church

Weds 24 Dec 4pm

Crib & Christingle Service

Weds 24 Dec 11.30pm

Midnight Mass

Thurs 25 Dec 10am

Christmas Day Service



Share the Joy, Peace, and

Hope of Christmas!

All Are Welcome



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

ST NICOLAS CENTRE SUTCLIFFE AVENUE, EARLEY RG6 7JN

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CHARITY NO: 1138037