



CHRIST CHURCH  
BIRKENHEAD



**Parish Magazine  
Advent 2022**



## **Our Services for December**

**9am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**Main service 10.30am**

**4<sup>th</sup> December: Advent 2**

Morning Prayer

**11<sup>th</sup> December: Advent 3**

Holy Communion

**18<sup>th</sup> December: Advent 4**

Morning Prayer

6pm Carol Service

**24<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Eve**

5pm: Christingle & Crib Service

11.30pm: Holy Communion

**25<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Day**

Holy Communion

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2023: Christmas 2**

Said Holy Communion

# Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Following the death of the Queen, at Christ Church, during the period of mourning we opened the church for visitors and church members to sign the Book of Condolence and to light a candle, pray and spend some time in reflection on the life of our late Queen.



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## The Rev writes...

So much of our life is about journeying - some of that we do alone, much of it we do with others. Our lives are a journey from birth to death with usually much happening in between. Advent is an opportunity to journey together towards the incarnation - when Jesus came to earth to be one of us, to be human and to live, grow and teach us the ways of God. His birth of course became overshadowed by his death, yet in the scriptures we have glimpses of all parts of his life. From the prophetic words held within the Old Testament about a Saviour, coming to rescue God's people; through the lives and events that happened to various characters, through to the birth narratives and the response of various people.

Advent itself speaks to us not only of the coming of Jesus at his birth but it speaks forward to a time when he will return. A future event that we might find hard to envision, yet is at the heart of our Christian faith. Jesus is not dead, he is alive!

Now, we might simply follow Advent by marking it each day by opening an Advent Calendar - for many people, particularly children and their stressed parents it becomes a countdown to Christmas, it can seem very long and the calendar makes it that bit easier.

When I was young an Advent calendar was shared with my brother and sister so we would stand round it and one of us would open it and we would all have a look and be delighted at whatever the picture was. The best of course coming on Christmas Eve with a picture of the baby in a manger! Simple times! These days most Advent calendars involve chocolate and over the past few years it's got more and more interesting to see what can be bought. Lego, beer, Gin & Tonic, beauty boxes and so on; some costing more than many would spend on a present. There are even 'Christmas Advent Calendars' a little confusing as they cover the 12 days of Christmas - obviously not quite understanding what or when advent is!

However, in all of these there is the understanding of something being a mix of 'now and not yet' which we recognize as part of our Christian faith. Every Advent we wait for Christmas when we celebrate Jesus being born, because it's "not yet". At the same time, we know that Jesus was born 2000 years ago, so he is here "now" as well. Jesus himself taught his followers that "the Kingdom of God has come" – it is Now, but it's hard to see the evidence of that because it's Not Yet fully realised. The anticipation of Advent and the joy of Christmas are a picture for us of that Kingdom as we wait for it. Whatever calendar you use this year, or buy for someone else, enjoy the Not Yet of Advent as we await the Now of Christmas. This is the journey we return to each year in anticipation of the joy of the incarnation. I do hope you have an interesting journey and that you can join us for some of our Christmas celebrations too.

Kind regards and blessings of the season.  
Revd Gerri Tetzlaff

## Dates for your diary

**Advent Lunches:** Wednesdays 30 November, 7, 14, 21 December at 12.30pm. Join us in a light lunch with reflection and discussion on Advent themes.

**Oral History Project** - Working Class history of Birkenhead - come to Christ Church on Tuesday 6 December from 1-3pm to speak about your memories of Birkenhead.

**Christmas Choir Concert** - Thursday 8 December Children's Choirs 7pm - tickets available on Eventbrite. £8 adults, £6 children <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/wirral/christ-church/christmas-choir-concert-at-christ-church/e-edpxrp>

**Christmas Lunch** - Sunday 11 December following the 10.30am service - join us for a delicious Christmas lunch with all the trimmings.

**Christmas Family Concert** with the Wirral Symphonic Wind Band - Saturday 17th December at 7pm. £10 adults, £5 concessions, under 16 free. <https://www.wswb.co.uk/>

**Carol Service** - Sunday 18 December at 6pm join us in singing carols accompanied by our wonderful Father Willis organ, hear the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. Refreshments to follow the service.

**Crib and Christingle Service** - Christmas Eve Saturday 24 December at 5pm. Join us in making a DIY Christingle (we provide everything) and journey with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

**Midnight Service** - 11.30pm Christmas Eve - Come and worship with us at the first Holy Communion of Christmas - carols, readings and prayers focusing on our shared life together.

**Christmas Day** - 10.30am Christmas Communion for all the family - join us after the present opening and before the turkey! A time of joy and thankfulness as we gather together to celebrate the newborn king!

**New Year's Day** - one service at 10.30am, a said service (no music) of Holy Communion.

## The Big Draw — October 23rd

After the morning service on the 23rd we went downstairs to find out what was going on! It was amazing—Marie Mairs had set out the hall with tables all full of intriguing items to draw. There was even a huge screen covered with paper for those who wanted to draw something very large!

And there was a comfy chair in the corner, which I, having completed my drawing of the hall, decided to rest in for a moment or two. Immediately two, or was it three, ladies came and sat in front of me. Now I knew what the chair was for! I could not move for 45 minutes!



But it was a great day —  
Well done Marie setting it up!



## Mix and Pick Bazaar — November 12th

A very successful, profitable and enjoyable day. Thanks to all those involved.



Crafts	£99.90
DVDs/Raffle	£61.90
Diamond Pictures	£125.00
Tombola	£63.50
Cakes	£77.05
Jewellery	£93.60
Kitchen	£28.50
Table Hire	£50.00
Donation	£25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£624.45</b>



*Items for sale photographed by Marie Mairs*

## Don't moan, organise (after Joe Hill)

I stumbled across the NPC on an internet search some six weeks ago. Impressed by its commitment to action, I thought it merited sharing. Platforms for the voices that are marginalised especially need to be supported. The National Pensioners Convention (NPC) is the largest campaigning organisation for older people in the UK, run by pensioners for pensioners.



In the six weeks from my stumbling across it, it has emailed draft press releases, draft letters to MPs, as well as issues of on line publications : one covering LGBT+ issues titled “Rainbow News”, one covering Digital Poverty titled “Connections for all” and a third bulleting entitled “Campaign!” fighting for the rights of older people. It has:

- chronicled advocating for a Commissioner for Older people within Government, arranging to meet with the Department of Work & Pensions’ Minister Baroness Stedman-Scott.
- given links to the full report and a summary report from The Care Quality Commission report 'The State of Care 2021/22'. It describes the system as in gridlock. The report looks at the trends, shares examples of good and outstanding care, and highlights where care needs to improve.
- raised the issue of increased pressure on pharmacies. Recognising that local pharmacies are the front door to the NHS, one of the only places you can see a healthcare professional in a few short minutes. Pharmacies kept their doors open throughout the pandemic. Local pharmacies are under significant strain. Funding pressures since 2016 have seen the closure of 639 pharmacies in England alone.
- campaigned for the reinstatement of the triple lock, whereby the state pension must rise in line with whichever is highest - inflation, average earnings or 2.5%. Older people spend a larger percentage of their fixed income on energy and therefore have to cut spending on other essentials such as food. These decisions are critical to the health and well-being of older people, especially those with ill health and disabilities. There are currently 2.8 million older households in fuel poverty.
- added its voice to the End Fuel Poverty Coalition of over 60 charities and organisations, co-ordinated by the Warm This Winter campaign, demanding



more financial and non-financial support for the 7m UK households currently in fuel poverty.

- wrote on the Scandal of Smart Meters. A recent Ofgem report showed how easy it is for energy companies to switch their customers on smart meters to pre-payment meters. And they are doing just that, customers not being the first to know about the switch. The energy crisis is pushing 10,000 homes a month on to prepayment meters. Pre-payment meters have a higher daily standing charge than standard meters. The unit cost of energy that you buy on your pre-payment card is also higher than you would pay through your smart meter.

<https://www.npcuk.org>

*Allan Goode*

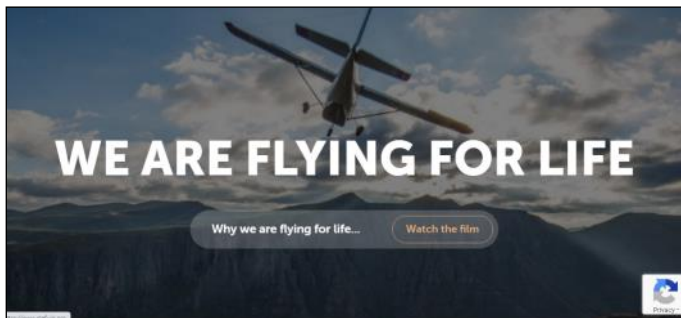
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## The Mission Aviation Fellowship

Jean Roberts writes: -

My sister had been a long time supporter of MAF—the Mission Aviation Fellowship. Now Anne has passed away she cannot continue to have coffee mornings to raise money for the charity, so I have decided to organise a drink and a chocolate biscuit for £2 at my house, 70a Derby Road. I have various days and times to do this, so if you are interested tell me on 07432247572 and we can fix a day to suit..

The MAF is a Christian charity serving people who live in remote areas with little or no access to other means of travel except aeroplanes. More information can be found on their website at [www.maf-uk.org](http://www.maf-uk.org).



## Mum's Poem

Behind the trees, beside the road  
There lies the abode  
Of 'Rydes Hill Convent School'.  
There children learn  
How to work and play  
And how to live together  
In a harmonious way.

*Written by MaryJo Blades' mum,  
describing the school her daughter attended.*



Here is a photo of Rydes Hill Convent School, taken from the Street View section of Google maps. It looks like a great place to learn!

And Street View, that's amazing too! Go to almost any place in the world on Google Maps and switch to Street View and explore how other folks live.

## Compare with the image on the front cover!



Holy Trinity church in Llandudno is having work done on its tower!

Consecrated in 1874, it is some thirty years younger than our church.

Perhaps the weather there is not as good as ours? It was certainly lovely, however, when Mary and I were there at half-term.

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## The job's done...

As I write this, I can announce that the work on the high level stonework at church has been completed and that by the time you are reading this, the scaffolding should all be down! A costly exercise but essential, giving our walls life for many more years to come.

Also, as I write, I learned that a courageous but unnamed member of our ministry team has today climbed the scaffolders' ladder! Photos are promised for our next issue.

The PCC agreed that as we enter 2023, we should reduce our number of magazines to just four. There are a number of reasons for this—we now have a weekly *In Touch* again, there are fewer and fewer articles being offered and our current printer is no longer as effective as its predecessor which we can no longer afford to rent.

Finally, a plea for someone to take over the management of the church website—I've been looking after it for about a decade now. Time for it to be updated, perhaps?

*Paul Rees*

**To worship God, to share Jesus,  
and to serve the community**

## **Christ Church Birkenhead**

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### **Website**

**<http://christchurchbirkenhead.net/>**

### **Facebook**

**<https://www.facebook.com/christchurchbirkenhead>**

**Church office email: [christchurchbirkenhead@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchbirkenhead@gmail.com)**

**for room bookings etc.**

**or leave a message on 0151 652 3990**

**Contributions for our next magazine  
by the end of January please.**

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