

## Prayers This Month:



**"In his name the nations will put their hope." Matthew 12: 21.**

- Thank you, Father God, for the ways in which you have given us hope, and help us to encourage one another. Thank you that:
- Kate and Michael have a new buyer for their house.
- Doreen is responding well to her treatment.
- Walter is making progress towards health, as is Isabelle.
- Loving Lord, we continue to pray for them and for Alan (Margaret's son), for Sylvia and those suffering from Parkinson's Disease, for Joanna Travers who needs answers to her long-term health problems. For Alex needing understanding by the medical profession of his FND condition.
- We thank you for the initiative of the Winston's Wish organisation and the "Ask Me" campaign in schools to help bereaved children talk about their loss.
- We thank you for Pete and Mandy and ask you to strengthen Pete in his work with the bereaved. We pray especially for the Dunne family and the school children affected.
- Heavenly Father, we lift to you Penny, Alfie; Sarah's grandson, Yuri and Lera, Matthew, Mark and Wendy, Rhiannon. Lord, you know their needs.
- Please continue to give strength and your loving care to Julie Singlehurst, supporting her elderly parents and to Julie Hallett's family.
- We are praying that you will grow our churches in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community and each other. We are hoping that the newsletter, to each household in the village, will bear fruit and that hearts will be turned to you and the maintenance of our church building, which we are so blessed to have.



For inclusion in the Prayer List, please direct your requests to Denise Andreo:  
Call: 07791 347651 or  
email:deniseandreo@gmail.com

Scan here for  
Dec's  
Eco Tips



### Weekly Prayer Meeting:

Please join us for our short, informal weekly prayer meeting at St Matthew's Church. 9:30am every Tuesday in the Church Room.

### Contact Information:

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Group website: [www.heartparishes.org.uk](http://www.heartparishes.org.uk)

St Matthew's Church Website: [www.stmatthewssalfordpriors.org.uk](http://www.stmatthewssalfordpriors.org.uk)



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

# WELCOME

## to the Heart of England Benefice

Bidford on Avon • Binton • Exhall • Salford Priors • Temple Grafton • Wixford



## What's on in December

Please join us at our special services and events throughout Advent.

**"Making Room for Jesus"** - Tuesdays  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 10.30am. Join our  
Advent group at St Laurence's as we  
consider the journey towards Christmas  
through the experiences of Mary.  
Email Rev Helen.

**Sat 13th Dec** - 9.10am  
The Men's Shed breakfast  
Meeting at Osco's, Blenheim Nursery,  
Bidford. Email: [johnahead@icloud.com](mailto:johnahead@icloud.com) by  
12th Dec, stating any dietary  
requirements.

**Sat 13th - Sun 14th Dec**  
12noon-6pm Christmas Tree Festival  
at St Laurence's, Bidford  
Community Choir | Raffle | Refreshments  
Adults: £4 | 12-17yrs £1 | Under 12s free

**Sun 15th Dec** - 10am Holy Communion  
with Christmas Trees at St Laurence's,  
Bidford  
3pm Carol Service at St Giles', Exhall

**Tues 16th Dec** - Christmas afternoon tea  
by Mothers' Union for everyone  
3pm at Val Bates house in Bidford.

**Wed 17th Dec** - 7pm Carol Service at  
Binton

**Sat 20th Dec** - 3pm Bidford Village Nativity  
Walk, starting at St Joseph's RC Church  
and ending at St Laurence's

**Sun 21st Dec**  
3pm Carol Service at Exhall  
4pm Carol service  
at St Matthew's, Salford Priors  
6.30pm Carol Service  
at St Laurence's, Bidford

**Tues 24th Dec - Christmas Eve**  
3pm Nativity at St Peter's, Binton  
4pm Crib & Christingle Service at St  
Laurence's, Bidford  
4pm 'Follow the Star' Family Nativity  
at St Matthews, Salford Priors  
9.30pm Holy Communion  
at St Milburga's, Wixford  
9.30pm Holy Communion  
at St Matthew's, Salford Priors



*Wishing you a blessed and*  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



# Services across the Benefice 7-28 Dec

At Family Services or Café Church, worship leaders are free to choose alternative reading(s).  
When it is a Communion service, a gospel reading is usual.

## 7th December 2025: 2nd Sunday of Advent

8.45am	Holy Communion	Salford Priors
10.30am	Café Church	Bidford
10.30am	Christingle Family Service	Salford Priors
5.00pm	'Breathing Space'/Blue Christmas service	Salford Priors
6.30pm	Advent Evensong & Refreshments	Wixford

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 11.1-10 | **2nd Reading:** Romans 15.4-13 | **Gospel Reading:** Matthew 3.1-12

### Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as  
judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

### Post Communion Prayer

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that,  
when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## 14th December 2025: 3rd Sunday of Advent

8.00am	Holy Communion (weather dependent)	Temple Grafton
10.00am	Holy Communion (with Christmas trees)	Bidford
10.30am	Holy Communion SPYING & Muddy Church	Salford Priors

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 35.1-10 | **2nd Reading:** James 5.7-10 | **Gospel Reading:** Matthew 11.2-11

### 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. **Amen**

### Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen**

## Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th December Noon-6pm  
at St Laurence's Church, Bidford-on-Avon  
Community Choir | Raffle | Refreshments  
Adults £4, ages 12-17 £1, Under 12s free

## 21st December 2025: 4th Sunday of Advent

10.00am	Holy Communion	Bidford
3.00pm	Carol Service	Exhall
4.00pm	Carol Service	Salford Priors
6.30pm	Carol Service	Bidford

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 7.10-16 | **2nd Reading:** Romans 1.1-7 | **Gospel Reading:** Matthew 1.18-end

### Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age  
to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## 28th December 2025: 1st Sunday of Christmas

10.00am	Holy Communion	Bidford
10.30am	Carol Service	Salford Priors

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 63.7-9 | **2nd Reading:** Hebrews 2.10-end | **Gospel Reading:** Matthew 2.13-end

### Collect

God in Trinity,  
eternal unity of perfect love:  
gather the nations to be one family,  
and draw us into your holy life  
through the birth of Emmanuel,  
our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

### Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:  
help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience,  
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Upcoming Services:

### 24th December: Christmas Eve

3.00pm	Nativity	Binton
4.00pm	Crib & Christingle Service	Bidford
4.00pm	'Follow the Star' Service	Salford Priors
9.30pm	Holy Communion	Wixford
9.30pm	Holy Communion	Salford Priors

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 65.17-25  
**Gospel Reading:** 1 John 4.7-16

### 25th December: Christmas Day

10.00am	Family Communion	Bidford
10.30am	Family Communion	Binton
10.30am	Family Service	Salford Priors
11.00am	Family Communion	Exhall

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 52.7-10  
**2nd Reading:** Hebrews 1.1-12  
**Gospel Reading:** Luke 2.8-20

For a full list of services throughout December, visit:  
[www.heartparishes.org.uk/church-services/latest-news/](http://www.heartparishes.org.uk/church-services/latest-news/)