

All Saints MILTON

Church at the heart of the community

December 2024 News



*Wishing you all a very
Merry Christmas*

www.allsaintsmilton.org.uk
allsaintsmilton.org.uk/youtube
facebook.com/allsaintsmilton

All About Us



Rev. Alex Jeewan
Priest in Charge
alex.jeewan@allsaintsmilton.org.uk
01223 375307



Rev. Dr. Simon Bradford
Associate Minister
simon.bradford@allsaintsmilton.org.uk
(works full-time outside the parish – reply
may be delayed)

Contact number for Pastoral Support:
07761 006664



Linda Henderson
Churchwarden & Safeguarding Officer
linda.henderson@allsaintsmilton.org.uk
safeguarding@allsaintsmilton.org.uk
07801 156157



Paul Wilkins
Churchwarden
paul.wilkins@allsaintsmilton.org.uk
07720 054946



Michelle Peters

Administrators

Elouise Hunt

office@allsaintsmilton.org.uk
01223 441007



Roxane Owen

Treasurer

treasurer@allsaintsmilton.org.uk

Andrew Macpherson



Licensed Lay Ministers

Alan Skull

(Also Pastoral Team CoOrdinator
pastoral@allsaintsmilton.org.uk)



Jackie Cottingham

Licensed Lay Ministers

Kathy English





Rev. Anne Aldridge

Ministers

Rev. Stewart Taylor



John Uttin

Lay Pastors

Sue Nunn



Elinor Everitt
Children's Work Leader
elinor.everitt@allsaintsmilton.org.uk



Sarah Bates
Youth Work Leader
youth@allsaintsmilton.org.uk

'AS Chat' email group
To join: chat-admin@allsaintsmilton.org.uk

Regular Prayer Meetings and Events

Toddler Group

10.00-11.30am Mondays and Fridays (during term time)

Stitchers Club

2.00-4.00pm Second Monday of the month (not on in August)

Tuesdays Together

3.30-4.45pm Second Tuesday of the month (during term time)

Praise and Play

9.30-10.30am Wednesdays (during term time)

Baby Group

2.00-4.00pm Wednesdays (all year)

Morning Prayer

9.00-9.30am Monday—Thursday

Prayer Meeting

7.00am Fridays

December 2024 Sunday Services

Sunday 1st December

8am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship
3:00pm Christingle Service

Sunday 8th December

8am Holy Communion
10.30am All Age Communion

Sunday 15th December

8am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 22nd December

8am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion Come Together
7:00pm Carols By Candlelight

Tuesday 24th December

4:00pm Crib Service
11:30pm Midnight Communion

Wednesday 25th December

8:00am Communion
10:30am All Age Communion

Sunday 29th December

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship with Junior Church and Youth

Dates for your Diary

Sun 3rd Nov—1st Dec

9:30am– 10:30am- Admission to Holy Communion Course

Thurs 5th Dec

Open House

Sun 8th Dec

Holy Communion Service, with First Admission to Communion for those who have attended the course
Followed by Bring and Share Lunch to celebrate

Mon 9th Dec

Stitchers

Tue 10th Dec

Tuesdays Together

Thurs 19th Dec

Open House

Upcoming Events: Christmas



CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS

Christingle Service

Followed by refreshments and activities
1st December - 3:00pm

Gingerbread House Decorating

15th Dec - 3:00-4:30pm

Tuesdays Together

10th December - 3:30 - 4:45pm

Carols by the Lamp Post

with Edmund House
19th Dec - 7:00-8:00pm

Carols by the Christmas Tree

21st Dec - 6:00-7:00pm

Carols by Candle Light

Followed by mulled wine and refreshments
22nd Dec - 7:00-8:00pm

Crib Service

Perfect for children!
24th Dec - 4:00pm

Midnight Holy Communion

24th Dec - 11:30pm

Christmas Day Holy Communion

25th Dec - 8:00am

Christmas Day Celebration Service

with Holy Communion
25th Dec - 10:30am



HAMPERS FOR CHRISTMAS



We have been offering practical support to a few local families during the year and we thought with Christmas approaching it would be nice to make them a hamper for the festive season.

Would you like to help?

Could you donate an item for the hamper? If so we will have a box, clearly labelled in the church porch for any donations.

Some suggestions are :-
Tinned ham, tuna and salmon
Crackers for cheese
Christmas Pudding
Christmas Cake
Mince Pies
Yule Log
Stollen/stolen bites
Custard

Savoury snacks like crisps and nuts
Chocolates
Cranberry Sauce
Pickles
Gravy Granules
Fruit Juice
Soft drinks
Christmas Crackers
Christmas napkins
Chocolate tree decorations

A small gift for men/ women/ teenagers/ children

Please have donations in by 8th December

If you prefer you could make a donation by cash, in an envelope clearly marked 'HAMPERS'

Or by Bank Transfer :
Account name: Milton PCC
Account number: 00020198
Sort code: 40-52-40
Reference: HAMPERS

Christingle Service

1st December
3:00PM

Service followed by
refreshments and
activities.

Everyone welcome!



Carols By Candlelight

December 22nd 2024
7pm-8pm

Everyone welcome.

Service followed by mince pies
and mulled wine.



Crib Service

Everyone is welcome!



Come dressed
as a character
or animal in the
nativity story or
you are welcome
to borrow a
costume when
you arrive

Tuesday 24th Dec.
4:00pm



All Saints Church, Church
Lane, Milton. CB2 6AB

www.allsaintsmilton.org.uk

A short service for
children participating
followed by
refreshments



GINGERBREAD HOUSE

Decorating Party

Get into the holiday spirit with our Gingerbread House Decorating Party! Gather your friends and family for a delightful afternoon of icing, candies, and creative confections.

15TH DECEMBER
3:00-4:30PM
£7 PER HOUSE

Please pre book through the office:
office@allsaintsmilton.org.uk
 01223 441007



December, 19th. 7:00pm
 ALL SAINTS MILTON & EDMUND HOUSE

CAROLS BY
The Lamp Post

CAROL SINGING AT EDMUND HOUSE
 FOLLOWED BY A QUIZ AT THE WHITE HORSE PUB FROM 8-00PM





December, 21st. 6:00pm
 ALL SAINTS MILTON & THE WAGGON AND HORSES

CAROLS BY
The Christmas Tree



CHILD FRIENDLY EVENT!
 REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.



Prayer Diary December 2024

1st	On the first day of Advent, we pray that the anticipation of the celebration of Jesus' birth would full believers and non-believers alike.
2nd	Pray for the children attending Cygnets who are visiting ASM tomorrow, for many it will be their first time in a church.
3rd	On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we pray for all people with any form of disability. We pray that the church would be a place of accessibility and inclusion. Lord, help us grow in understanding and compassion.
4th	Pray for GenR8 and their upcoming Christmas assemblies.
5th	On International Volunteers Day, we thank God for all volunteers that give their time to ASM. We pray that we would all be inspired to serve others: <i>"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."</i> [1 Peter 4:10].
6th	On St Nicholas Day, we remember your servant Nicholas whose legacy is one of generosity. Lord, help us to give freely, just as we have freely received, and help us to be mindful of those in need that we might love others as you have loved us, Jesus.
7th	At this time of year, we know bereavement can be especially painful. We pray for those mourning a family member or friend.
8th	Give thanks that we get to join together in fellowship during the Bring and Share lunch and celebrate those who are taking their first communion today after completing the First Admission to Communion course.
9th	On International Anti-Corruption Day, we pray for all nations where people are hungry, sick, homeless or defenceless because of corruption. We thank you that you are a just God and we pray for leaders who would recognise the evil of corruption and seek justice for all people
10th	On International Human Rights Day, we pray for all those around the world whose human rights are ignored or violated. Help us build a society built on the knowledge that every person is made in God's image.
11th	Pray for the parents and children attending Praise and Play and Baby Group.
12th	We pray for those who are worried about work and jobs. We pray for opportunities that are both steady and reliable and help them reach their full potential.
13th	Pray for those who are homeless this Christmas, we pray and believe that their circumstances will soon change.
14th	We pray for those who are unwell and for those who care and support them.
15th	We pray for the Gingerbread Decorating Event, may everyone attending enjoy and make festive memories.

16th	Give thanks that because of the generosity of our congregation, we can gift hampers of food and gifts to those in our community who are in need.
17th	Pray for the children of Milton CE Primary School who are visiting ASM today for the Christmas Service.
18th	Pray for church leaders around the world leading up to their busiest week of the year.
19th	We pray for families that are feeling the pain of separation today. We pray for comfort and for Gods blessing.
20th	On International Human Solidarity Day, we celebrate our diversity and pray for unity amongst all God's children across the globe. We pray that divisions would fall away and that all people would be united in Jesus Christ.
21st	Give thanks for our talented Flower Team who are creating new displays for ASM today, we are extremely grateful for them.
22nd	Pray for all of the children spending Christmas in our neighbouring EACH.
23rd	Thank God that <i>'She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins'</i> [Matt 1:21]
24th	On Christmas Eve, we remember the great love and humility you displayed in coming down to earth in the form of a baby, to make your dwelling among us: <i>'They will call him Immanuel which means "God with us"'</i> (Matthew 1:23)
25th	On Christmas Day, we celebrate the birth of our saviour, Jesus Christ who has rescued and redeemed us. <i>'Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord'</i> [Luke 2:11] O come let us adore him, for he alone is worthy! We give thanks for our friends and families, and we pray for rest and reconciliation, comfort & joy.
26th	Pray for those who have felt isolated and lonely this Christmas period.
27th	On the Feast Day of St John the Evangelist, we give thanks for his Gospel, written so that we may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and by believing have life in his name [John 20:31]. We pray that through his writings we would deeply know this truth and share it with others, that they may believe as well.
28th	Give thanks for all of the emergency service workers who have worked over Christmas and will work over New Year too.
29th	As the NHS faces extra winter demands, ask God to pour out mercy and strength on GP practices, emergency departments and other services coping with backlogs, long waiting lists and other issues.
30th	We thank God for each of our volunteers and we pray that an abundance of new volunteers would be raise up in the coming year.
31st	On New Year's Eve, we remember all that has taken place this year, and amidst the trials and difficulties, we give thanks for every blessing, knowing that God works all things for the good of those who love him. May we enter the New Year holding fast to the hope we have in Jesus.

Letter from the Priest

Dear friends,

In December 1973 Wizzard released the popular Christmas song 'I wish it could be Christmas everyday'. Despite the song's strong, long-lasting popularity, it reached no higher than number four on the UK singles chart, a position it occupied for four consecutive weeks from December 1973 to January 1974. The song was beaten to the 1973 Christmas number 1 spot by Slade's "Merry Christmas Everybody", which remained at the top of the charts for five weeks, from December 1973 to January 1974.

The song has remained a staple Christmas song ever since. I play it every year and always enjoy it, but I wonder whether we truly do wish it could be Christmas every day. Would we enjoy having the extended family visit every day? Would we have enough money to buy presents every day? Would we enjoy eating the turkey and all the trimmings, if we had it every day?

The answer is probably a resounding 'no' to most of those questions. If we celebrated Christmas every year, it would lose some of its specialness. We would take it for granted and Christmas would just be like any other day.

As a Christian, I believe that Jesus came to save the world and set us free from the effects of sin and evil in the world. John 1: 14 tells us that ‘The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us’. This means that God came down to earth in human form and dwelt among us. He lived as a human being; with all the joys and dramas of life that this brings. He suffered at human hands and died a terrible death, but the story doesn’t end there.

Jesus rose again so sin and death were defeated for all time. That’s what we celebrate at Easter; Jesus rising from the dead and his victory over it. If it was Christmas every day, then there would be no Easter and no new life. We celebrate Jesus’ birth so we can remember his death and experience the joy of the new life that the resurrection brings.

I wish you a very happy Christmas but above all I wish you joy of knowing that you are loved by a God who sent His son to live and die for each and every one of us, once, and for all time.

With love,
Alex

Ekisa UK Gift and Craft Fair

On Saturday 9th October we hosted the Ekisa UK Gift and Craft Fair. An amazing £1464.98 was raised.

This has only been possible because of the amazing support from our local community.

Thanks goes to the wonderful stalls who came along, to everyone who helped on the day, for the wonderful cakes donated and of course, to everyone who came along to support the event.

Thanks also goes to Archie Rogers, Milton Flower and Grounds Coffee for donating towards the raffle prizes as well as supporters who generously donated prizes too.







Prayer for the Persecuted Church

December 2024

All Saints Milton continues to support the work of Open Doors financially and in prayer in their support for Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith. You may find additional resources at the Open Doors website and use the daily Prayer Diary (the Nov/Dec one is at <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/resources/prayer/>)

Talking about the founder of Open Doors, Brother Andrew, at Youth on Sunday morning. I thought I would ask the assembled teenagers to guess where he was smuggling bibles into back in the 1970s. Afghanistan and North Korea were two answers, there was great surprise that Poland and Romania were two of the places “since they are Christian countries!” This comes as a reminder of why we pray, because God changes things that we probably actually didn’t believe would change. I didn’t think Communism would collapse in Eastern Europe; I also find it hard to see how Turkey and Tunisia could be evangelised. Of course, centuries ago both those countries were largely Christian but the roots were not deep, the faith quite nominal and when it was convenient to do so, people changed their faith to the new culture, predominantly Islam. God changes things where we aren’t expecting, when we aren’t expecting and in ways we cannot predict; a real hope.

NIGERIA

On 1 March 2018, Alice Loksha was working in a camp for displaced persons in Nigeria as a nurse. She was kidnapped, along with two Nigerian midwives who worked for the Red Cross (ICRC) by Islamic militants. As a Christian, Alice was forcibly married in turn to two commanders in the militia, because the other two women were Muslims, they 'should have known the consequences of working for international agencies,' and they were killed. Alice Loksha managed to escape on 24 October 2024, and encountered Nigerian troops on 29 October, her escape is an answer to long-prayed prayers, and a testament to her resilient courage. Her future is complicated, though. She escaped with her son, (of the military commander she was married to). Praise God for her freedom, pray for her and her son living with the stigma they bear in a frightened and divided society.

GAZA, SUDAN

One aspect of both these conflicts is a sad lack of food, medicine, and shelter for displaced people and the suspicion that both sides in both conflicts use this for their own ends. Into both tragedies, Christians are sharing what they can with anyone in need (people who are not Christians are doing so also). For so many years, enemies of the church have said that Jesus' followers don't care about others and this generosity in extremis is showing that is a lie.

More from Open Doors

Herod's Secret Policeman tells the tale of Secret Policeman Number 3 (and his toy sheep Nellie), of the people he meets on the way, and how the encounter with Jesus, Mary and Joseph changed him forever. Herod's Secret Policeman introduces children – in a gentle way – to the pressures faced by secret believers around the world. Order your **free book** or the churches pack- featuring a new nativity play adaptation!



News from the Eco Church Team



Think of the stable described in Luke’s gospel – the straw, the smell of animals, unwashed visitors from the surrounding countryside. Apart from a brighter-than-usual star glittering through the cracks in the wall, the trappings surrounding the birth of our Lord were about as minimal as you can get. Then look at how we celebrate this moment now. What a gift Christmas is to our consumer society, to an economy dead-set on economic growth whatever the consequences, to a system that relies on the distraction of retail therapy which can blind us to both climate and ecological breakdown and the fulfilment of finding joy in enough.

Let’s reclaim Christmas!

It cannot be right to celebrate the birth of the creator and redeemer of the world in a way that destroys the world. So remember the vulnerability and humility of Christ and do not forget the impact of our Christmas on the vulnerable and humble;. We must not rejoice over the birth of the one we follow, who raged against injustice, by following the societal norms that wreak injustice over the world and into the future. And of course, as we have learned to expect in God’s upside down kingdom, a truly happy Christmas will be found without the mounting debts to our bank, the Global South and the future, but with the God-given qualities of love, simplicity, creativity and time.



Below are just a few practical suggestions: taken from the Green Christian website <https://greenchristian.org.uk/reclaim-christmas/>:

During Advent

- Find and sign up for an online Advent calendar with reflections, such as this one from CAFOD or sign up for Advent reflections at www.tearfund.org/campaigns/advent
- Perhaps re-write a carol to include care for the planet, and all creation, and climate justice.

Advent – Decorations

- By looking for decorations from nature – lasting greenery, and pine and fir cones, you enjoy the outside and then bring it in.
- If making a wreath, try to use dried fruits, fruit rinds and perhaps don't include ribbon with plastic, and be willing to mention to others why this is
- Use coloured strips of unwanted paper for paper chains

Advent – Decorations (Continued)

- Reduce the number of extra gifts by doing Secret Santa in families, or with friends
- Save decorations from one year to the next
- If you want to buy more decorations, consider buying from Fair trade shops like Oxfam, Tearcraft, We Are Fair Trade
- Christmas tree – consider buying a recycled tree, or a tree with roots, that can be planted. The Soil Association website has up to date information on sustainable Christmas trees and replantable trees.

Christmas - Reducing

- Reduce the number of extra gifts by doing Secret Santa in families, or with friends
- Give handmade gifts – that don't take all year to make – there is still time to make: seed bomb, bug hotels, pot of plants or indoor garden, homemade hamper, homemade mince pies.
- Alternative gifts – consider the donations to charities that arrange alternative gifts, for example a tree being planted, support for basics in a community impacted by Climate change, endangered species support.

This is an edited version of an article by Barbara Echlin, Chair of Green Christian. A full version including many more suggestions for “Reclaiming Christmas” can be found on the Green Christian website: <https://greenchristian.org.uk/reclaim-christmas/>

The Holy Spirit in your Life,

An E-book by Peter Sebborn.

In the summer of 2023 I felt God was telling me to note down what I saw the Holy Spirit doing among us, both in All Saints and more widely, to write about the work of the Spirit and make it available free of charge to any who wished to read it.

It has therefore finished up not as a book but as an e-book (i.e. a webpage), which I have titled “The Holy Spirit in your life”. If you would like to read it you can find it at: <https://rb.gy/zaxg18>.

If you have any questions or comments please send them to me at Christian.Footsoldier@gmail.com.

I am especially keen to hear from you if you find my typos, I am quite sure I shall have missed some.

With love in the precious Name of Jesus.

Peter Sebborn

office@allsaintsmilton.org.uk
01223 441007
www.allsaintsmilton.org.uk

All Saints Church, Church Lane, Milton. CB24 6AB

Bible verse for 2024

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

Galatians 6:10