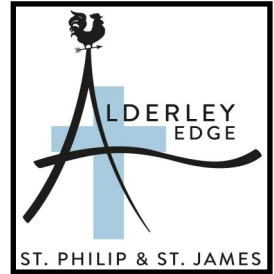


## Calendar for DECEMBER 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Service</u>
<u>Sunday 3rd December</u>	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Choral Eucharist
	11.45am	Christingle PipnJay
	6.30pm	Evensong at St Mary's
<u>Sunday 10th December</u>	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Choral Eucharist
	6.30pm	Zoom Service
<u>Sunday 17th December</u>	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Family Communion
	6.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols at Alderley Edge Methodist Church
<u>Sunday 24th December</u> CHRISTMAS EVE	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Choral Eucharist
	4pm	Crib Service with Donkey
	6pm	Nativity Service with Play
	11.15pm	Midnight Mass
<u>Monday 25th December</u> CHRISTMAS DAY	9am	Holy Communion
	11am	Family Communion
<u>Sunday 31st December</u>	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Holy Communion

## St Philip & St James Parish Church Alderley Edge DECEMBER 2023 NEWS SHEET



Dear Friends,

There are so many competing symbols of Christmas. We see them on our Christmas cards and we recognise them in the Christmas advertising campaigns. Tinsel, turkey, Christmas tree decorations. Snowmen, holly and robins. Father Christmas. These are all signs that we have come to recognise of a time of feasting and togetherness, warmth and tipsiness.

The shepherds were told by the angels to go to Bethlehem and look for a sign. And the sign was this: an infant laid in a manger. This was the sign that signified that God had sent a Saviour because he desired to be with his people.

Those shepherds probably believed in God. They just weren't expecting God to show up. And they certainly weren't expecting God to show up and talk to them. Because, really, they didn't have much faith that God wanted to be with them.

When I talk to children about God, a lot of the conversations revolve around whether God even exists. The marketing people know that's where a lot of people are at these days which is why they would tend to forget about baby Jesus preferring to talk about Father Christmas who also gives them a more direct link of course into the idea of spending money. Not only do I believe that God exists. I believe he shows up. He desires to be with us. And for me the lovely feeling of Christmas rests on that belief. When the last Christmas service is over and I retreat to the vicarage sofa, I am left with the feeling that once again God showed up and I have seen the difference that makes in the lives of hundreds and hundreds of people.

Why not experience that feeling yourself. God is showing up. This Christmas, why don't you return the favour and show up yourself!? And whether we see you or not over Christmas; have a happy Christmas. And best wishes for the New Year. *Robin*

Special Services for Advent and Christmas

You are warmly invited to join us for any of the special advent services below.

**Thursday 7th December**

6pm Christingle Service

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

4pm Crib Service with Donkey

6pm Nativity Service with Play

11.15pm Midnight Mass

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

9am Christmas Holy Communion

11am Christmas Family Communion

**LECTIO DIVINA**

4.30-5.30pm Tuesday 5th and 12th December

**CHRISTMAS MEDITATION**

7am-8am Thursday 7th, 14th and 21st December

Our services are listed on our website calendar as well as church news and what's on. Warm Wednesday is every Wednesday in December at 11.30am.



*St Philip & St James Church*

**ALDERLEY EDGE  
CHRISTMAS FAIR**

Please join us at our Christmas Fair

**SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER  
10am-4pm**

Festive stalls in the grounds and in Church  
Food, drink and gift stalls, Coffee and Cake,  
Mulled Wine, Music including live musician,  
Ryley's Choir and St Bartholomew's Brass Band,  
Tombola, Raffle, Santa's Grotto, Children's Crafts,  
Face Painting, Teddy's Zip Wire and MUCH MORE!

**PLEASE BRING YOUR TEDDY FOR THE  
ZIPWIRE!**



**ST PHILIP & ST JAMES MINISTRATIONS NOVEMBER**

**Baptisms: 26th Alys Fortune**

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