

Saintfield Parish
Saints Alive Magazine
January 2026

250TH
ANNIVERSARY

Jesus Christ

THE SAME YESTERDAY,
AND TO DAY,
AND FOR EVER.

HEBREWS 13:8

Dear Friends,

As we step into a new year filled with its own challenges, opportunities, and unknowns, we do so in a truly special season for Saintfield Parish.

2026 marks the 250th Anniversary of 1776, a moment to celebrate God's faithfulness across generations and to give thanks for a living, worshipping community that continues to bear witness in Co. Down.

When our parish first gathered 250 years ago, the church represented something new and hopeful—a fresh place of worship, mission, and belonging. Those early parishioners embraced change with faith and courage, trusting that God was doing a new thing among them. Their legacy invites us to ask an important question today: **What newness does our Gospel Mission now require so that our community can always hear of God's new hope in new and spirit filled ways?**

As we reflect at the beginning of this year, we look forward with gratitude and expectation to several **key moments of celebration** that will mark this anniversary year:

Celebration Service & Lunch - Sunday 22 March

This will be the heart of our anniversary year: a joyful act of worship giving thanks for 250 years of prayer, praise, and proclamation. We will remember those who have gone before us and recommit ourselves to God's calling for the future.

250th History Day - Saturday 13 June

A day to explore, share, and celebrate the rich story of Saintfield Parish. Through memories, records, and conversation, we will honour our past while discovering how it continues to shape our life and mission today.

Christmas Tree Festival - December

As the year draws to a close, this festival will be a beautiful sign of life, creativity, and welcome, pointing us again to the hope of Christ, born anew for every generation.

These events are not only about remembrance; they are about renewal and re-shaping Mission. They invite us to imagine fresh ways of sharing the gospel—through hospitality, service, creativity, and courageous faith—so that Christ's love may be heard and seen in our community today.

Through every change, celebration, and challenge, we hold fast to this enduring promise: **God never changes**. Buildings may be renewed, traditions may evolve, and mission may take new forms, but **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever**.

May this anniversary year deepen our faith, strengthen our unity, and lead us into the new hope God is still unfolding among us.

Blessings Chris





Sunday 4 January Christmas 2
 8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)
 10.00am Family Communion & Baptism of Bertie
 Something new!!!



Sunday 11 January Epiphany 1
 8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)
 10.00am Morning Worship: Ephesians 1:3-4
 A new Jesus. A new Church.
 A new Us (**Foodbank Sunday**)



11.00am REFRESH

Sunday 18 January Epiphany 2
 8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)
 10.00am SPACE in Parish Hall

Sunday 25 January Epiphany 3
 8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)
 10.00am Morning Worship & Baptism of Angus
 Ephesians 2:11-22
 A new family



11.00am REFRESH

**Baptism of Phoebe Smith
 Sunday November 30th**

**Congratulations to Joy
 Whitley on becoming a
 Grandmother (and Lauren
 an Aunt) Archer Whitley**



**Congratulations to David & Elaine Woodrow on the
 safe arrival of their 2nd Granddaughter, Lois**

January Tea/Coffee Rota

- 4 June & Katie
- 11 **Help Needed**
- 18 SPACE Service in Parish Hall
- 25 Peter & Carol



Flowers Rota

- 4 -
- 11 -
- 18 Julie Ritchie
- 25 Arthur Wilkinson



SDZ 0000
Suicide Down to Zero

Thank you to everyone in the community who supported our SDZ 0000 Sit out on Friday 5 Dec.

It was windy, wet and wet and wet

We raised £1440

which considering the 'conditions' was a minor miracle!! So, thanks to everyone who made it happen and to Laura who joined with William, Ian & Chris.



**Sunday
 22 March**

250th Parish Lunch after Morning Worship:

We will be opening a list to compile names of all who would like to be at this Lunch. So, look out!!

Daily Prayer Diary for January with verses from Proverbs

Thursday 1 January – New Year's Day

Proverbs 1:7

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."

Lord God, as we begin this new year and celebrate 250 years of Saintfield Parish, renew our faith and lead us in Your wisdom. Thank You for Your faithfulness through every generation.

Strengthen us for the year ahead—make us humble in heart, steady in prayer, and joyful in service. Guide our homes, families, and community with Your peace. In this new year, help us walk closely with You. Amen.

Friday 2 January

Proverbs 1:8 — "Listen to your father's instruction..."

Prayer: Help us live teachable, humble lives.

Saturday 3 January

Proverbs 1:33 — "Whoever listens to me will live in safety..."

Prayer: For God's protection over homes in Saintfield.

Sunday 4 January

Proverbs 2:6 — "For the Lord gives wisdom."

Saintfield Parish Prayer: Bless children, teenagers, and families.

Monday 5 January

Proverbs 2:20 — "Walk in the ways of the good..."

Prayer: For righteous choices and integrity.

Tuesday 6 January – Epiphany

Proverbs 3:5

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart..."

Prayer: Guide us by Your light, Lord Jesus.

Wednesday 7 January

Proverbs 3:24 — "Your sleep will be sweet."

Prayer: For those struggling with anxiety or restlessness.

Thursday 8 January

Proverbs 3:27 — "Do not withhold good..."

Prayer: Renew generosity in our community.

Friday 9 January

Proverbs 4:7 — "Get wisdom."

Prayer: For wise decisions for local leaders.

Saturday 10 January

Proverbs 4:18

"The path of the righteous is like the morning sun."

Prayer: May Christ's light shine in dark places.

Sunday 11 January – Baptism of the Lord

Proverbs 4:23 — "Above all else, guard your heart."

Saintfield Parish Prayer: For spiritual renewal and deeper commitment.

Monday 12 January

Proverbs 5:21 — "A man's ways are in full view of the Lord."

Prayer: For awareness of God's presence.

Tuesday 13 January

Proverbs 5:18 — "May your fountain be blessed."

Prayer: Bless marriages and families.

Wednesday 14 January

Proverbs 6:6 — "Go to the ant..."

Prayer: Inspire diligence and joy in work and school

Thursday 15 January

Proverbs 6:16 — "There are six things the Lord hates..."

Prayer: Free us from pride, anger, and discord.

Friday 16 January

Proverbs 6:23 — "Commands are a lamp."

Prayer: May God's word guide our decisions.

Saturday 17 January

Proverbs 7:2 — "Keep my commands and you will live."

Prayer: For daily faithfulness.

Sunday 18 January – Christian Unity

Proverbs 8:11 — "Wisdom is more precious than rubies."

Saintfield Parish Prayer: For unity with neighbouring churches.



Sam Bostock and congregation in 1st Saintfield.

John Torrens and congregation in 2nd Saintfield.

Father Michael and RC Church.

Baptist Church and Phil Bowles their Pastor.

Monday 19 January

Proverbs 8:17 — "I love those who love me."

Prayer: Deepen our love for God.

Tuesday 20 January

Proverbs 8:30 — "Filled with delight day after day."

Prayer: For joy for the weary.

Wednesday 21 January

Proverbs 8:34 — "Blessed are those who listen to me."

Prayer: For attentiveness to the Spirit.

Thursday 22 January

Proverbs 9:4 — "Let all who are simple come..."

Prayer: For direction for those seeking purpose.

Friday 23 January

Proverbs 9:10 —

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

Prayer: For reverence and humility.

Saturday 24 January

Proverbs 9:17 — "Stolen water is sweet..."

Prayer: Strength to resist temptation.

EPIPHANY

Sunday 25 January – Conversion of St Paul

Proverbs 10:3 —

“The Lord does not let the righteous go hungry.”

Saintfield Parish Prayer:

Re-shape our mission in this 250th Anniversary Year.

**Monday 26 January**

Proverbs 10:11

“The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life.”

Community Prayer: Bless local businesses and workers.

**Tuesday 27 January –
Holocaust Memorial Day***Gracious God,**We remember those who suffered
and perished during the Holocaust.**Teach us to stand against hatred,
uphold justice, and care for the vulnerab
May their memory inspire peace, compassion,
and unity in our communities. Amen.*HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1

Proverbs 10:20 —

“The tongue of the righteous is choice silver.”

Community Prayer: For peace, justice, and remembrance.

Wednesday 28 January

Proverbs 11:3

“The integrity of the upright guides them.”

Community Prayer: For Saintfield’s schools.

Thursday 29 January

Proverbs 11:18

“The one who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.”

Community Prayer: Bless farmers and rural workers.

Friday 30 January – Partner Church Day

Proverbs 11:25 “A generous person will prosper.”

Prayer: Bless Pastor David and our Partner Church in La Paz.

**Saturday 31 January**

Proverbs 12:10

“The righteous care for the needs of their animals.”

Prayer: For compassion and care for creation.

**Heavenly Father,**

We lift to God our sisters and brothers at The Church of the Redeemer in La Paz, under the faithful leadership of Pastor David. We thank You for the work You are accomplishing through them and for the ways in which they share Your love and truth in Bolivia.

Lord, we ask that You bless their growth—spiritually, numerically, and in the depth of their faith. Strengthen their congregation so that it may be a vibrant beacon of hope in the city and beyond. Inspire Pastor David and all leaders with wisdom, courage, and clarity as they guide Your people.

We pray for fruitful partnerships through the
South American Mission Society,

SAMS
IRELAND

that together we may share Your mission with passion, compassion, and humility. Encourage creativity in outreach, boldness in witness, and steadfastness in service.

Father, fill the Church of the Redeemer with the joy of Your Spirit, unify them in love, and help them reach new hearts with the good news of Jesus Christ.

May their ministry multiply and bear lasting fruit for Your kingdom. In Jesus’ name we pray,

Amen.**Rae Jennings**

Sadly, Rae passed away from this earth on Sunday Nov 30th

We keep Rae’s family Fiona, Lynne, Lesley, Colin and Olwyn and the whole family circle in their loss.

We thank God for Rae’s commitment to Saintfield Parish, her hard work and commitment to M.U.



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES: PARISH HALL / UPPER AREA



• **Mondays**

9.30am Pitter Patter (Main Hall) Mums & Tots
Back Jan 5

- 10.30am Craft & Chatter (Upper Area)
Back Jan 5

- 6.30pm Rainbows & Brownies
(Woodrow Room Upper Area, Main Hall)
Rainbows back 5 Jan, Brownies back 12 Jan

• **Tuesdays**

6.45pm Pause & Restore (Upper Area)
Back 6 Jan then every week

- Bowls 7.30pm Back 6 Jan

• **Wednesdays**

8.00am - 8.30am Slimming World Weigh In
9.00am Class (Woodrow Room)

- 1.30pm – 4.30pm Patricia's Sewing Class
Back 7 / 21 Jan (Upper Area)
- 6.00pm & 7.00pm Broadway Boogie Fitness
(Main Hall) Back 7 Jan
- Badminton Club 8.00pm. Back 7 Jan

• **Thursdays**

9.30am Happy Hatchlings
(Baby Massage in Woodrow Room)
Back 8 Jan each week

- 10.00am - 12.45pm Patricia's Sewing Class
Back 8 / 15 / 22/ 29 Jan (Upper Area)
- 2.00pm - 4.00pm Ladies Hen Shed
Back 8 Jan

- 6.45 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts (Parish Hall)
Back 8 Jan

• **Fridays**

10.00am – 1.00pm Patricia's Sewing class.
Back 16 / 30 Jan (Upper Area)

- 6.00pm Inspire Dance Company (Main Hall)
Back 9 Jan

Holy Communion Wednesdays

Parish Church 10.00am re- starts 7 Jan 2026

Women's Institute

Wednesday 14 January @ 7.45pm (Monthly)

Wednesday Welcome 10.30am – 12.30pm

Back 7 / 21 January (Upper Area)

Mothers' Union (Monthly)

Morning Coffee & Treats 10 January 10.30am

Select Vestry

14 January Tuesday @ 7.30pm
(Woodrow Room)

Ephesians Exploration Tea & Coffee

7 / 21 Wednesday 8.00pm Upper Area 1 hour

SDZ 0000

Charity Number CN102155

Suicide Down to Zero

JOIN A SAFETALK TRAINING WORKSHOP

Be the link to life. Learn to talk
about suicide safely

- **Recognise suicidal thoughts**
- **Practise talking about suicide**
- **Connect with intervention resources**

Venue Saintfield Parish church

Date 28th January 2026

Time 6pm-9.30pm

SDZ 0000

Suicide Down

Contact:

info@sdz.org.uk

In partnership with Suicide Down to Zero we are delighted to be able to offer spaces on our evening SafeTALK Suicide Alert Helper training. Spaces are free of charge and can be booked by clicking on the link 🖱️ <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/safetalk-workshop-tickets-1977387655708?aff=oddtcreator> If you have any questions about this event please contact Anne on annemurdocksdz10@gmail.com.



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



What a great night we all had celebrating Christmas with good friends. We started the night with some singing and then under direction from Rosemary Armstrong we tried our hand at making some lovely Christmas stars! This caused a lot of laughter and cries of Help!

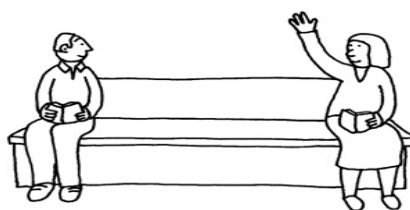
Following the craft we had a lovely supper and then ended the night with a very competitive quiz. Quiz master Judith Stevenson did a great job of keeping order!

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

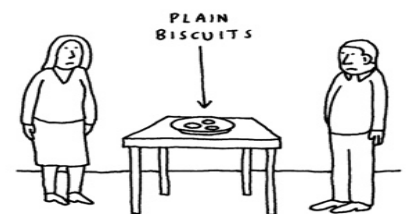
HOW THE CHURCH CAN HELP



EXERCISE



MEETING NEW PEOPLE



HEALTHY EATING

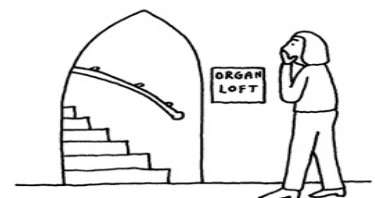


GETTING ORGANISED

AT THE PCC WE'LL DISCUSS THE APCM,
CW VS THE BCP, THE LLM'S CRB,
AND THE OLM'S BAP. OH, AND
THERE ARE LETTERS FROM THE DAC,
THE DDO, THE HOB AND THE ABC



LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE



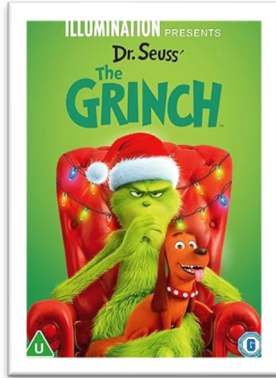
TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES

REFRESH



How the Grinch stole Christmas!

Have you watched the film or read the book about the Grinch who wanted to steal Christmas? The Grinch hated Christmas and planned to spoil the *Joy* of Christmas. He wanted to steal all the Christmas presents, Christmas trees and even the Christmas food. How terrible was that!! The Grinch was selfish and hated to see people happy and enjoying themselves. He had a small heart!



However, the people of Who-Ville knew that the real *joy* of Christmas does not come from all the presents, decorations or special Christmas food. It comes from having a heart filled with love and spending time with loved ones.

In the Christmas story King Herod is like the Grinch because he planned to spoil the very first Christmas by trying to kill baby Jesus. He thought Jesus would be more popular than him and try to take his Kingdom. Fortunately, his planned didn't work because God warned the Wise men not to return to Herod and to go home by a different route.



JOY to the world

God also warned Joseph to take Jesus to Egypt away from King Herod. Herod had a small heart and was selfish like the Grinch. God has a big heart and loves us.



Make sure this year you have a big heart and share the love and *joy* of Christmas and New Year with everyone you meet



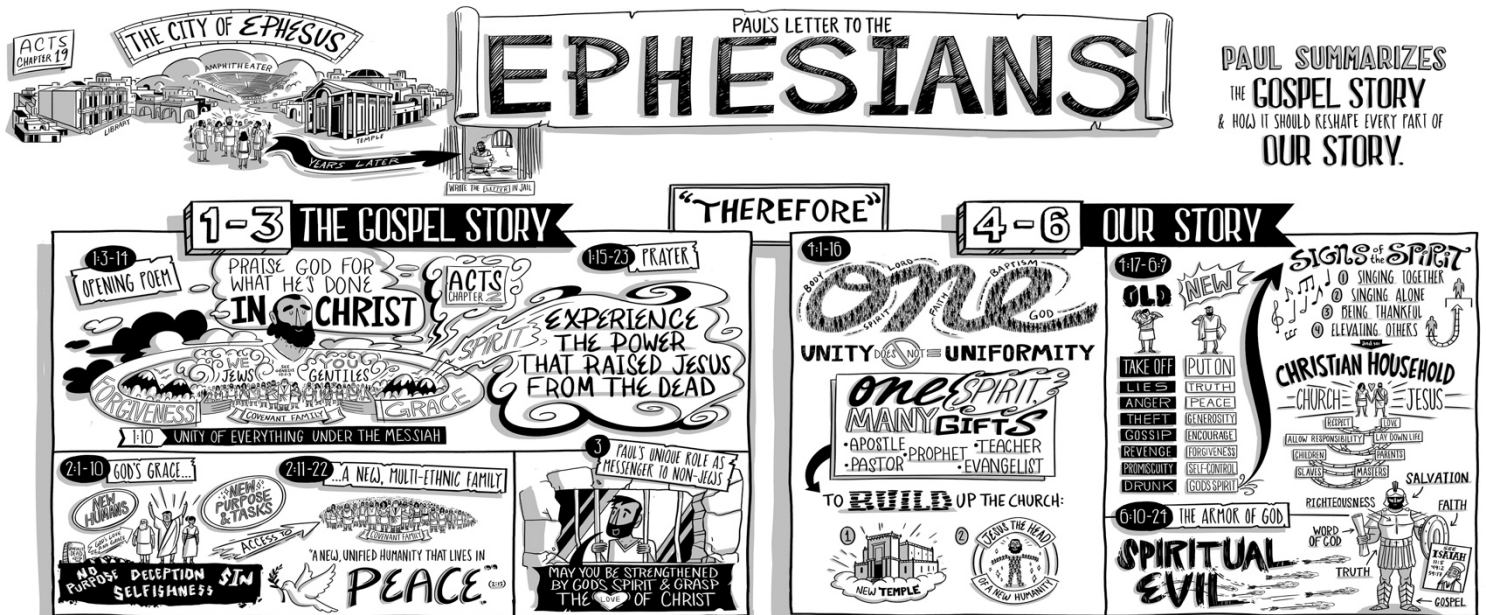
New Year Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the *Joy* that Jesus brings. Help us share that joy with everyone we meet.

Amen







Sunday Morning sermons and then Wednesday Night every two weeks 7.30pm 7 Jan (Upper Area)

Living Out the Gospel: Lessons from Ephesians

**“The Gospel is not just something we believe—
it’s something we live.”**

Over January – March, we are going to learn from Ephesians what it really means to live as a Christian today? The book of Ephesians provides a clear and practical answer. Written by Paul while in prison, this letter goes beyond theology—it’s a roadmap for life.

It shows how the Gospel transforms us individually and collectively, shaping identity, relationships, and everyday choices. Paul spent over two years preaching in Ephesus, a city devoted to Greek and Roman gods. Later, from a Roman prison, he wrote to the Ephesian church to remind them of the depth and implications of the Gospel.

Ephesians can be divided into two main sections:

Chapters 1–3: God’s grace creating a new humanity through Christ, uniting all believers.

Chapters 4–6: Living out the Gospel in daily life—personally, in community, in families, and spiritually.

Part One: God’s Grace and New Humanity

Paul begins with praise for God’s eternal plan. Through Christ, forgiveness and reconciliation are available to all, forming a “new, unified humanity” (Eph. 2:15). He prays that believers will grasp the immeasurable love of Christ, empowering them to live transformed lives. Barriers—cultural, social, or religious—are removed, and all are invited to participate in God’s purposes.

Part Two: Living Out the Gospel

Paul transitions from theology to action: “Therefore, live worthy of your calling.” Key applications include:

- Unity in the Church: Pursue peace, humility, and harmony.
- Spiritual Growth: Put off the old self and embrace the new.
- Practical Holiness: Speak truth, work honestly, forgive freely.
- Family & Relationships: Honour Christ in marriage, parenting, and work.
- Spiritual Warfare: Stand firm in God’s armour against life’s challenges.

“The Gospel shapes every choice, every relationship, every moment of our day.”

Practical Applications for Today

For Individuals:

- Embrace identity in Christ as chosen and forgiven.
- Grow spiritually through prayer and Scripture.
- Practice humility, patience, and forgiveness in daily life.
- Let the Gospel guide speech, work, and family interactions.

For the Church:

- Celebrate diversity as God’s design for community.
- Equip and empower believers for maturity and ministry.
- Reflect God’s wisdom and grace in a divided world.
- Stand united in spiritual challenges, wearing God’s armour together.

Conclusion

Ephesians reminds us: the Gospel is not just a message to believe, but a reality to live. It transforms individuals and communities into a family marked by grace, unity, and love.

As followers of Christ, both personally and in Saintfield Parish, we are called to be the Gospel, demonstrating to the world what life in Christ truly looks like.

**“Living the Gospel is not a Sunday thing—
it is the way we live, love, and serve each day.”**



"You also, like living stone, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."— 1 Peter 2:5

In all my years of ministry in all churches, I can honestly say this is a *new* experience — to be part of a parish family celebrating 250 years of worship, witness, and service. It is a once-in-a-lifetime milestone — a moment for all to look back with deep gratitude and to look forward with renewed purpose and faith.

The verse from 1 Peter reminds us that we are not simply celebrating a building, but a *people* — "living stones," shaped by the hand of God, joined together in Christ, and built into a spiritual house that endures through the generations. Our ancestors laid the foundations of faith here through prayer, generosity, and service. Now, in our time, we are called to continue that holy work — to build not just walls or programmes, but a Jesus community, alive with worship, compassion and hope.

As we mark this 250th Anniversary, we do so with hearts full of thanksgiving — for the faithfulness of those who came before us, and for the countless lives touched by God's presence through the ministry of this parish. Yet gratitude alone is not enough. Anniversaries are also invitations: to rediscover who we are, to renew our calling and to prepare for what God will do next.

This celebration will unfold across the coming year, with a diary of events that honour both our heritage and our future. Among the highlights will be our **History Day**, which will seek to re-tell with the community of 250 years and a **Christmas Tree Festival** next year — a brilliant expression of light and life in Christ as we draw the anniversary year to a close.

These events and many others will require helping hands, creative minds, and willing hearts.
So this is also a heartfelt call — for volunteers of all ages, organisers, bakers, stewards, workers, movers of tables as well as dreamers — all *living stones* ready to play their part in building something lasting and beautiful.

Whether you have been here all your life or have only recently joined our Church, there is a place for you in this celebration. As we journey through this anniversary year, may we do so with a spirit of joy and thankfulness, but also of courage and commitment — trusting that the same God who built the foundations long ago will continue to build His Church in and through us today.

Let us be these living stones — grateful for the past, grounded in the present and growing toward God's future. May Saintfield Parish, built on Christ our cornerstone, continue to be a spiritual house — alive, prayerful, and ready for what comes next.

Blessings Chris

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sunday 11 January 10.00am
Opening Celebration Worship
 Something New in Jesus



Saturday 7 March 10.30am
 The story of our Stained-Glass Window in Church

Sunday 22 March 11.00am
Our 250th Celebration Worship
 Preacher: Archbishop of Armagh
 The Most Reverend John McDowell
Followed by a Celebration Parish Lunch



Holy Week: Easter Transformations
 Every Evening 7.30pm Guest Speakers
 Monday 31 March – Good Friday

Saturday 13 June
 10.00am – 4.00pm
 Saintfield Parish/Community
 History Day



September Friday 12th, 13th & 14th.
 Prayer 24/7 experience in Church

Sunday 11 October 10.00am
 250th Harvest Thanksgiving
 Bishop of Down & Dromore
 Rt Rev David McClay



Sunday 8 November 10.00am
 Remembrance Sunday involving
 community poppies

Friday 4 – Sat 5 – Sun 6 December
 Christmas Tree Festival in Church

Christmas Carols & Worship
 Wellington Silver Band



251th Year So....what's next God?
Sunday 10 January 2027 10.00am
 Closing 250th Thanksgiving Worship
 Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today & forever



CONTACTS

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Tuesday - Friday
9.00am - 2.00pm
(Fri @ 12.30pm)

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**Material for February 2026 to be with
Leonard by 19th of January 2026**



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Or Chris Pollock (Vicar)