



**CHRISTMAS SERVICES  
at  
Charlcombe St. Mary  
and  
Bath St. Stephen**



**The congregations of Charlcombe St. Mary  
and Bath St. Stephen send you Christmas  
greetings, wishing joy and peace to all and  
extending a warm welcome to join with us in  
celebrating our Saviour Jesus Christ's birth.**

## **The Gift of the Waiting Game ...**

The season of Advent is all about waiting ... increasingly appropriate perhaps in the non-stop busy-ness of our modern society. Whether it's in one of Bath's notorious traffic jams; or for the delivery of goods ordered on-line; or merely the childlike anticipation of Christmas and all that it means.

At your local churches, we are also waiting ... for Christmas; for the appointment of a Children & Families Worker; for the completion of works to St Mary's roof and level access ramp at St Stephen's; and for God's gift of a new priest-in-charge who we hope will be called to serve His community here and in post by next summer. In the meantime we are thankful for the vibrancy of our life, our shared ministry and pastoral support. Priest or no priest, we strive to bear witness to the love of God, alive in this community 24/7, be it via the workplace, the school playground, or in the street.

In these last few weeks leading up to Christmas we are called to wait: not just in the events of our daily lives, but to wait for God. Hard though it may be to believe, Advent is intended to give us the opportunity to slow down and give some time to ourselves. Time to pause, take stock and think about what the Christmas story means for us today; time to wait for Him to come to us and to the world, and a time to prepare ourselves to be willing to come to Him. Advent can be a time of waiting to be surprised afresh by the joy of Christmas; a time of longing for the appreciation of its true meaning and the real gift of God's son our Saviour Jesus Christ to us. Please join us at Church this Christmas ...

**Just remember God is waiting.**

**Waiting to meet you, just as you are.**

**We look forward to welcoming you to meet with Him.**



## Charlcombe St. Mary

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – 20<sup>th</sup> December**

**9am - Sung Eucharist**

**6.30pm - Service of Lessons and Carols**

Followed by refreshments

**Christmas Eve – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

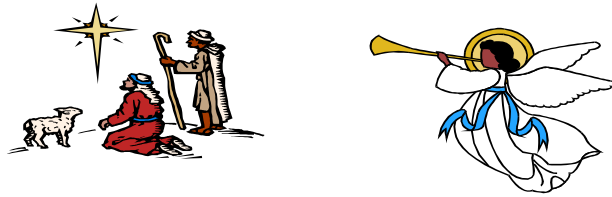
**11.30pm – First Communion of Christmas**

**Christmas Day – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**10am – Family Eucharist led by Preb. Angela Berners-Wilson**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

**9am – Sung Eucharist**



## Bath St. Stephen

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – 20<sup>th</sup> December**

**11am - All-Age Family Worship incl. Nativity Play**

**6.30pm - Service of Lessons and Carols**

Followed by mulled wine and mince pies

**Christmas Eve – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**6pm – Christingle Service**

**11.30pm – First Communion of Christmas**

**Christmas Day – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**10am - Family Communion led by The Archdeacon of Bath,**

**Andy Piggott**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

**11am – Parish Communion**

**Throughout the year a service of Sung Eucharist is held at Charlcombe St. Mary's every Sunday at 9am.**

**At St. Stephen's the main service each Sunday is at 11am:**

1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Choral Communion and Sunday Club

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Parish Communion and Sunday Club

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: All-Age Worship

(Sunday Club provides children with their own activities, whilst joining with the rest of the congregation for the start and finish of the communion service.)

### **Friends of Charlcombe / St Stephen's**

If you value the peace, beauty and refreshment offered by Charlcombe and its grounds, or admire St. Stephen's (colourful!) landmark tower and impressive interior and acoustics, you might like to consider assisting the PCCs with their upkeep by joining either 'Friends' association. Regular events take place throughout the year – please call Arthur Floyd (313016) re Charlcombe or Richard Hewitt (310241) re St. Stephen's for more details.

### **What's on at St. Mary's & St. Stephen's?**

Our weekly news-sheet provides an indication of the huge range of activities, clubs and groups meeting within the community, many regularly in St. Stephen's Centre. For example, (during term-time) there's both a thriving Parent and Toddler group every Monday morning and the Northside Youth Club on Friday evening; various Yoga / Fitness sessions; or for hobbies / interests there are Bath Photographic Society, Bath Floral Society or various choirs. To find out more, including details of how to book the centre (e.g. for a party) call the office number or check out our websites:

[www.stmaryscharlcombe.org.uk](http://www.stmaryscharlcombe.org.uk) /

[www.ststephensbath.org.uk](http://www.ststephensbath.org.uk)

**Parish Office, St. Stephen's Centre: 420946**

(Open weekday mornings / 24-hour answerphone)