



Crowthorne Baptist Church

What's on – December 2025



Comfort, comfort
my people,
says your God.
(Isaiah 40:1, FSV)

*“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God; speak comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness:- Prepare ye the way of the Lord: make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”
Isaiah 40:1-3 (Authorised Version)*

Some of my earliest memories of Advent and Christmas as a child involve that wonderful piece of music by Handel – his oratorio “*Messiah*”. It was performed at Christmas by church choirs and choral societies in many towns in the North of England, where I grew up. My own church was no exception – we did some of the choruses (including the well-known “Hallelujah”) at our Carol Service. Hearing the full thing, with top level soloists and the famous Hallé orchestra and choir in the Manchester Free Trade Hall was a real treat.

These verses from Isaiah form the opening of that great work. An important part of my Advent Sunday every year is sitting down to listen to Part 1 of “*Messiah*” on my well-loved CD. When I hear the Tenor soloist sing these words, it never fails to send a shiver down my spine.

As the world rushes forward to Christmas, with all the excesses of consumerism, we as Christians need to remember to take time to prepare in a different way. The season of Advent allows us to do that. The world is still a broken place, as it was when Jesus was born over 2,000 years ago. Many still long for comfort, for warfare to cease and for peace and justice to reign. God’s answer was not a military or political leader, but a tiny baby who would grow into the suffering servant of Isaiah 53; the Saviour who would die on a cross to rescue us all from our biggest enemies – sin and death. The busy world of 1st Century Palestine didn’t notice his coming, apart from a few chosen people. Let us look for him carefully and find him afresh through this season, perhaps through the LICC Advent Journey or another book.

Elaine

December at CBC

As we look forward to Christmas during Advent, our Sunday themes are using the “Small Wonder” material from LICC.

Mon 1/12	19:30	Church Family Prayer in the Heart (plus Search Team meeting online)
Fri 5/12	17:00– 20:00	Crowthorne Late Night Shopping Event
Sun 7/12	10:30	Sunday Worship – All-age for Advent 2 “Wonderful News” (Isaiah 9:1-7)
Sun 7/12	evening	Youth Social: Christmas Cozy Fun
Mon 8/12	19:30	Church Leaders’ meeting
Thurs 10/12	14:00	Thursday Fellowship Quiz (last meeting for 2025)
Sat 13/12	10- 12:15	Shine Saturday Special for Christmas
Sun 14/12	10:30	Sunday Worship for Advent 3 “Wonderful Work” (Psalm 146:1-10) Preacher: Rev. Michael Bentley
Tues 16/12	14:30	Celebration service for Joan Adams in the Heart. (13:30 at the crematorium)
Weds 17/12	10:30	Carol Service at St. Brendan’s care home
Fri 19/12	18:30	CTC Carols in the Pubs at The Prince then 20:00 at The Crowthorne Inn
Sat 20/12	10:00	CTC Carols in the Square. Outside CBC with refreshments in the Hub afterwards
Sun 21/12	10:30	Sunday Worship with Communion – “Wonderful to meet you” (Isaiah 7:10-16) (Communion offering for Spurgeons) Preacher: Alan Gravett
Sun 21/12	15:00	“Coffee & Carols” – seasonal refreshments served before the Carol Service at 4pm
Weds 24/12	16:00	Family Christingle Service
Thurs 25/12	10:30	All-age Christmas celebration – “Wonder Unwrapped” (John 1:1-14)
Sun 28/12	10:30	Sunday Worship – All-age “Finding Treasure” (Matthew 2:1-12)

December Communion Service



In our monthly Communion services, where we celebrate the Lord's Supper, it is CBC's tradition to take up an extra offering for a charity.

This month our offering goes to Spurgeons (<https://spurgeons.org/>)

Spurgeons is a Christian charity inspired by the legacy of Charles Haddon Spurgeon, famous Baptist preacher. It is dedicated to supporting vulnerable children and families across the UK. For over 150 years, Spurgeons has been a beacon of hope—offering practical help, emotional support, and spiritual care through family hubs, schools, prisons, and churches.



Their mission is simple yet powerful: to transform the nation, one child at a time, ensuring every family has the support they need to flourish. Whether it's helping with mental health, special educational needs, or domestic challenges, Spurgeons puts children first in everything they do. Our offering helps Spurgeons continue this vital work—bringing light, love, and lasting change to families who need it most.

Advent Theme – Small Wonder

Advent started on Sunday 30th November. Like last year, we are using material prepared by LICC (The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity) for the Sunday sermon series and on Christmas Day.



Daily Readings

LICC is producing daily Bible readings and reflections from 1st to 25th December – a bit like an Advent Calendar for grown-ups! We encourage as many people as possible connected to CBC to join in with this. You can sign up to receive them by email each day, or you can join in via the YouVersion Bible App. If you don't have email, we can arrange to get a printed version for you. Please speak to Elaine if this applies to you. More information on the LICC website:

<https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/small-wonder-a-christmas-devotional-journey/>

Crowthorne Late Night Shopping Event

This is on **Friday 5th December**.

The Heart will be filled with activities and stalls.
Please come along and support.



Youth Social – Sunday 7th December 6:30-8pm

Christmas Cozy Fun! Details from the Youth leaders:
Emma Joyce, Phil Joyce, Emma Frost



Special Christmas Services & Events

- **Sunday 21st December 3pm** – Coffee & Carols
Refreshments & music from 3pm followed by
Carol Service at 4pm. All welcome. Bring friends!
- **Christmas Eve 4pm** – Family Christingle Service
- **Christmas Day at 10:30am** – All-age Celebration



Other Christmas Events

- **St Brendan's Carol Service** – Wednesday 17th December
10:30am. Please come along and join in.
- **CTC Carol Singing in the Pubs** – Friday 19th December 6:30pm
at the Prince and 8pm at the Crowthorne Inn
- **CTC Carols in the Square** – Saturday 20th December from 10 to
11am outside CBC (refreshments afterwards)

Carols at St. Brendan's Care Home

Wednesday 17th December 10:30am

Please come along and join in with festive singing for
the residents at St. Brendan's. All welcome.



The Ark Nativity Tuesday 16th December 9:30am

The Ark will be holding their Nativity service in the Heart on the morning of 16th December. They extend a warm welcome to folk from CBC to join them.



Farewell to Joan Adams Tuesday 16th December

Joan's funeral service is at Easthampstead Crematorium at 1:30 pm, followed by a service to celebrate her life here at CBC at 2:30 pm. Tea & cake in the Hub following the service.



Christmas Greetings from June Rawding

Our dear sister, June, is no longer able to join us at church as she used to do. She sends her love and best wishes to all her church family for a very happy and blessed Christmas.



CBC Big Christmas Card 2025

Instead of sending each other Christmas cards within the fellowship, we have our BIG Christmas card to sign. Thank you, Cheryl, for making it for us again this year.



Please sign the card and give a donation instead of the cost of sending individual cards. Donations this year will be going to Thames Hospice. More information on their website:

<https://www.thameshospice.org.uk/>

Christmas Shoeboxes 2025

We were able to send off 50 boxes to operation Christmas child this year.

Thank you very much to all who generously gave their time in order to pack the boxes and to everyone who has supported this ministry over the last 10 months with items to go in the boxes. We look forward to hearing where the boxes were distributed in the New Year.



Christmas Gifts for Yeldall Manor

At CBC we have something of a tradition of providing some gifts for the residents at Yeldall Manor.



Maybe you would like to bless some of the residents with a small gift this Christmas. Why not look out for things whilst you are out shopping in the run up to Christmas? Suitable items are men's toiletries, boxer shorts, socks, hats, gloves, scarves, sweets and chocolate (not containing alcohol, please), stationery items, etc.



Please wrap them up and put a post-it note on the outside with details of the contents, including size where appropriate. **Bring them to church by 14th December** and Richard E will take them to Yeldall.

Second Wind Concert of Seasonal Music

Sunday 14th December at 7pm

Wokingham Baptist Church

Tickets £14 on the door or £13 advance booking price. (Age 16 and under free when accompanied by an adult)

Advance booking at <https://second-wind-events.sumupstore.com/>

Also on the door, subject to availability (See Alan for more info)



Coming up in January 2026

Men's Breakfast Saturday 17th January 8:30am

Speaker: tba

Cost £5. To book see Martin or email:

bookings.crowthornebaptist@gmail.com



Church Meeting Dates 2026

- **Sunday Jan 25th** – Forum meeting after the service
- **Thursday April 16th** – 7:45pm AGM
- **Sunday June 28th** – Forum meeting after the service
- **Monday Sept 28th** – 7:45pm
- **Sunday Nov 29th** – Forum meeting after the service



Our church meetings are open to anyone who is connected to CBC, but only church members can take part in any voting processes. All church members are encouraged to make these meetings a priority, especially in this time of pastoral vacancy.

Prayer Matters

Prayer Space

Would you like someone to pray with you after the Sunday service?



Two members of our Prayer Team will be ready and happy to pray with you at the front of the Heart. Please go over and speak with them. (Available 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month)

Church Family Prayer – 1st Monday in each month

Please join us in The Heart from 7:30pm until around 8.15pm. We encourage everyone to join us as we pray. Don't worry if you don't want to pray out loud yourself. Let Emma know of any items for prayer and we can bring these things to our amazing God.

Help needed for Crèche, CBC Kidz and CBC Youth

We desperately need more volunteers to help when the children and young people go out to their groups on Sunday mornings.



Please see Beccy if you could help on the Crèche or CBC Kidz rota. See Phil or Emma Joyce if you could help with the Youth group.

Crowthorne Foodbank

Donations to the Foodbank are always welcome at any time. We have a box in the Hub foyer where you can leave items.

The list of things needed is subject to change from week to week, so check the website for up to date information (<https://crowthorne.foodbank.org.uk/>)



Some suggestions are below.

- Long life milk
- Pasta
- Pulses (lentils, etc)
- Dried rice (500g packs)
- Jars of pasta sauce
- Tins of spaghetti
- Jam
- Tinned meat and fish
- Tinned fruit & vegetables
- Tinned tomatoes
- Fruit juices
- Tinned puddings
- Breakfast cereals
- Porridge
- Biscuits
- Small jars of coffee
- Squash
- Black bags
- Toilet rolls
- Anti-bac spray
- Bleach
- Laundry detergent capsules
- Washing up liquid
- J cloths / sponges
- Liquid hand wash
- Bars of soap
- Shampoos / conditioners
- Shower gel
- Deodorants (men & women)
- Toothbrushes for adults
- Toothpaste for adults

The Foodbank is located at the Vineyard Centre in Wellington Business Park and is open Mondays and Thursdays from 12 to 2pm. There is an additional session on Mondays from 5:30 to 7pm.

If you know of anyone who needs to be referred to the Foodbank for help, vouchers are available. Please speak to Sue Burrow or Elaine.

The Leadership Team

We are in a period of pastoral vacancy, which means that there is more work to do for all of us, especially the Leadership Team. Please pray for the Team as we look towards the future and the process of appointing a new Minister.

Elders	Elaine Hood (Plus 1 vacancy)
Treasurer	Justine Wells
Secretary	<i>vacancy</i>
Deacons	Emma Frost, Sarah Webb, Richard Elsbury & Eric Panayiotou

Photos of all members of the Leadership Team are in the Heart Foyer. **Please contact any member of the Team** if there is anything you want to share, an issue you want to raise or if you have any pastoral concerns. Individual contact details are in the Church Directory. There is also a single email address that will reach every member of the team individually: leadershipteam@crowthornebaptist.org.uk

Leadership Team Meetings

The team usually meets for a business meeting on the 2nd Monday in the month and prayer on the 4th Monday. Your prayers for these meetings and for issues discussed are very much appreciated.

A summary of the minutes from each meeting is available on the noticeboard near the Heart. From this month they will be emailed out to everyone on the email distribution list. If you would like a printed copy, please speak to Emma.

Leadership Team Structure

There has been a suggestion that we drop the distinction between Elders and Deacons for members of the Leadership Team for the time being, whilst we are in the pastoral vacancy. This was discussed at the November Church Forum Meeting. Please pass on any comments or questions to a member of the team, as we seek to clarify the nomination process for the AGM in April 2026.

Maintenance Team

Members of the CBC Maintenance team are:

**Alan Gravett : Philip Hood : Mike Stephenson :
Richard Elsbury**

If you spot anything that needs needs attention,
please let Philip or Mike know or you can email the
group on maintenance@crowthornebaptist.org.uk



Eco Church

Charity Collections at CBC

We collect standard plastic milk bottle tops and
used postage stamps for charity. Collection point in the
Hub foyer or give them to Elaine.



Used Postage Stamps for Bible Society

The used stamps we collect are sent to the Bible
Society. Please CUT stamps off envelopes (rather
than tear them) and ideally leave around 1cm (½")
border around the stamp.



Regular Activities

House Groups at CBC

Groups meet at different times during the week for Bible study and fellowship:

- Monday and Friday mornings
- Wednesday and Thursday evenings

Please speak to one of the Leadership Team if you would like to join one - or even start a new one!



Midweek Events at CBC

Good Neighbours	Weekdays 10am to 12 noon in the Hub Foyer (Telephone 01344 761001)
Cash Hub	Weekdays 9am to 5pm in the Hub
The Ark Preschool	Weekday mornings in term time in the Hub
Zone6 (for year 6)	Mondays in term time 3:15-5:00pm
Zone78 (for year 7/8)	Fridays in term time 7-8:30pm
AA	Every Monday 7:00-8:30pm in the Hub
Breakaway Brass	Every Tuesday 8:00-10:00pm in the Hub
CTC Coffee Shop	Every Thursday 10:30-11:30am in the Heart

Would you like to book a room at CBC?

Ask Julianty or email
booking@crowthornebaptist.org.uk

Find out more on our website:
www.crowthornebaptist.org.uk

Church office phone 07767 186336
(for outside contacts)

