

Thursday 1 December -

Sunday 4 December

LOCKS HEATH, St John's Church (Thursday: 10am-5pm; Friday: 10am-7pm; Saturday: 10am-5pm; Sunday: 12noon-4pm): *Christmas tree festival*. Theme: Past, present and future. Details: Nims Fisher (01489-575150).

Friday 2 December -

Sunday 4 December

PORTSMOUTH, St Cuthbert's Church, Lichfield Road, Copnor (Friday: 7.30pm; Saturday: 11am-5.30pm; Sunday: 11am-5pm): *Christmas tree festival*. Includes concert on Friday with the Fine Academy Voice Choir. Tickets £7, details on 07763-210659. Admission on Saturday and Sunday: £2. Live musical entertainment, including Pompey Pluckers and Westover Primary School. Grand draw, children's activities, refreshments and Father Christmas.

Friday 2 December -

Saturday 3 December

VENTNOR, St Catherine's Church (10am-4pm): *Christmas fair including local tree festival*.

Friday 2 December

PORTCHESTER, St Mary's Church (7pm): *Singing workshop for (8.30pm): Come and Sing Handel's Messiah*. Conducted by Paul Pilott, accompanied by organ and string orchestra. Includes mulled wine and mince pies at 8pm. Admission free with retiring collection.

Saturday 3 December

PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton (10am): *Christmas craft and activity morning*.
 BOTLEY, All Saints Church (10am-1pm): *Christmas fayre*.
 PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (11am): *Christmas fair*.
 GOSPORT, Christ Church, Stoke Road (11am): *Christmas fair*. Carol singers, cake stall, raffle, bric-a-brac, jewellery.
 FARLINGTON, St Andrew's Church (11.30am): *Soup lunch and mini-fair*. In aid of the Diocese of Ho in Ghana.
 RYDE, St John's Church, High Park Road (2pm-4pm): *Christmas bazaar*.
 WARREN PARK, St Clare's Church (6pm): *Community Nativity play*. Local residents perform the Nativity. Tickets: £1.
 SHANKLIN, St Blasius Church, Church Road (7pm): *Concert by the Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, Canterbury*. High standard, free admission, retiring collection and interval refreshments.
 PORTCHESTER, Methodist Church (7.30pm): *Festive concert in aid of Rowans Hospice*. Solent Male Voice Choir directed by Geoff Porter sing carols featuring soprano Jane Marett.

Sunday 4 December

PORTSMOUTH, Church of the Ascension, Stubbington Avenue, North End (9.45am): *Eucharist*. With Bishop Christopher.
 WARREN PARK, St Clare's Church (2pm): *Community Nativity play*. Local residents perform the Nativity with camels and donkeys processing through the streets. Tickets: £1.
 PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton (3pm): *The News' carol service*. Join pupils at this Christingle service.
 PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral (3pm): *RNLI carol service*.
 GOSPORT, Holy Trinity Church (3.30pm): *Recital of music by Paul Pilott, Louise Helyer and friends*.
 PORTSMOUTH, All Saints Church, Commercial Road (5pm): *Advent carol service*.

Monday 5 December

PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church,

BRIGHSTONE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: December 8-11

BRIGHSTONE, St Mary's Church, Methodist Church, the Wilberforce Hall, the Reading Rooms/Social Club, Three Bishops pub, Isle of Wight Pearl, and MOTTISTONE, St Peter and St Paul Church (daily, 10am-5pm): Scores of decorated Christmas trees available to see, plus refreshments. Details: www.bxtf.org. Highlights include:

Wednesday 7 December

BRIGHSTONE, St Mary's Church (7pm): *Hospice Lights of Love service*. Tree lighting by Nigel Hartley, CEO of Earl Mountbatten Hospice.

Thursday 8 December

BRIGHSTONE, Methodist Church (3.30pm): *Carols with Brighstone schoolchildren and lighting of the 'welcome tree'*.

Friday 9 December

BRIGHSTONE, Scout Centre (10am-4pm): *Christmas gift and craft fair*.
 BRIGHSTONE, Wilberforce Hall (4pm): *Carols with The Village Society*.
 BRIGHSTONE, St Mary's Church (7pm): *Slipshod singers & Brighstone Barnacles in concert*.

Fratton (7pm): *Portsmouth district scouting Christingle service*.
 PORTSMOUTH, St Faith's Church, Landport (7.30pm): *Advent Reflections - looking in peace*. Includes candlelit worship and reflection.

Wednesday 7 December

PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton (12noon): *Mass and charity lunch*.
 COWPLAIN, St Wilfrid's Church (7.30pm): *Simeon's Watch*. Family Christmas play performed by Riding Lights Theatre Company.

Thursday 8 December -

Saturday 10 December

BISHOP'S WALTHAM, St Peter's Church (Thursday: 5.30pm-8.30pm; Friday and Saturday: 10am-4pm): *Nativity Crib Festival*. Display of Nativity scenes and children's art work. Coffee, tea, cookies and cakes. Free admission.

Thursday 8 December -

Sunday 11 December

GOSPORT, St Mary's Church, Alverstoke (Thursday: 6pm-7.30pm; Friday and Saturday: 11am-6pm; Sunday: 12noon-6pm): *Christmas tree festival*. More than 90 decorated Christmas trees on display. Admission: £3/£2, under 16s: free. Refreshments.

Thursday 8 December

PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's churchyard, Fratton (6.30pm): *Fratton Big Local Festival of Lights*.

Friday 9 December

PORTSMOUTH, St Faith's Church, Landport (7.30pm): *Reindeer drive*. Beetle drive with a difference to raise funds for Christian Aid.

Saturday 10 December

PORTSMOUTH, All Saints Church, Commercial Road (7.30am): *Men's breakfast*.
 NEWPORT, St John's Church and community hall (10am-4pm): *Christmas fair and angel festival*. In aid of 2020 Vision. Lunches, crafts and stalls.
 PORTSMOUTH, Church of the Resurrection, Drayton (2pm-4pm): *Build@Church*. Hear Bible stories and use Lego and Duplo bricks to respond. Details: julie@farlingtonparish.co.uk or

Saturday 10 December

BRIGHSTONE, Brighstone Primary School (1pm-4pm): *Christmas fair*.
 BRIGHSTONE, St Mary's Church (2.15pm-3.15pm): *The Credore Ensemble*. Seasonal instrumental music.
 MOTTISTONE, St Peter and St Paul Church (4.30pm): *Carols, crib blessing and hand-bell ringing with Niton Handbells*.

Sunday 11 December

BRIGHSTONE, St Mary's Church (2.15pm): *Rhymes and Chimes of Christmas*; (7pm): *Star of Wonder concert*. Musical extravaganza in aid of South Wight Area Youth (SWAY).

Tuesday 13 December

BRIGHSTONE, St Mary's Church

023-9275 4130.

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral (2pm-4pm): *Messy Cathedral*; (7pm): *Rowans festive fair*.
 HAYLING ISLAND, St Mary's Church (7.30pm): *The Renaissance Choir's Christmas concert*. Emsworth-based choir rounds off 40th anniversary celebrations. Tickets: £5/£2, on 023-9247 5259.
 BOTLEY, All Saints Church (7.30pm): *Bath Camerata Christmas concert*. Tickets: £12/£10, available on 01489-782445 or office@bcd-churches.org.uk.
 ALTON, Alton Abbey (7.30pm): *Advent concert*. Tickets: £5, available on guest house@altonabbey.com or 01420-562145.

Sunday 11 December

VENTNOR, St Alban's Church (3.30pm): *Annual celebration of the Feast of St Nicholas*. With refreshments.

Thursday 15 December

PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton (7.30pm): *Royal Marines School of Music concert*.

Friday 16 December

PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton (12noon): *Churches Homeless Action carols*. Includes presentation of gift vouchers to agencies supporting the homeless over Christmas.

Sunday 18 December

PORTSMOUTH, St Andrew's Church, Farlington (4pm): *Service of Lessons and Carols*.
 PORTSMOUTH, All Saints Church, Commercial Road (4pm): *Christmas carol service*.
 PORTSMOUTH, Church of the Resurrection, Drayton (6pm): *Service of Lessons and Carols*.
 PORTSMOUTH, Church of the Ascension, Stubbington Avenue, North End (6pm): *Nine Lessons and Carols*.
 PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton (6.30pm): *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*.
 VENTNOR, St Catherine's Church (6.30pm): *Carols by candlelight*.
 NEWPORT, St John's Church (6.30pm): *Carols by candlelight*.

Monday 19 December

GOSPORT, Holy Trinity Church (1pm-1.30pm): *Christmas organ recital by David Oldfield*. Admission free, donations accepted.

(6pm): *Prickly Hay*. A hoedown Nativity, presented by Brighstone Primary School.

Wednesday 14 December

BRIGHSTONE, St Mary's Church (1pm): *Prickly Hay*. A hoedown Nativity, presented by Brighstone Primary School.

Thursday 15 December

BRIGHSTONE, St Mary's Church (7.30pm): *The Christmas Choir Carol Concert*.

Saturday 17 December

BRIGHSTONE, St Mary's Church (7.30pm): *Military Band concert*. With Sandown and Shanklin Military Band, proceeds to ABF - The Soldiers' Charity.

Tuesday 20 December

HAVANT, St Faith's Church, West Street (7.30pm): *Christmas concert in aid of the Big Build*. Solent Male Voice Choir with the Bishop's Bells and Jane Marett. Free entry, refreshments and collection.

Wednesday 21 December

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral (7pm): *Carol service I*.

Thursday 22 December

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral (7pm): *Carol service II*.

Friday 23 December

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral (7pm): *Carol service III*.

Christmas Eve

PORTSMOUTH, St Andrew's Church, Farlington (2pm): *Crib service*.
 PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral (3pm): *Crib Service I*; (4.30pm): *Crib Service II*; (11.30pm): *Midnight Eucharist*.
 PORTSMOUTH, Church of the Resurrection, Drayton (4pm): *Crib service*; (11.15pm): *Midnight Mass*.
 PORTSMOUTH, Church of the Ascension, Stubbington Avenue (4pm): *Crib service*. With the Rev Dawn Banting.
 VENTNOR, St Alban's Church (5pm): *Crib service*; (8pm): *Solemn sung vigil mass*; (11.30pm): *Carols to welcome the Christ-child's birth*.
 GODSHILL, All Saints Church (5pm): *Crib service*.
 PORTSMOUTH, All Saints Church, Commercial Road (5pm): *Crib service*; (11.30pm): *Midnight mass*.
 PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton (6pm): *Nativity service*. The Christmas story is told by children and young people; (11.30pm): *Midnight Mass*.
 PORTSMOUTH, St Faith's Church, Landport (11.30pm): *Midnight Mass*.
 PORTSMOUTH, St Wilfrid's Church, Fratton (11.30pm): *Midnight Mass*.

Christmas Day

PORTSMOUTH, St Mary's Church, Fratton (9am): *Book of Common Prayer Communion*; (10am): *Christmas morning Mass and Carols*.
 VENTNOR, St Alban's Church

(9.30am): *Solemn sung mass*.
 PORTSMOUTH, St Andrew's Church, Farlington (10am): *Christmas morning service*.
 PORTSMOUTH, St Faith's Church, Landport (10am): *Christmas morning Mass and Carols*.
 PORTSMOUTH, St Wilfrid's Church, George Street, Fratton (10am): *Christmas morning Mass and Carols*.
 PORTSMOUTH, All Saints Church, Commercial Road (10am): *All-age family Communion*.
 PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street (10.30am): *Eucharist for Christmas Day*.
 VENTNOR, St Catherine's Church (10.45am): *Christmas Day worship*.
 GODSHILL, All Saints Church (11am): *Sung Family Eucharist*.

Tuesday 27 December

BOTLEY, All Saints Church (6.30pm): *Carol service*.

Sunday 8 January

GODSHILL, All Saints Church (9.30am): *Solemn sung mass for Epiphany*.

Saturday 14 January

SOUTHSEA, House of Bethany, 7 Nelson Road (10am-4pm): *Quiet day*. Led by the Rev Juliet Straw. Drinks and tea provided. Please bring your own lunch. Please let the Sisters know if you want to attend on 023-9283 3498 or ssb@sistersofbethany.org.uk.
 PORTSMOUTH, Church of the Resurrection, Drayton (2pm-4pm): *Build@Church*. Hear Bible stories and use Lego and Duplo bricks to respond. Details: julie@farlingtonparish.co.uk or 023-9275 4130.

Sunday 15 January

GODSHILL, All Saints Church (9.30am): *Solemn sung mass for the Baptism of the Lord*.
 PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral (6pm): *Epiphany carols*.

Saturday 21 January

PORTSMOUTH, Portsmouth Cathedral (10am-4pm): *Modern Slavery event*. Speakers talk about people trafficking and what we can do to eradicate it. See www.portsmouth.anglican.org/modernslavery for details.
 COSHAM, St Philips' church hall (11am-2pm): *Table-top sale*. Tables to hire, £5 in advance. Bacon rolls and homemade soup and cake. Entrance: 40p. Details: 023-9237 9278.
 PORTSMOUTH, Church of the Resurrection, Drayton (2pm-4pm): *Messy Church*. Craft activities, refreshments and a short act of worship for families.

Wednesday 25 January

SOUTHSEA, House of Bethany, 7 Nelson Road (2.30pm): *Service for Christian Unity*. Speakers: two members of the Chemin Neuf Community at Storrington Priory.

● *Would you like your events for February listed here? Send them to Neil Pugmire on neil.pugmire@portsmouth.anglican.org or at Diocesan offices, First Floor, Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth, PO1 2HB by January 9. NB: There is no separate January edition.*

announcements

Appointments

The Rev Linda Bushell, to be interim House for Duty priest, Brighstone and Brook with Mottistone, Shorwell and Kingston from a date to be announced.

Resignation:

The Rev Laura Cameron, assistant curate, Holy Trinity with St Columba, Fareham, with effect from November 1.

situation vacant

COPNOR: St Cuthbert's Church was redeveloped to include a place of worship, a pre-school, community centre and GPs' surgery. St Cuthbert's Trust was established to manage the community centre aspect of the development. Its aim is to improve the life of the local community and offer facilities that may otherwise be

unavailable. It is currently seeking a trustee with professional skills, energy and enthusiasm to work alongside existing board members. To learn more, please forward your contact details in confidence to Sue Walker, chair, St Cuthbert's Centre, Hayling Avenue, Portsmouth, PO3 6EA or vodswalker@ntlworld.com.