



SHERBORNE ABBEY with CASTLETON,  
SAINT PAUL'S, LILLINGTON and  
LONGBURTON

*To know God and to make Him known  
in wonder, love and praise*

*Founded by St Aldhelm AD 705*

## Sunday 5 January 2025 – Feast of Epiphany

### THE ABBEY

<b>8.00 am BCP Holy Communion</b>	Celebrant:	The Reverend Martin Lee
<b>9.30 am Parish Eucharist</b>	Celebrant:	The Reverend Martin Lee
	Preacher:	The Reverend Rebecca McDonnell

**Collect:** O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Readings:** Isaiah Ch 60: v 1 – 6; Matthew Ch 2: v 1 - 12

**Hymns:** 50 (363), 51, 49 (ii), 55

<b>6.00 pm Choral Evensong</b>	Officiant:	The Reverend Martin Lee
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### CASTLETON CHURCH

<b>11.15 am Mattins</b>	Officiant:	Canon Charles Mitchell-Innes
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**STPAULS@THEGRYPHON** (*Theme: "The Word became flesh"*)

<b>10.30 am Morning Worship</b>	Leader:	Sandra Cutting
	Speaker:	Tabitha Smith

### LILLINGTON CHURCH

<b>9.30 am Family Service</b>	Officiant:	The Reverend John Townend
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### LONGBURTON CHURCH

<b>10.00 am Village Communion</b>	Celebrant:	The Reverend Lesley McCreadie
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## Thursday 9 January 2025 – Choral Evensong – 5.30 pm

Sung by the Sherborne Abbey Girls' Choir

Introit: O little one sweet, J S Bach; Responses: Reading; Psalm: 41 vv 1–4, 9–13, Turle;

Canticles: Stanford in C; Anthem: Nativity Carol, John Rutter; Hymns: 47, 52.

## The Abbey – Weekday/Monthly Services

**Every Monday – Saturday** at 8.30 am – Morning Prayer - The Sepulchre Chapel

**Every Monday** at 9.00 am – CW Holy Communion - The Lady Chapel

**Every Tuesday** at 12 noon – CW Holy Communion - The Sepulchre Chapel

**Every Wednesday** at 10.30 am – Holy Communion with Homily (CW/BCP) – The Lady Chapel

**Every Thursday** at 12 noon – BCP Holy Communion - The Lady Chapel

# The Abbey – Weekday/Monthly Services contd

**Every Friday** at 9.00 am – Ecumenical Holy Communion - The Sepulchre Chapel

**1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month** at 9.00 am – Requiem Holy Communion - The Sepulchre Chapel (next service Friday 7 February 2025)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month** at 11.00 am – Remembering the Fallen (next service Friday 17 Jan 2025)

**Every Saturday** at 9.00 am – CW Holy Communion - The Sepulchre Chapel

## Thought for the Day

Today we celebrate the Feast of The Epiphany. The Church changes its focus from St Luke's story of the shepherds and angels to St Matthew's Magi, the Persian astrologers, and their star.

The two stories are quite different from each other. There are only two subjects which are common to both: the Holy Family (although in different locations) and the presence of light. The light of God, often called the Shekinah, is present when God makes himself known to human beings.

When the shepherds were visited by the angels in Luke's story, they were surrounded by glorious heavenly light – the Shekinah. The central feature of Matthew's story, as the Magi journeyed to Bethlehem, was the star.

Doesn't the presence of the star brighten up and fill the scene portrayed on Christmas cards? The nativity scene is bathed in light. In recent years I have noticed that even the shepherds have their night lit by the Magi's star!

Those starlit shepherd scenes look perfectly normal. Is it because the Shekinah is shown? Perhaps we don't need to have the angels portrayed in the shepherd scenes, leaving the star for the Magi. Perhaps the theme of the glorious heavenly light is more important than its precise form.

*The Reverend Hugh Bonsey*

## Sunday 12 January 2025 – Baptism of Christ

### THE ABBEY

<b>8.00 am BCP Holy Communion</b>	Celebrant:	The Reverend Martin Lee
<b>9.30 am Parish Eucharist</b>	Celebrant & Preacher:	The Reverend Martin Lee
	Deacon:	The Reverend Rebecca McDonnell
<b>6.00 pm Choral Evensong</b>	Officiant:	The Reverend Martin Lee

### CASTLETON CHURCH

<b>11.15 am BCP Holy Communion</b>	Celebrant:	The Reverend Hugh Bonsey
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### STPAULS@THEGRYPHON *(Theme: "Jesus is baptised")*

<b>10.30 am Holy Communion</b>	Leader:	The Reverend Jim Edie
	Speaker:	Kim Dunning

### LILLINGTON CHURCH

<b>9.30 am BCP Holy Communion</b>	Celebrant:	The Reverend Hugh Bonsey
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### LONGBURTON CHURCH

<b>10.00 am Family Communion</b>	Celebrant:	The Reverend Pene Kennedy
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# Notices

**Visiting Hours:** The Abbey is open to visitors (free of charge) on Mondays to Saturdays (8.00 am – 5.00 pm) and on Sundays (11.00 am – 5.00 pm). The Abbey may close when private services are taking place. *Funeral: Friday 17 January (2.00 pm). School Services: Tuesday 7 January (9.15 am), Sunday 19 January (11.30 am) & Saturday 1 February (11.00 am).*

**Prayer List:** *The Sick:* Harry Bond, Chris Smallbone, Alan Gillard, Peter Dunkin, Rosie Taylor, Judith Spelman, Doreen Elderkin, Julie Godley, Liz Gilbert, Curtis Handley & Peter Perry. *The Departed:* David Balmford, Peter Shaw, Mo Swaffield & Colin Wood. *Andrew Cross, Head Verger*

**Service Music (Sunday 5 January):** The weekend services are sung by some of the adult members of the Abbey Choir while the choristers have the second of their two Sundays off this Christmas/New Year season. *Parish Eucharist:* Setting: *Missa Aeterna Christi munera*, Palestrina; Anthems: *Omnes de saba venient*, Handl; *A boy was born*, Britten; *The three Kings*, Cornelius; Hymns: 50 (363), 51, 49 (ii), 5550 (363), 51, 49 (ii), 55. *Choral Evensong:* Introit: *Away in a manger*, arr. James Henderson; Responses: Radcliffe; Psalm: 72 vv 1–9, Turle; Canticles: *Sumsion in G*; Anthem: *The three Kings*, Cornelius; Hymns: 48, 46 (431). *James Henderson, Director of Music*

**Music News:** After all of the extra rehearsing for Christmas, January can often feel a little light chorally. There is some wonderful Epiphany music to be heard in the Abbey, of course, and the big news just before Christmas was the launch of the Abbey Choir's latest **CD *Missa Brevis***. There is another CD, recorded at the time of the 2024 Abbey Festival, to come out in the first quarter of 2025, but meanwhile on *Missa Brevis* there are some really effective recordings of well-known favourites like Stanford in G (the Magnificat with its wonderful treble solo and the Nunc Dimittis with its rich baritone solo), *Beati quorum via*, *Iustorum animae* and the mighty Easter anthem *Blessed be the God and Father*. The title of the CD is from Matthew O'Donovan's Eucharistic setting of about ten years ago, and which one regular member of the congregation said of the Kyrie that it was the most beautiful ever heard in the Abbey. *James Henderson, Director of Music*

**Children's Choir:** The Children's Choir rehearses at 4.00 pm on Mondays in the Digby Memorial Hall. Please contact [charlie.gurnham@sherborneabbey.com](mailto:charlie.gurnham@sherborneabbey.com), our Assistant Director of Music, to join—or simply turn up and enjoy some singing. *Dr Charlie Gurnham, Asst Director of Music*

**Organ Recitals:** On Mondays at 1.30 pm, free entry, retiring collection, all welcome:

Monday 6 January 2025 & Monday 13 January 2025 –

Dr Charlie Gurnham, Assistant Director of Music, Sherborne Abbey

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** Sherborne Churches Together are supporting this week (18 – 25 January 2025). The theme is '*you shall love the Lord your God, and you shall love your neighbour as yourselves*'. All are welcome to attend the following: **Covenant Service:** On Saturday 18 January 2025; 4.00 pm; Cheap Street Church. An important service all Methodists celebrate at the start of the year to promise covenant faithfulness to God. Led by The Reverend Kate Konrad and The Reverend Rebecca McDonnell. **Reflection and Prayer:** On Tuesday 21 January 2025; 7.00 pm; Lady Chapel, Abbey. A contemplative service on the meaning of Christian Unity. Led by The Reverend Rebecca McDonnell. **Thought for the Day:** On Thursday 23 January 2025; 10.30 am; Cheap Street Church. Led by Phil Wield, Quakers. **Ecumenical Communion:** On Friday 24 January 2025; Sepulchre Chapel, Abbey. Led by The Reverend Lin Francis, Superintendent Minister of Yeovil & BMV Methodist Church. **Intercessions** will also be offered for Christian unity daily at Morning Prayer (8.30 am; Sepulchre Chapel, Abbey) during this week. *The Reverend Rebecca McDonnell*

**SCT Christmas Tree Festival:** The festival raised a total of £2,838.79 for Rendezvous and SHARES. A fantastic amount – thank you so much! Thanks must go to the organisers, the tree sponsors, all the volunteers and the choirs who made this possible. *The Reverend Kate Konrad*

**Longburton Village Café:** Held in the village church of St James, the café provides tea, coffee (free refills) & great cakes for just £2.50. Tuesdays 7 & 21 January 2025; 10.30 am – noon.

**Abbey Flowers:** From January 2025, we are offering the opportunity to mark the Year's Mind of a loved one with a flower pedestal, with the name of the loved one displayed next to it. The flower pedestal should be ordered at least two weeks in advance of the Year's Mind date and will be displayed for a week beginning on a Sunday. The price options will be £50.00 - £200.00 depending on size and flowers. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to place an order. *Sue Lee*

**Julian Group:** Not a prayer group; an opportunity for silence & meditation with fellow Christians and let God speak to us. Meetings ecumenical & very refreshing. On Wednesday 8 January 2025, Lady Chapel, Abbey, 4.00 pm – 4.30 pm. *Shirley Fry (01935 389124)*

**Taizé Service:** Half an hour of prayer, meditation and music – On Sunday 12 January 2025; 6.30 pm, Cheap Street Church. Everyone welcome. This informal, ecumenical service, based on the Taizé Community's worship founded by Br Roger in the 1940's in Burgundy, France, now attracts thousands of young people each summer. Taizé music has become part of the worshipping life of churches worldwide. [vicarlesley@outlook.com](mailto:vicarlesley@outlook.com). *The Reverend Lesley McCreadie*

**Sherborne Snowdrop Service Remembrance & Thanksgiving Service:** Everyone is most welcome to attend this service on Friday 7 February 2025 at 11.00 am in Sherborne Abbey. The Sherborne Book of Remembrance will be available and there will be an opportunity to add the names of a loved one to this book at the end of the service. Refreshments available. *Sue Hawkett, ICF*

**Donations to Sherborne Abbey PCC** - The running of our wonderful Abbey costs £5.00 per minute - not to mention our other churches! We rely on donations to help maintain them – if you could kindly 'spare a minute' to make a donation please use this QR code or the card machine in the Abbey. Thank you so much.



## The Benefice Team

**Sherborne Abbey with Castleton & St Paul's, Lillington and Longburton:**

**Team Rector:** [The Reverend Martin Lee](#)

The Vicarage, Abbey Close, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3LQ.

Tel: 01935 713777 or 07725 593100 Email: [Rector@sherborneabbey.com](mailto:Rector@sherborneabbey.com)

**Assistant Curate:** [The Reverend Rebecca McDonnell](#) Email: [rev.becca.mcdonnell@gmail.com](mailto:rev.becca.mcdonnell@gmail.com)

**Team Vicar:** [The Reverend Jim Edie](#)  
*with particular responsibility for St Paul's Church, Sherborne.* St Paul's Vicarage,  
8 Kings Road, Sherborne DT9 4HU.

01935 816444 (office)/[revdjim.edie@gmail.com](mailto:revdjim.edie@gmail.com)

**Associate Priest:** [The Reverend Hugh Bonsey](#)  
*with particular responsibility for St Martin of Tours, Lillington*  
11 Fairfield, Sherborne DT9 4HG.

Email: [frhughbonsey@gmail.com](mailto:frhughbonsey@gmail.com)

**St Mary Magdalene, Castleton & St James the Great, Longburton** - Contact *Sue Lee* at the Parish Office ([Sue.Lee@sherborneabbey.com](mailto:Sue.Lee@sherborneabbey.com)) for enquiries about these two churches.

Parish Office – 01935 713777 (Monday – Friday 9.00 am – 3.00 pm (1.00 pm on Mondays))

Email: [Joanna.Sams@sherborneabbey.com](mailto:Joanna.Sams@sherborneabbey.com)

Abbey Shop – Staffed hours: Monday - Friday 10.30 am – 3.30 pm; Saturday 10.30 am – 1.00 pm.

Abbey Tours – If you wish to book a tour, please contact the Parish Office.

Website: <https://www.sherborneabbey.com/>