

Whitton Times Christmas 2025



Church in Community



"Welcome to Whitton Times, a blend of Church and Community, a magazine from us to you".
We hope you'll find it helpful .



What is church anyway and why might I go?

There is an invitation used sometimes in church when we share bread and wine that for me says all you need to know about the 'what' 'who' and 'why' of church, it goes like this.

Come to the table of plenty!

We come to this table not because we must but because we may, not because we are strong, but because we are weak.

We come not because any goodness of our own gives us a right to come, but because we need mercy and help.

We come, because we love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. We come, because he loved us and gave himself for us.

We come to meet the risen Christ together, for we are his Body.

The church is a gathering of people old and young, rich and poor, broken, wounded, downcast and joyful, flourishing and content, tired and lonely, seeking community, seeking God and just seeking to be a little more whole and wholesome. What do we hold in common? On a good day, the simple conviction that we are deeply loved for who we are by a God who cherishes us whatever and however we are and we want to be thankful for that. On a not so good day we come to be reminded of this. We come to find hope, peace and purpose within a family of faith that can laugh and cry together, walk with one another and know that sometimes we will get it right and sometimes we will be way off the mark, but we will keep trying because God keeps loving us. We come to get to know God better, for praise and worship and then to be sent into his world in loving service to those around us to whom we are his hands and his feet and his eyes that look with compassion on the world. We come to church to get to know better the one who made us and loves us and to find a relationship with the God of love. We come at good times and most importantly the not such good times to find a little of the peace of God which passes all understanding.

We are coming up to the season where we celebrate all those who have gone before us, the season of Remembrance. Then we arrive at Christmas and the birth of the Son of God in human form, the gift God gave us so we could know him better and see in that great act of love the wonder and innocence of a baby, pure and gentle and whole. Later in his life Jesus tells us that he has come that we might have life and have it in all its fullness. So, we come seeking to know Jesus a little better for ourselves and find a personal relationship with him and find that promise for ourselves to have life in all its fullness as is his deepest desire for us.

All our services for the coming season are listed in this edition of Whitton times, please come and join us, this motley crew of Christians at St Mary and St Botolph Church, where you will find a warm welcome... and usually cake.... as together we seek to find and experience that promise of life in all its fullness!

Rev'd Mary



All details of our Christmas Services are on the next page!



The Top Up Shop is **open to everyone**. There are **no questions asked** (apart from contact number and post code in case of product recall). There are no criteria to fulfil. If you need food or just need to top up your food supplies, please come and see us. The cost is £2 for a recyclable bag. Each week we have a good choice of goods and always fresh fruit and vegetables. **We are open from 11am to 12.15pm every Wednesday in the Church Hall, Whitton Church Lane. Coffee and cake are available in the church from 9.30am –11.30am.** You can be assured of a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you.



You Are Warmly Invited to all our Christmas Services

Do please come and join us and make Christmas special as we celebrate the birth of Jesus with Carol Singing, Mince pies, Readings, Building the Crib and more....

But first.....

Sunday 9th November 10.15am Remembrance Service at Whitton Parish Church

Tuesday 11th November 10.45am Remembrance Service at Akenham Churchyard.

Sunday 30th November 9.30am—Advent Sunday Parish Eucharist.

Sunday 7th December 10am—All Together Church—Christingle.

Sunday 14th December 9.30am—Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 17th December 7.30pm - Carols by Candlelight at Akenham Church.

Sunday 21st December 9.30am—Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Whitton Parish Church—Nine Lessons and Carols—

a traditional carol service.

Monday 22nd December 7pm Whitton Parish Church— A Blue Christmas. A quiet time to honour your loss or struggles and embrace God's hope as we acknowledge the difficult feelings that Christmas can bring. Our quiet service offers peace, reflection and calm.

Wednesday 24th December 4pm Whitton Parish Church—Traditional Crib Service.

A lovely way for children and families of all ages to begin to find the awe and wonder of the best Christmas present ever & look forward to their own with excitement and thankfulness.

Wednesday 24th December 11pm Whitton Parish Church—Midnight Mass -

The first celebration of Christmas!



Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day! 8am—Holy Eucharist

10am -Whitton Parish Church—Family Service....with toys! Please bring a toy to show us!



Sunday 28th December 2025 9.30am—Parish Eucharist

Sunday 4th January 2026—10am—All Together Church—The arrival of the 3 Kings to see Jesus.

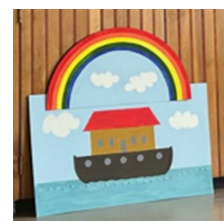
A message from our Schools and Children's Liaison Worker based at Whitton Parish Church.

It has been a very busy start to the academic year for us with lots of preparations for our upcoming schools events. The first of these was our first **Open the Book** assemblies which took place on the 14th October. We delivered the assembly in both Castle Hill and The Beeches where we had audiences of mainly Key stage 1 children but also some Reception and year 3 children. We performed the story of Noah's Ark and the children enjoyed joining in with us. We were very lucky to have an amazing ark, rainbow as well as some beautiful animals made for us by volunteers. The children were very impressed by the fact that the Ark and rainbow slotted together for the end of the story! Our Open the Book team very much enjoyed the first assembly and are really excited to start rehearsing for our next one which will take place in December.

We are also very busy preparing for **Experience Remembrance** which will be taking place during the week of the 10th November. We are really looking forward to welcoming year 6 pupils from three schools into church to explore and reflect on some of the themes of remembrance.

We could not run these projects without the support of many amazing volunteers! If you would like to volunteer at our next experience event or are interested in joining an Open the Book team I would love to hear from you.

Please contact me at lucy.schoolslink@whittonparish.co.uk.





The Parish of
Whitton
with Thurleston & Akenham

CHRISTMAS

FAYRE

SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2025



10 AM - NOON



ASCENSION HALL, LARCHCROFT ROAD

**BOOKS - TOYS - GAMES - TOMBOLA'S - CHRISTMAS
CARDS AND PAPER - GRAND DRAW - CAKES -
REFRESHMENTS AND MUCH MORE**

ADMISSION - ADULTS 50P

CHILDREN UNDER 16 FREE



ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS

Registered Charity Number 1139484

Mums and Tots

meet every
Wednesday in Term
time from
1.15pm until 3pm @
Whitton Church Hall,
Whitton Church Lane



Enquiries
please phone
Bridget
01473 286663



If you are
Interested in
Baptism, for an
adult or child,
please contact

Eileen Ardern on
01473 252251



Usual services at St Mary & St Botolph & the Ascension Churches

1st Sunday in Month 10am—All Together Church –
more suited for families (Not livestreamed)
All other Sundays 9.30am—Eucharist
at St Mary & St Botolph, Whitton Church Ln
These are livestreamed :- [https://
www.youtube.com/@whittonparishstmaryandstbo8772](https://www.youtube.com/@whittonparishstmaryandstbo8772)
Wednesday 10am—Eucharist at the Ascension Church,
Larchcroft Road.



Are you planning a wedding next year? - Did you know:

There are lots of ways you may qualify to be married in a Church.
That you do not have to attend church to do so.

That it usually costs less to do so than at other venues.

You can have a range of music not necessarily religious,

Each wedding is unique to the couple & can have many special
moments and elements.

We have a stunningly beautiful church to be married in so why not have a chat and
look round?

Contact Mrs Angela Marjoram 07950 086135 for a visit and friendly chat.



FAMILY FIRST

Phone:- 0300 7727715

Email:- info@familyfirst-uk.org

Website www.familyfirst-uk.org

Facebook:- Family First Ipswich

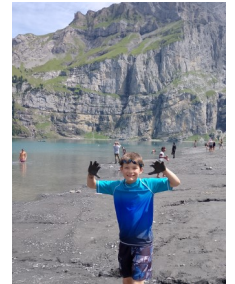


10th Ipswich Scout Group Camp in Switzerland

Following a very busy summer we resume our weekly activities with a packed Autumn program from September through to December. We have trips, camps, visits, games, skills challenges, cooking and eating and all that goes with enjoying a full Scouting experience.

Our youngsters start at age 4 in Squirrel Scouts and progress right through Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers to age 18.

This summer we jumped aboard a coach and set off for Scout camp in Switzerland and a great time was had by all. We mixed with Scouts and Guides from all over the world and enjoyed visits to Kandersteg, Berne, Adeboden and more. The pic is our Alex bathing in mud from a mountain top glacial lake at Oeschinenessee.... Wonderful memories



We would love to welcome more adult help to our younger sections so that we can add more youth to our register. If you know of anyone who would like a new hobby, enjoy working with children, accept free training and escalate their feelgood times, then contact us.

Message to Kevin.bean@wolveyscouts.org.uk for a chat. New youth member enquires can also be sent to this email address.

Our young members, and adult volunteers are busy earning their badges and awards and we continue to celebrate higher awards too with Eleanor recently gaining her Kings Scout award and Imogen and Amy gaining their Explorer Scout Young Leader awards.



The collection dates for this years **Scouts Christmas Post**

Tuesday 25th November until Tuesday 9th December 2025

Cost will be only **40p per card** – Please put your cards & money together in the special Scout Xmas Post boxes.

Please write the **full address with postcode** & any special instructions on the envelope clearly.

Scout Groups from Ipswich, Claydon, Kesgrave and Martlesham will be delivering cards in and around...

Ipswich (Postcodes IP1 – IP5), Kesgrave, Rushmere, Martlesham Heath, Pinewood, Claydon, Bramford, Sproughton, Gt Blakenham, Barham, Grundisburgh, Great & Little Bealings, Culpho & Playford, Henley, Westerfield, Witnesham and Tuddenham.

Felixstowe have officially joined with the Ipswich scheme to provide a link between the towns and covers Felixstowe itself, Walton, Trimley St Mary, Trimley St Martin, Kirton and Falkenham

Cards need to be dropped into one of the collection boxes by **Tuesday 10th December 2024**. Deliveries will then begin the day after and will all be completed by Christmas Eve. To find out where you can post your cards, please use our "[Collection point checker](#)" and to check that we deliver to a particular road please use our "[Road Delivery Checker](#)". [Both found online](#)

WHITTON YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

Covering Whitton, Whitehouse and Castle Hill we currently provide Junior, Inters and Senior Youth Clubs, Single gender groups, detached youth work, one to one support, school holiday Craft and play and Youth drop in sessions. All our activities are provided free of charge and free food is available at all activities based within Whitton Parish Hall where we are based.

Junior Youth Club – After school on a Monday

Inters Youth Club – After School on a Tuesday

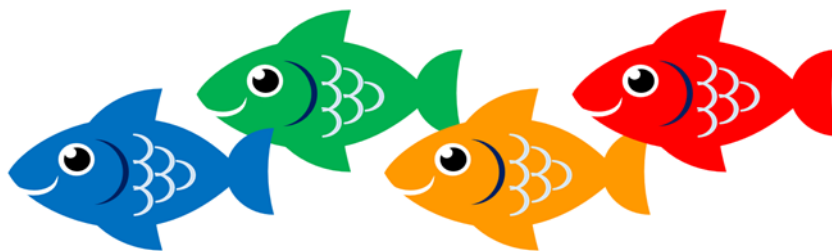
Senior Youth Club – from 5.30p.m. on a Tuesday

Watch out for our Christmas holiday activities which will be advertised on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/whittonyouthpartnership/>

Booking essential for holiday Craft and Play Days as spaces go within hours of appearing on our Facebook page.

Visit our Website to see volunteering and fundraising opportunities to help us maintain our services to our young people. <https://www.whittonyouthpartnership.co.uk/>





Fish, Fun & Film Friday

Something Old, Something New – for You!

Meeting Monthly on the Fourth Friday

**Come and join us for chat, fun and games, fish and chips and a film
beginning at 11:30am.**

Something Old – Something New: The “Fish and Chip Friday” sessions are coming to an end but in there place the folk at Castle Hill URC are offering something new – incorporating the good old fish and chip dinner!

Fish, Fun & Film Friday: The sessions are open to all with no need to pre-book although, for safeguarding and wellbeing we will ask you to complete a registration form so we can support folk in case of an emergency and keep you informed about our activities.
We aim to be dementia friendly and inclusive.

What to Expect: Sessions will begin at **11:30** with refreshments and activities to enjoy on arrival. We will then share a fabulous fish and chip lunch followed by tea or coffee, cake and a film. We will announce the film for the following session each month.

The cost for each session will be **£6.50** to include fish and chips and other refreshments, payable on the day.



Our Mother's Union meet every 1st Thursday of the month at 2.30pm for a short service, a guest speaker & a cup of tea! (If you would like further details of the Whitton branch please contact Angela Marjoram 01473 743 385).

We also usually meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 9am for a continental breakfast & a chat. We give a small donation for our cuppa and breakfast and any profit from this is donated to many local charities. All are very welcome to either or both— And you don't have to be a mum to attendor even female! Please come and give us a try.— you will receive a very warm welcome. Any questions just contact Bev on 07766517070.

Both of the above are held in St Mary & St Botolph Church, Whitton Church Lane.



-IS A FREE Singing and Drama Group for KS2 children!

Sessions run on **Mondays** during term time **3.30pm-4.30pm.**

@ **The Ascension Church, Larchcroft Road**

For more information contact **Becky** on 07878289197 or by emailing **whikidz1@gmail.com**



Advent Did you know.....

Advent is a Christian season of preparation and anticipation for both Christmas and the [Second Coming of Christ](#), which begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word for "coming" or "arrival". It is the start of the Christian liturgical year and is a time for reflection, hope, and prayer, often marked by events like lighting Advent wreaths or candles and using purple as the traditional colour.



Christmas Quiz

1. What is the name of the red plant traditionally associated with Christmas
2. What does the word "Noel" mean in Latin?
3. Which country is credited with creating the first gingerbread men?
4. In which town was Jesus born?
5. In *Home Alone*, where is Kevin's family going when they accidentally leave him behind?
6. What is the best-selling Christmas song of all time?
7. Who were the first visitors to see Jesus after his birth?
8. Which animated film is about a magical train that takes children to the North Pole on Christmas Eve?
9. What type of pudding is mentioned in the classic carol, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"?
10. The gifts brought to Jesus by the 3 wise men were Gold, Frankincense and what else?
11. What is the name of the Snowman in the film *Frozen*?
12. What is the night before Christmas day called?
13. What animal helped Mary & Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem?
14. What is the name of the Grinch's dog in the story?
15. Who told the Shepherds about Jesus birth?
16. What is the name of the famous ballet about a magical Christmas toy?

A poem to think about before any Christmas Indulgence!!

This morning I decided I must diet.
None of last years summer dresses fit.
I had a bowl of cereal for breakfast,
With milk and sugar - just a little bit.
A piece of buttered toast without a topping.
I read all the ingredients on the lid.
I took no sugar in my teas and coffees,
But that won't help, because I never did.

At dinnertime I had just one potato,
A big one, but I cut it into three,
Some steak and kidney pie, but just a small piece,
Then little Brussels sprouts - enough for me.
The family all ate spotted dick and custard,
But I could only look at it and dream.
I knew a slice of that would be too fattening,
So I just had bananas - and ice cream.

When teatime came I only had a sandwich.
Well - two because I hate to see food waste.
The bread's not really buttered. It's pretend spread!,
And I'm sure there's not much fat in kipper paste.
I haven't really eaten much between meals.
A Mars bar and some biscuits with my tea.
I finished up some toffees in the evening,
But I assure you that's not much for me.

Now I must have something with my night-cap.
If I'm hungry I won't sleep, for goodness sake!
I wonder what there is that I can nibble,
I know! I'll finish up the chocolate cake.
So that's the end of my first day of diet.
It wasn't worth the worry and the stress.
I've got a better notion for tomorrow,
I'm going out to buy a bigger dress.



Peggy Brown

Some Christmas facts.....

How did 25th December become Christmas?

December 25 was the traditional date of the winter solstice in the Roman Empire, where most Christians lived, and the Roman festival Dies Natalis Solis Invicti (birthday of Sol Invictus) had been held on this date since 274 AD. In the East, the birth of Jesus was celebrated in connection with the Epiphany on January 6.

The first ever Christmas tree wasn't a tree at all, it was in fact made of dyed goose feathers and came from Germany. **In 1843 the first Christmas card** was produced and sent by Sir Henry Cole.



When you need a friendly ear, look out for Mary around the parish!

Email:
marysokanovic@outlook.com

Tel: 07824 323073



Answers to quiz

1. Pointsettia
2. Birth
3. England
4. Bethlehem
5. Paris
6. White Christmas
7. The Shepherds
8. Polar Express
9. Figgy Pudding
10. Myrth
11. Olaf
12. Christmas Eve
13. Donkey
14. Max
15. Angels
16. The Nutcracker

Facebook Whitton Parish Ipswich Page.

Many had found us on 'Facebook Live' for Sunday services, since being hacked we are not yet able to stream to the new Facebook page - 'Whitton Parish Ipswich'. Other things are posted regularly. If you would like to watch our service live stream, please go to

<https://www.youtube.com/@whittonparishstmaryandstbo8772>

