

# PARISH EUCHARIST

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER 2025



THE CHURCH OF ST ANDREW, SERVING  
CHARVIL, SONNING AND SONNING EYE

# Everyone Welcome!

Welcome to our Parish Eucharist service for the First Sunday of Christmas.

You will be guided by the welcome team to receive communion at the appropriate time.

We have gluten free communion wafers for those with gluten allergies. Please let one of the welcome team know if you would like to receive one at communion. If you are hard of hearing, we have a hearing loop in church. Please turn your hearing aid to the appropriate position to use it. Large print copies of this service booklet are available.

STAY and Sunday Club are not running today due to Christmas holidays.

Sunday Club (Reception to Year 6) usually runs every 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month in the Ark during term time.

STAY (Year 7 upwards) usually runs in the Ark every 3rd, 4th and 5th Sunday of each month in the Ark during term time.

The children's area is open and toys are available for younger children there. Please would parents supervise their children using this area and tidy toys away afterwards.

Please do join us for refreshments in The Ark following the service.

To request more information about our church activities please scan the QR code to the right or contact the church office by telephone or email - details on the back page.



If you would like to make a donation to the ministry and mission of this church you can do so by leaving a donation in the collection plate, using the contactless terminal by the main church door or scanning the QR code here:



*The responses and prayers in **BOLD** type are said by the whole congregation*

*Please stand for the hymn (A&M 83)*

**See, amid the winter's snow,**  
born for us on earth below,  
see, the Lamb of God appears,  
promised from eternal years!

*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say,  
what your joyful news today;  
wherefore have ye left your sheep  
on the lonely mountain steep?

*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn ...  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

2. Lo, within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies,  
he who, throned in height sublime,  
sits amid the cherubim!

*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn ...*

4. 'As we watched at dead of night,  
lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
angels, singing "Peace on earth,"  
told us of a Saviour's birth.'

*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn ...*

5. Sacred Infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this!

*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn ...*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

*Please sit for the welcome and notices.*

## **Prayers of Preparation and Penitence**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit.  
Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice,  
and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

*cf Ephesians 4.30,32*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please stand to sing the Gloria in Excelsis*

**Glory to God, glory to God. Glory to God in the highest.**

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Glory to God, glory to God. Glory to God in the highest.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
Glory to God, glory to God. Glory to God in the highest,**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
In the glory of God the Father.  
Glory to God, glory to God. Glory to God in the highest.**

*Please remain standing*

### **The Collect for The First Sunday of Christmas**

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image  
and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,  
so we may share the life of his divinity;  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

*Please sit*

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Hebrews 2: 10-end

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. He says, 'I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.'

And again,

‘I will put my trust in him.’

And again he says,

‘Here am I, and the children God has given me.’

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the hymn (A&M 72)*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!

let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods,  
rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*Please remain standing for the Gospel*

*Matthew 2: 13-end*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew: **Glory to you O Lord.**

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. ‘Get up,’ he said, ‘take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.’

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'

When Herod realised that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

'A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted,  
because they are no more.'

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead.'

So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit*

**The Sermon**

*Please stand*

**The Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Please sit or kneel*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*The end of each prayer concludes with 'Lord, in your mercy' to which we respond:*  
**Hear our prayer.**

*And at the end: 'Merciful Father' to which we respond*

**Accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

*Please stand for the Peace*

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.

*Luke 2.14*

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign or a word of peace.

## **Preparation of the Table**

*Hymn (A&M 666)*

**I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship,**  
should set his love upon the sons of men,  
or why, as Shepherd, he should seek the wanderers,  
to bring them back, they know not how or when.  
But this I know, that he was born of Mary  
when Beth'lem's manger was his only home,  
and that he lived at Nazareth and laboured,  
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

2. I cannot tell how silently he suffered,  
as with his peace he graced this place of tears,  
or how his heart upon the cross was broken,  
the crown of pain to three and thirty years.  
But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted  
and stays our sin and calms our lurking fear  
and lifts the burden from the heavy laden;  
for still the Saviour, Saviour of the world is here.

*(verses 3 & 4 overleaf)*



3. I cannot tell how he will win the nations,  
how he will claim his earthly heritage,  
how satisfy the needs and aspirations  
of east and west, of sinner and of sage.  
But this I know, all flesh shall see his glory,  
and he shall reap the harvest he has sown,  
and some glad day his sun will shine in splendour  
when he the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

4. I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,  
when at his bidding every storm is stilled,  
or who can say how great the jubilation  
when every heart with love and joy is filled.  
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,  
and myriad myriad human voices sing,  
and earth to heav'n, and heav'n to earth, will answer,  
'at last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!'

*Please sit*

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here: **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God: **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ,  
your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by  
you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed  
Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms  
for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the  
resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a  
holy people.

And now we give you thanks because, by the power of the Holy Spirit, he  
took our nature upon him and was born of the Virgin Mary his mother, that  
being himself without sin, he might make us clean from all sin.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**



Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of St Andrew and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

## **Giving of Communion**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

*We sing:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

*If you are a communicant member of any Christian Church you are welcome to take communion with us, or if you would prefer a blessing please bring this booklet with you when you are invited to the communion rail.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Please stand*

### **THE DISMISSAL**

**Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.**

*Hymn (A&M 59)*

**Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

*Come and worship  
Christ the new-born King,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ the new-born King.*

2. Shepherds in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant Light:

*Come and worship  
Christ the new-born King,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ the new-born King.*

3. Sages, leave your contemplations;  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of Nations;  
ye have seen his natal star:

*Come and worship ...*

4. Though an infant now we view him,  
he shall fill his Father's throne,  
gather all the nations to him;  
every knee shall then bow down:

*Come and worship ...*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Organ Voluntary*

## Parish News

**THANK YOU** - A huge thank you to everyone who helped with our preparations and services for Christmas. Everyone's efforts were very much appreciated.

**RENDEZVOUS LUNCH CLUB** - the first lunch club of the new year will be on Tuesday 13th January. Join us for an opportunity to chat with old friends and make new ones. We meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. To book please call Hilary in the Parish office on 0118 969 32908 or email [office@sonningparish.org.uk](mailto:office@sonningparish.org.uk)

## Prayers and Pastoral Visiting

The Ministry Team are always happy to visit, pray for or take home Communion to those in need. Please contact the Parish office if you would like to arrange this.

**We remember any who have died who are known to us:**

Margaret Easton, Pamela De Ville

**We remember any whose anniversaries fall around this time:**

William Howarth, Allan Sanders, Iris Allen, Irene Brownbill, Mary Evans, John Teasdale, John Campbell, Maurice Knapp, Keith Bowman

## The Week Ahead

### Wednesday 31 December

10.00am Holy Communion

The Ark

### Friday 2 January

There is no STAY or choir practices during the Christmas holidays

### Sunday 4 January

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Church

10.30am Family Service

Church

12.30pm Baptism - Thomas Galuszka

Church

4.00pm Choral Evensong

Church

## Parish Contacts

**Vicar:** Revd Jamie Taylor 0118 969 3298 [vicar@sonningparish.org.uk](mailto:vicar@sonningparish.org.uk)  
(off duty Friday)

**Youth Minister:** Chris West 07946 224 106 [youthminister@sonningparish.org.uk](mailto:youthminister@sonningparish.org.uk)

**Youth & Children's Minister:** Corinne Robertson [corinne@sonningparish.org.uk](mailto:corinne@sonningparish.org.uk)

**Parish Office Manager:** Hilary Rennie 0118 969 3298 [office@sonningparish.org.uk](mailto:office@sonningparish.org.uk)

*The Parish Office is open from 9am - 1pm Monday - Friday. At all other times please leave a message or send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.*