

## Weekly News sheet for The Heathland Parishes, we are the churches of:

All Saints, Great Braxted

St Mary, Layer Breton with Birch

All Saints, Inworth

St Luke, Tolleshunt Knights with Tiptree

St Mary, Layer Marney

All Saints, Messing

*To be a transforming presence in our community, open and welcoming to all and serving all*



## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025, Third Sunday of Advent



### Today's Services & Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

### St Mary, Layer Marney

9 am Holy Communion

*Revd Liz Barnes*

Hymns 12, 6, 456, 186

### St Luke's, Tiptree

9.30 am Parish Communion

*Archdeacon Ruth*

Hymns 589, 288, 327, 690, 100, 692

### All Saints', Messing

11.15 am Morning Worship

*Anne Wild*

Hymns 401, 198, 466, 467

Sunday Morning Resources you can find sermons, readings & intercessions for this week on the Homepage of our website: [thurstablewinstreechurches.org](http://thurstablewinstreechurches.org)

*Weekday Opening Times of The Heathland Parish Churches – details of times when we are open for private prayer & visitors may be found on the Thurstable & Winstree Churches website, click on 'Our Churches' on the far right of the Homepage: [thurstablewinstreechurches.org](http://thurstablewinstreechurches.org)*

**See over page for events & our weekly notices for the coming week**

## Next Sunday's Services, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent



### St Mary, Layer Marney

9 am Morning Prayer

*Graham Howlett*

### St Luke's, Tiptree

9.30 am Parish Communion

*Revd Liz Barnes & Harold Toms*

4 pm Carol Service

### All Saints', Great Braxted

11.15 am Carol Service

*Revd Liz Barnes*

### All Saints', Inworth

11.15 am Parish Communion

*Revd Michael Hatchett & Harold Toms*

### All Saints', Messing

4.30 pm Carols for Christmas

*Anne Wild*

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***For Christmas Services, please see over page***

**To Receive the Weekly News Sheet by E-mail** please contact the Team Administrator, Christine Hall: [thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com)  
If you are on the mailing list and no longer wish to receive the news sheet, please let Christine know - we are happy to help.

## Church Diary for the week, Mon 15<sup>th</sup> to Sat 20<sup>th</sup> December

Mon 6 pm Tiptree Heath Primary School Carol Service, St Luke's  
Wed 2 pm St Luke's School Christingle Service, in church  
Wed 5.30 pm Nativity at Layer Marney, in the Church & Barn  
Wed 7 pm 'Carols in the Crown', at Messing. *Friends of Messing*  
Thur, afternoon: The Sound Collective Chorus, Christmas Concerts at  
(& evening) St Luke's, Tiptree  
Fri 2 pm Games Afternoon, St Luke's Hall *arranged by FoSL*

### St Luke's Tiptree, regular weekly events:

**Morning Prayer, 9 am on Thursdays** – everyone welcome, please join us

Mon 9.15 am Parent & Toddler; Mon 7.30 pm Bible Study on Zoom;  
Wed 7.30 pm St Luke's Choir Practice; Thur 10 am Holy Communion,  
followed by coffee at The New Times; Thur 2-4 pm Tiptree Food-bank  
open at Tiptree URC, Chapel Road; Thur 7.30 pm St Luke's Ladies Group  
Christmas Meal out & Entertainment

## Diary Dates & News

Services elsewhere in our group, Holy Communion is at the earlier time of 10.50 am this Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, at Layer de la Haye with Revd Jo Wood.

Advent Bible Study Group on Zoom, Mondays at 7.30 pm, we are looking at Bishop Guli's book 'Listening to the Music of the Soul'. If you are interested in joining us please contact Wendy Borgartz [w.borgartz@btinternet.com](mailto:w.borgartz@btinternet.com)

Nativity at Layer Marney Church & in the Tower Barn, everyone is welcome to join us as we celebrate the Joy of Christmas.

'Carols in the Crown' at Messing, Wed 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7 pm. Church members & Friends of Messing Church will be dressed as far as possible in Victorian-style clothes to lead the singing. We hope you will join us!

Games Afternoon, Friends of St Luke's, join us before Christmas, this Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2 - 4 pm. Cost: £3 for tea, coffee, biscuits, games. All welcome!

**Tiptree Food Bank** Christmas Treats still needed: tinned salmon, tinned ham, savoury snacks, hot chocolate, mince pies, Christmas cake, fancy biscuits, chocolates/selection packs, jam/chutney by this **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec**. All items should have a best before date of at least the end of Dec and must not contain any alcohol. Contributions can be taken to: the donation tub at ASDA, the yellow box just inside St Luke's Church 9 am to 4 pm daily, or the Foodbank at the United Reformed Church, Thurs 2-4 pm.



## News, Reminders & Looking Ahead

Please note: a change to Christmas Services at Messing: we are delighted to be able to welcome Bishop Roger for our Midnight Communion Service on Christmas Eve at 11.30 pm. There will be no Christmas Morning Service at Messing this year, we are invited to join our friends at Inworth, Layer Marney or St Luke's instead. *Also, no service on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December.*

### Carol Services 2025

*Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 11.15 am at Great Braxted*  
(our final service of 2025, do join us)

*Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 4 pm at Layer de la Haye*

*Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 4 pm at Tiptree*

*Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 4.30 pm at Messing*

*Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 6.30 pm at Inworth*

### Crib Services, Christmas Eve Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December

*4 pm St Luke's Church, Tiptree*

*6.30 pm Crib Service at St Mary, Layer Breton*

*Look out for details on our website: [thurstablewinstreechurches.org](http://thurstablewinstreechurches.org)*

St Luke's Congregational Christmas Card Board is now available to receive your cards in the lobby, donations to church funds are welcome in return.

Christmas Lunch at the New Times, don't forget to sign the list in the lobby if you would like to attend the lunch. Cost: £18 for 3 courses & a hot drink. Any queries/to pay your deposit, please contact Revd Christine Eaton or David. 01621 819166 [christine.gorringe@btinternet.com](mailto:christine.gorringe@btinternet.com)

Read the December/January issue of Open Door, paper copies available or you can read it on-line here: [www.tk-tiptree-braxted-benefice.org.uk/opendoor.html](http://www.tk-tiptree-braxted-benefice.org.uk/opendoor.html)

### Get in Touch – our Contact details:

While we are in vacancy please contact Revd Liz Barnes, Associate Priest -  
[liz\\_barnes@sky.com](mailto:liz_barnes@sky.com) Tel: 01621 333027. Day off - Mon

News sheet & Team Administrator, Christine Hall: [thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com)  
Days of work: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, available for phone enquiries from 10 am to 12.30 pm on the mobile: 07421 078981 (with voicemail). Available in St Luke's Church Office on Tuesday mornings by appointment only & Thursdays from 10 am to 12.30 pm. The office number is 01621 819557 (with voicemail).

St Luke's Hall bookings: Gareth Williams, 01621 818069 [hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com](mailto:hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com)



Find us on Facebook: Layer Marney & Tiptree Churches and St Luke's Church Hall