

# WEEKLY NEWS

At long last, our period of vacancies and licensing services is finally over. We have a new ministry team in Guy and Ruth. God has a plan for Warfield, and he's been with us all along – did you notice that Guy's Institution was St Michael's Day, and Ruth's Licensing was St Andrew's Day?

All of that done...just in time for the Christmas season!

This week is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, and it's Ruth's first Sunday. We have our usual 08:30am Communion at St Andrew's, followed by a 10:30am TOGETHER service at Warfield School, Woodhurst – Ruth will be preaching at both services.

Following the TOGETHER service we are having a buffet lunch – both as a proper welcome to Guy and Ruth, as well as a big thank you to everyone who has helped us during the vacancy period. Please especially give your thanks to Michael and Rosemary Wood who are organising the lunch!



Our website has the details of all of our services: [Warfield Christmas services](#). There are also leaflets available on Sunday – here's [a printable Christmas leaflet](#) if you want more to give to your friends. You **do not** need to book for any of our Christmas services this year.

## When Christmas Hurts

**This Sunday** is our “When Christmas Hurts” service – for those who are experiencing feelings of loss or sadness at Christmas. This does not have to be from a direct bereavement – we would also like to invite those who have a heart for suffering areas around the world. This week we especially think of those who have been impacted by the fires in Hong Kong, and we invite all who have been struggling with these feelings.

## Carol Singing

Our candlelit carol services this year are on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at St Michael's – but this year we are having **two** services:

- The **4pm** service is family-friendly, with carols led by a worship band, and is a little shorter than usual (five lessons instead of nine).

- The **7pm** service is a more traditional nine lessons and carols, led by the organ and our choir, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Also, there's an opportunity to join in with carol singing in Bracknell Town Centre which is a combined effort from churches across Bracknell. This will be on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, from 5pm, opposite Boots in the Lexicon. If you'd like to take part, please contact [towncentremissionMF@bracknell-parish.org](mailto:towncentremissionMF@bracknell-parish.org) (not .uk)

## Prayer

Prayer continues to be an important part of our Christian lives throughout Advent and Christmas. If you haven't heard, there are [two advent ideas](#) for this Christmas.

- [Prayer Cabin Calendar](#)
- [Advent Calendar](#)

## Lawrence Court Christmas Gift

Lawrence Court is a retirement living complex in the Woodhurst estate. However, some of their residents have no living family and will not receive any Christmas presents – so Lawrence Court are looking for some donations to build up Christmas hampers. Can you donate any festive treats? Mince pies, biscuits, soups, crackers or other small Christmas-themed gifts. **Please ensure that the food is long-lasting** (so it can be used at Christmas!).

You can bring donations to a Sunday service, or bring them to the church office during the week. Please try to bring donations by **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December**.

## MISSION PARTNERS: THE VALKOVS



Our prayers this week are for Iuri and Plamy Valkov in Sliven, Bulgaria. They lead the Aletea Baptist Church and work with the vulnerable and poor people in Sliven. This is done through the Women and Young People's Safe Houses, Men's Institutes, Older Peoples home, Orphanages and Gypsy Villages, and more.

Click to [watch a short introduction](#), or [read their latest newsletter](#).

We focus our prayers on finance, for multiple reasons.

On 1<sup>st</sup> January, Bulgaria is officially adopting the Euro. This is leading to rapid price changes, low wages which cannot keep up with inflation, and general anxiety particularly from those who don't understand how the Euro works. Add this to the years of political stability, and Bulgaria is in a time of change and uncertainty.

Furthermore, Krasif Aid – the charity that administers our support the Valkovs through, and give extra aid to Sliven – have announced that the charity will be closing in the next 2 years. Support to the Valkov family and Sliven will end in mid-2027, and this also affects Krasif Aid's other supported churches and projects around Bulgaria.

The church have been developing plans to self-sustain their finances, including the idea for a Christian bookshop in the Blue House. However these plans have taken longer than expected for multiple reasons – once again finance is a factor, as the support from Krasif Aid to the Blue House ended in July. The church are now struggling to cover the full wages of the couple of people employed there.

There are also plenty of ways Iuri and Plamy are thankful for their family life, and their 3 children Victor, Eva and Yulia – details in the newsletter linked above. But there is a great need for prayer, especially into the Winter season when living costs are more expensive.

Thank you to all who gave to our Christmas gift for our Mission Partners – the extra money makes a big difference to families such as these.

# NOTICES

Click to see the [full slideshow of rolling notices](#).

Coming up soon:

- **7 December** – TOGETHER Service – 10:30am at Warfield School
- **7 December** – When Christmas Hurts – 3pm at St Andrew's
- **17 December** – Prayer Meeting – 8pm at St Michael's
- **21 December** – Carol Services – 4pm & 7pm at St Michael's

**CHRISTMAS:** [Warfield Christmas Services](#)

Warfield Church Office  
Church Lane, Warfield, Berkshire RG42 6EE

Tel: 01344 886900

Email: [admin@warfield.org.uk](mailto:admin@warfield.org.uk)  
[www.warfield.org.uk](http://www.warfield.org.uk)

Warfield Church, in the Diocese of Oxford,  
is a registered charity in England and Wales: No. 1129301

Vicar: Revd Guy Donegan-Cross

Associate Vicar: Revd Ruth Donegan-Cross

Churchwardens: Mr Phil Durbin; Mrs Katie Green