

December 2024			
Date & Month	Time	Type of Service	Church
Wednesday 18 December	9:30 am	Holy Communion Service	Essendon
Sunday 22 December	9:30 am	Parish Communion	Bayford
	3:00 pm	Nine Lessons & Carols	Little Berkhamsted
	6:30 pm	Nine Lessons & Carols	Essendon
	6:30 pm	Nine lessons & Carols	Ponsbourne
Tuesday 24 December Christmas Eve	4:30 pm	Crib & Christingle Service	Bayford
	11:15 pm	Midnight Parish Communion	Ponsbourne
	11:15 pm	Midnight Parish Communion	Essendon
Wednesday 25 December Christmas Day	9:30 am	Parish Communion	Little Berkhamsted
	10:15 am	Family Service	Ponsbourne
	11:00 am	Family Service	Brickendon
	11:00 am	Family Service	Essendon
Sunday 29 December	10:15 am	Group Parish Communion	Brickendon
Wednesday 1 January 2025	No Services		

### Notices

**St Mary's Church Ponsbourne** is open Wednesdays for private prayers or silent time 9:30am -12:30pm

**Registration on 3rd Saturday of January** 10am to 11:30am at Little Berkhamsted Church.

# HARTFORD HUNDRED WEST GROUP



St Mary - Bayford  
 Holy Cross & St Alban - Brickendon  
 St Mary the Virgin - Essendon  
 St Andrew - Little Berkhamsted  
 St Mary - Ponsbourne

### Sunday 22 December 2024

**9:30 am Parish Communion at Bayford**  
**3:00 pm Nine Lessons and Carols at Little Berkhamsted**  
**6:30 pm Nine Lessons and Carols at Essendon**  
**6:30 pm Nine Lessons and Carols at Ponsbourne**

### Christmas Eve Tuesday 24 December 2024

**Wed 18 December at 9:30 am Holy Communion at Essendon**

### Christmas Day Wednesday 25 December 2024

**9:30 am Parish Communion at Little Berkhamsted**  
**10:15 am Family Service at Ponsbourne**  
**11:00 am Family Service at Brickendon**  
**11:00 am Family Service at Essendon**

**We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year ! Thank you for the Good Wishes and Christmas Cards.**

*From Revd Theresa and Solomon*

## **Those who have died (Please pray for the bereaved families)**

**Little Berkhamsted** – Bronwyn

**Essendon** – Lesley Venables

“The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit”. Psalm 34:18

## **PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR GROUP:**

**Little Berkhamsted:** Millie

**Brickendon:** Margaret & Des Hills, Margaret Lambe, Hugh Dunlop, Christine & Bruno Rabouin-Plummer.

**Essendon:** Joan & Beresford Thomson, Keith Venables, Sue Rees, Jo Cotter, Sara, Annabelle.

**Ponsbourne:** Rose Venus, Jacqueline Denise Aziz.

**In our Diocese:** Ayot St Lawrence (Wheathampstead)

**World and Mission:** All Church schools.

**ACP:** The Church of the province of Uganda.

## **Week 4 Advent Prayer – The Annunciation**

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

### **Collect**

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## **Post Communion**

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## **Hebrews 10:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;<sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘See, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).” <sup>8</sup> When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

## **Luke 1:39-45: Mary Visits Elizabeth**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judaeen town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”