



DECEMBER 2024

Singleton Community Church News

WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR CHURCH

Growing Stronger Communities Through Faith



Headlines:

- God's Christmas Present
- Remembrance Day Service
- Pet Service
- Christmas Dates for your Diary
- Singleton Nursing Home Carol Service

Singleton Community Church is part of Ashford Town Parish. For details of parish activities or for Giving details, contact the office at info@ashfordchurches.co.uk or 01233 620433. www.ashfordtownparish.co.uk.

God's Christmas Present

Stress, family complications, debt. For many people this is the legacy of Christmas during and after all the frantic preparation for Christmas day. Preparation fuelled by the shopping world which begins pushing their wares earlier and earlier each year.

But this is not God's version of Christmas. In his preparation for the birth of Jesus he promised, "Peace on earth, and goodwill to all people."

This was not peace in a one-time event but peace in the ongoing presence of Jesus, God's Christmas present to the world.

May we truly receive and enjoy the peace He can give, a peace that goes beyond our understanding and survives the buffeting of everyday life - the gift that keeps on giving.

-Andrew Flack



Message from your Local Leadership Team:

Safeguarding: It is *everyone's* responsibility to protect children and vulnerable adults.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Lis Webb
lis.webb@ashfordchurches.co.uk

Our Singleton Safeguarding Officer is Jill Harrison
jill.harrison@ashfordchurches.co.uk

If you have any concerns, please talk with one of us, or our Vicar - Rev Jo Purle jo.purle@ashfordchurches.co.uk



Remembrance Day Service

What a privilege to host the Singleton and Repton Beavers and Scouts, with friends and families, at Singleton Community Church on Remembrance Sunday.

The service provided regulars and visitors a mutual opportunity to honour those who sacrificed their lives in conflict. The young people, dressed in uniforms and holding their colours high, played a significant role in the service with readings, prayers and the laying of wreaths, highlighting the intergenerational connection, reminding us that remembrance is not just for the past, but a commitment to peace and understanding for the future.

A wonderful balance of solemnity and hope, with helpful reminders from Jo of how we are tethered to God (CaniCross!), and Jill and Stuart's symbolism of different flowers, finishing with the Poppy: remembrance and hope for a peaceful future in the aftermath of the First World War.

Lest we forget...

-Edward Bone



Pet Service

On 20th October our church held its first pet service. All were welcome and amounted to a dozen or so dogs, various shapes and sizes! a hamster kept safely in its box! and a beautiful kitten.

We welcomed several guests to our church from our local community, we sang worship songs and heard God's word.

Our guest speaker was Lyndall Bywater, accompanied by her guide dog. We learnt a little of how her canine companion helps her on a daily basis and how invaluable she is. Lyndall also reminded us that we are called, by our Heavenly Father, to care for all God's creatures and how we are guardians of his world.

At the end there was a quick 'photo call' where pets and their humans joined together for their picture to be taken. A thoroughly enjoyable morning, hopefully to become an annual event, including all creatures 'great and small'.

£150 was raised for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

-Rose Holmes



Christmas Dates for Your Diary

Carol Singalong at Singleton Shops

Saturday 14 December 10am

Nativity Service

Sunday 15 December 10:30am

Christmas Family Activity Morning

Monday 23 December 10am

Family Carol Christingle Service

Tuesday 24 December 3pm

Christmas Day Service

Wednesday 25 December 10:30am

(www.ashfordtownparish.co.uk/singleton for more details)



Please note - there will be no SCC service on Sunday 29th December 2024 - Feel free to use the time to visit another church, rest up, or meet up with church family for a walk or cuppa.

Singleton Nursing Home Carol Service Wednesday 11th December 2.30-4pm

Singers, musicians and friendly faces all welcome to join Jo, Jill and Sue. Please let Jo know if you intend to come along.

