Your monthly update from Earley St Peter's church: December 2026

1 message

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26 November 2026 at 11:12

Earley St Peter's Church



Your Monthly Update from Earley St Peter's – December 2026

Thought for the month *from the Revd Kate Wakeman-Toogood*

Christmas is a time traditionally spent with family and friends. When we see Christmas tv adverts or posters in shops, they usually depict some version of this tradition; smiling faces around a feast-filled dinner table, presents being opened as relatives excitedly watch, choirs singing, and so on. Many of us will be able to relate to at least some of these joyful scenes, but the reality is that Christmas is a challenging time for many others. Loneliness, grief, financial worries, ill health and family feuds are just some of the issues that can make Christmas a difficult season, and most of these are things we will all experience at some stage in out lives.

At church, Christmas is predominantly about celebrating the joy of the incarnation and is a season with love at the heart of it. Therefore, another important aspect of Christmas for Christians is about showing that love to others. When the infant Jesus grew up and began his ministry, he not only taught his followers about love but also commanded them to love one another. This love was not restricted to their family and friends, and Jesus challenges his followers to think about who their neighbour is. There are many ways we can show love to one another, and one of the ways which is fundamental to Christian life is pastoral care.

Below is a message from our pastoral phone call team and also a list of groups that you may be interested in attending. I would like this reflection to serve as a reminder of some of the ways that we offer care and support at St Peter's, and to encourage people to reach out for help if they need it.

With love and prayers,

Kate

At this time of the year with colder weather and dark days it's very easy to feel fed up and a bit 'low'. Our small but dedicated team are more than happy to ring you up for a chat.

If this is something you would like please contact me on the number below.

0118 9262153

Mary Brooke

Pastoral Care at Earley St Peter's:

· Sunshine Social: a group for anyone living with dementia and their carers. Takes place on 1st Monday of the month from 2-4pm.

· Compassion Café: a drop-in for anyone who has suffered a bereavement, however recent or long ago. Takes place on 2nd Friday of the month from 10.30am-12pm.

· Thursday@10. Takes place on 2nd Thursday of the month (social) and 4th Thursday of the month (talk followed by refreshments)

· A quiet, said service of Holy Communion followed by refreshments. Takes place on Tuesdays at 11am in church/ 11.30am in the hall.

· Prayer walks on the 3rd Saturday of the month, beginning at 10am at church and ending back at church with refreshments.

· Prayer ministry available in the Lady Chapel after Sunday 10am services.

· Check the newsletter and noticeboard for one-off events and courses, such as Bible studies, craft groups and talks.

· Contact Mary Brooke about receiving a pastoral phone call (details above).

· Contact one of the Ministry Team if you would like a pastoral visit or home communion.

News for December

(see also the full calendar at the bottom of this newsletter)

Christmas Fayre – 11 December, 3-7pm

The Earley St Peter's Christmas Fayre is here! Please do come along and share details with neighbours, family and friends. If you would like to attend but need a lift to and from the fayre, please contact Kate.

We have been planning this fayre for many months now and I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has been part of the planning and to all who will help or attend on the day.

As per last month's newsletter, we are still looking for volunteers and donations for stalls. If you can help, please fill in this form: Christmas Fayre form







EARLEY ST PETER'S CHURCH
Church Road, Earley, Reading RG6 1EY

CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2026

Friday 11 December 3 pm to 7 pm

Stalls include:

Handmade Handicrafts, Gifts and Decorations * Christmas Cards
Home-made Cakes * Pre-loved Books
Mama Nunn Preserves (Jam, Marmalade, Chutney, Cranberry Sauce)

Christmas-themed Toys * Tombola * Children's Tombola





Activities include:

Santa's Grotto * Face Painting * Hook-a-Duck
Guess the Weight of the Cake * Guess the Name of the Bear

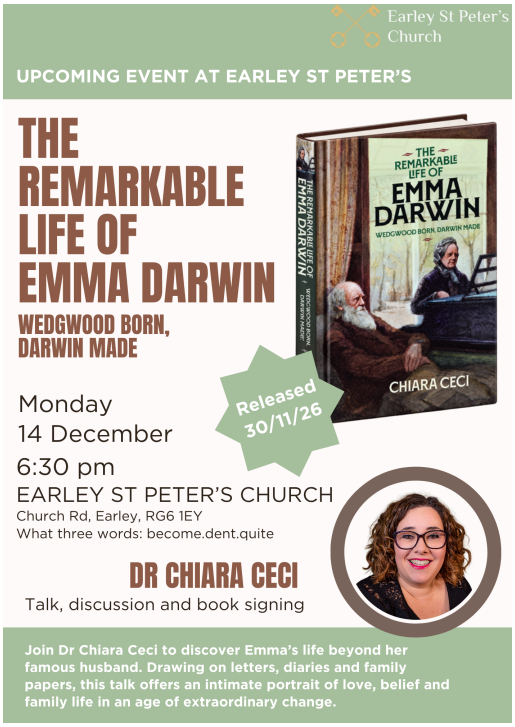
and a room with games and crafts for children.



Refreshments available, including mulled wine, hot drinks, mince pies and cupcakes.



14 December, 6.30pm: talk on *The Remarkable Life of Emma Darwin.* Join Dr Chiara Ceci to discover Emma's life beyond her famous husband. This talk will offer a portrait of love, belief and family life in an era of extraordinary challenge.



Pastoral support: Our pastoral team will be happy to hear if you, or anybody you know, would welcome a phone call or visit. Please contact the parish office (0118 966 8575) or Mary Brooke (0118 926 2153)

Woodley Food Bank donations:

Thank you for all your support to our local food bank with donations of tins, cartons, dried goods with a long shelf life and also the ever important personal hygiene items. Please donate if you are able in the box at the back of the church. Our continued support is still very much needed. *Anne and Ken Richardson* More information here: www.woodleyfoodbank.org

Calendar for December

(the information below is also available via My ChurchSuite and our web site)

We meet every weekday morning at 8.55am (Fridays at 8.30am) in the church for Morning Prayer. All welcome.

Tuesday 1 December	11am	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	PCC
Wednesday 2 December	10.15am	Tots and Teddies
Saturday 5 December	10am-3pm	Church open
Sunday 6 December	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Bread and Wine
	5.30pm	Questions and Cake Junior (Years 5-7)
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
	6.46pm	Questions and Cake (Years 6-11)
Tuesday 8 December	11am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 9 December	10.15am	Tots and Teddies

Thursday 10 December	10am	Thursday@10: talk by Richard Miller on 'The Awakening Conscience' by Holman Hunt
Friday 11 December	9.30am	Church cleaning
	10.30am	Compassion Cafe
	3pm	Christmas Fayre
Saturday 12 December	10am-1pm	Church open
	2.30pm	Christmas concert by students of Anna Ng. All welcome - free admission
Sunday 13 December	10am	Parish Communion Children's Church Inspiration Group
	3pm	Christingle crafts
	4pm	Christingle service

Monday 14 December	6.30pm	Talk by Chiara Ceci: 'The Remarkable Life of Emma Darwin'
Tuesday 15 December	11am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 16 December	10.15am	Tots and Teddies
Saturday 19 December	10am-3pm	Church open
	10am	Parish Prayer Walk
Sunday 20 December	10am	Parish Communion Children's Church Inspiration Group
	6.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
Tuesday 22 December	11am	Holy Communion

	12pm	Holy Communion at The Birches
Wednesday 23 December	10am	Crib service rehearsal
	11.30am	Holy Communion at Embrook Court
Thursday 24 December	3pm	Crib service
	10.30pm	Midnight Communion
Friday 25 December	10am	Festival Communion for Christmas Day
Sunday 27 December	10am	Parish Communion

Earley St Peter's

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Church Road
Earley
RG6 1EY
0118 966 8575
https://www.earleystpeters.org.uk/
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