

I hope you all had a healthy and happy Christmas and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make our Christmas celebrations this year so successful. There are some photos from the Findon Live Nativity and family film afternoon on our website – why not have a look if you haven't seen them already? While you're there, check out all the extra things we have planned so far for the coming year.

2025 is a special year for Chichester Diocese too as we celebrate the 950th birthday of our cathedral with many exciting events planned across the Diocese for all ages. Details can be found on the Diocesan website, or you can follow the link on our own website. Each Deanery is hosting a celebratory Service, led by one of our Bishops, and ours takes place at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church Broadwater on Tuesday 4th February, led by Bishop Ruth, Bishop of Horsham. Everyone is welcome, and some of our own congregation are taking an active part, so do come along to support them if you can. If a lift is needed, contact the Parish Office and we will try to help.

This year is also the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, the Statement of Faith initially agreed at the Council of Nicaea all those years ago, to combat heresy and provide a common ground for the faith of all Christians, believing in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This faith is affirmed every Sunday in our services, and also at every baptism as we welcome new Christians, whatever their age, into the fellowship of Christ's family.

The Diocese has prepared a Lent Course based on the Nicene Creed for this year and there will be the opportunity to join a daytime or evening group in the Parish using this material, with contributions from a different historical Spiritual figure each week of the course, available as a podcast or in the leaflet called 'I Believe', available to download from the Diocesan website. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th, and our groups will start the following week (day and time tbc depending on take-up). Our now established Monday evening Homegroup will also be following this course. ([Lent Course 2025 A4 Main.pdf](#))

Our March Messy Church session falls on Shrove Tuesday, so the theme will obviously be Lent and pancake based! We would like to invite you to join us for a pancake towards the end of the session should you wish to, or any time to see what we get up to with our families, in the Chanctonbury Hall on the first Tuesday of the month 3.30-5.45pm. New helpers are always welcome, so popping in to see what we do is a great first step if you have a little time to volunteer. A small group of us meet a week or so before over coffee to plan that month's crafts and it is always fun!

Finally, ending on a sad note, a loved friend and neighbour of many of us, especially in Patching, Pauline Prior died unexpectedly on Friday 10th January. We seem to have lost so many lovely friends over this winter. Pauline will be greatly missed for her support of music and worship in the Parish, particularly in Patching Church, her valuable contribution to our Parochial Church Council and her hospitality and generosity in events for the Friends of Clapham and Patching Churches. I have many happy memories of time spent with Pauline, enjoying her wisdom and her sense of humour. Our thoughts and prayers are with Richard and the family. May Pauline rest in peace and rise in glory.

Every blessing,

Helena