

Next week – 28th December 2025

Cleaning Sandie & Brenda
JAM No JAM
Coffee No refreshments
Music Justin Myles

4th January 2026

Cleaning Yvonne
JAM No JAM
Coffee Gill & Ian
Music Karen

Services Sunday 4th January 2026

10.00am Morning Prayer

Leading: Ross Terranova
Reading: Ian Cropper *1 John 1: Ch. 1 to Ch. 2v2*
Praying: John Paul
Preaching: Ross Terranova

6.30pm Holy Communion

Leading: Ross Terranova
Reading: Julien Myles *Ecclesiastes 1: 1-11*
Praying: Liz Nicolaides
Preaching: Ross Terranova

Prayer Themes for the Week

Pray for the Bishops of our Diocese, Jonathan and Simon in their work over the Christmas period. Pray for wisdom and vigour as they lead the Diocese into 2026

Pray for those for whom this Christmas will be a very challenging time, following bereavement, illness or family breakdown.

Pray that our Christmas services will be marked by a profound sense of the presence of God and a real joy in all that He has done for us.

Mission

Please continue to pray this Christmas for the missions we support here at St Peter's. These include CMJ (Church's Ministry Among Jewish People), CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society), Crosslinks, Tearfund and MADM (Making a Difference in Maidstone)

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.

Thought for the Week

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life".

John 3 v 16

St. Peter's Church



Welcome

'We are here to demonstrate God's love for all as shown in Jesus to people where we live and work.'

Services Today 21st December 2025

The 4th Sunday of Advent

10.00 am Holy Communion

Leading: Giles Williams
Reading: Steve Campbell *Ruth 4, page 269*
Praying: Jenny Stout
Preaching: Ross Terranova

6.00pm Carol Service

Service Next Week 28th December 2025

The First Sunday of Christmas

10.00am Morning Prayer

Leading: Giles Williams
Reading: John Paul *Matthew 2: 1-12, page 966*
Praying: Julien Myles
Preaching: Giles Williams

No Evening Service

Church Office: Carolyn McMahon
Tuesday & Wednesday 9am – 3pm
Tel: 07927 163859
Email: dittonchurch@btconnect.com
Christian Resource Library open during school term time.
*

Rector: Ross Terranova
Tel: 01732 842027
Email: ross.terranova@hotmail.co.uk
*

Safeguarding Officer: Ruth Campbell
Safeguard.stpetes@gmail.com
*

Website: dittonchurch.org.uk

Facebook: St Peter's Church, Ditton

The Message of Christmas

A warm welcome to the beginning of our celebration of Christmas here in Ditton Church. There is always a sense of expectation and anticipation on the Sunday before Christmas.

This evening, we will hear the great story of the birth of Jesus once again proclaimed in word and song at our Carols by Candlelight service. It is a reminder to us that the message of Christmas is like the rest of the Christian faith - **good news before it is good advice**. *Good news of great joy* was the message heard by the Shepherds and sung by the angelic choir. Still today, despite all the brokenness and heartache we see around us, this is the message of the Christian Church - a Saviour has been born - and it is a Saviour that we need.

This evening, we meet at 6pm for Carols by Candlelight. Straight after the service mulled wine and mince pies will be served outside in the churchyard.

New Memorial Garden

We have now opened a new memorial garden for the internment of ashes - after many months of planning involving the Diocese. A big thank you to *Alan Warner* for all the work he has done with regard to this.

Life Explored 2026!

Ross will be running a 7 week course called "*Life Explored*", which will run in the Church Centre beginning on *Tuesday 13th January* and finishing on *Tuesday 3rd March*. (There will be no meeting on *10th February*). It's a course which provides a framework for exploring some of the key themes of the Christian faith. If you would like to come along, please email Ross directly. We will begin each week at 7.30pm and the evening will end no later than 9pm.

It promises to be a very interesting and stimulating course so please book early!

Diary for w/c 21st & 28th December at St Peter's Church

Weds – Christmas Eve

4.30pm **Carols on the Green**

11pm **Christmas Holy Communion**

Thurs – Christmas Day

10am **Christmas Praise**

Sun 28th

10am **Morning Prayer** (*there will not be refreshments after this service*)

There will not be an evening service on Sunday 28th December.

Prayer @ 7 will resume on 5th January 2026
Crafty Coffee will resume on 7th January 2026.

New Preaching series for 2026

We will be starting a new series on **Sunday mornings** from the *First letter of John* or *1 John*. We live in an age that is hungry for spiritual experience, sometimes at the cost of truth. The New Testament has much to say about both truth and experience. How do we get the balance right?

For Christians in the first century this question was a very profound reality - and it is in large part why the Apostle John wrote this wonderful letter. His argument as it unfolds shows that it is truth which must interpret our experience and the other way round. The word of God - the Bible, never conflicts with the Spirit of God.

In a culture where truth is at a premium where we often hear people say 'What is true for you is not true for me' or speak of 'my truth' how can this letter help us?

For our Evening series we will be exploring the enigmatic book of **Ecclesiastes**. We've called the series "*Everything is Never Enough*" because that was the experience of the writer! He did it all! He had money, education, possessions, sex and power everything our world presents muses will bring joy - yet he was never satisfied. And from his discontent, we benefit and find a surprisingly simple trail to lasting joy. Why not join us on Sunday evenings for what promises to be a fascinating journey!

Giving at St Peter's

We encourage everyone who considers St Peter's to be their Church to give regularly if they are able, to the work and ministry of the Church not just in our community but also so that we can fulfil our commitments to our Mission partners. If you would like to set up a regular Direct Debit payment, please contact your bank to arrange this. Gift Aid forms are available in the church. The Church Bank Account name is: *St Peter's Ditton PCC*, Account Number: 00021526, Sort Code: 40 52 40

Ditton Film Club Movie Nights – Church Centre

The first film of 2026 will be "*The Case for Christ*" on **Saturday 17th January 2026**. An investigative journalist and self-proclaimed atheist sets out to disprove the existence of God after his wife becomes a Christian. Please email the Church Office dittonchurch@btconnect.com if you would like to come and arrive by 6.45pm when refreshments will be available. A £5 contribution toward snacks and drinks will be appreciated. **Volunteers still required please to serve refreshments!**

Christmas Services

21st December Carol Service 6pm

Christmas Eve Carols on the Green 4.30pm
Holy Communion 11pm

Christmas Day Christmas Praise 10am

