

NEWS

From



United Reformed Churches
of Romsey and Braishfield



**DECEMBER 2025 /
JANUARY 2026**

www.abbeyurc.org.uk

Abbey United Reformed Church

www.abbeyurc.org.uk

or find us on Facebook, [Instagram](#) and X

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Services

Sunday Family Worship	10.30am
Monthly Bible Study first Sunday evening	6.30pm
On Zoom (ID: 864 1780 6994 Password: learning)	

Weekday Meetings – any updates will be on our worship sheet

Monday (2 nd)	BALM (Bereavement) Group	10.30am
Thursday	The Social Cup - refreshments and warm space. Open to all, in Abbey Hall Lounge	10am - 11.30am
Wednesday (1 st 3 rd)	Church Table Tennis	2.30pm

For baptisms, weddings or funerals please contact Revd Mike

December 2025

'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.'

'Look, your Saviour comes!'

'All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.'

Where in the Bible do these quotations come from? Do you know? I'll give you a clue: they're all from the same book, and it's a book that gets quoted a lot in our carol services.

That's right - it's the prophecy of Isaiah; I've taken these three quotes from the three different service options our lectionary gives us for Christmas Day.

You'll understand why I didn't bother asking you about the Gospel for Christmas. (Hint: the starring characters include a young woman, her husband, some shepherds, some angels and a baby - though, oddly enough, no donkey!). At this time of year, so much of our attention is focussed on the Christmas story. But I'm writing this letter in November - and this magazine also covers New Year. So maybe Isaiah's words, first heard two thousand years before Christ's birth, in the context of defeat, exile and the stubborn hope of restoration, can still speak to us in our everyday living, both before and after Christmas.

Before Christmas, whether it's in the cold, dark days of winter, in our struggles of mind or body, or in the news, national or international, I can confidently predict we will be looking out eagerly for light in the darkness. We will also be living in the hope of Christ's coming: both two thousand years ago and in our own lives. And after Christmas? Isaiah's words still point us to a hopeful future. In spite of all indications to the contrary, God's kingdom of justice and peace is still on its way. As Jesus' followers, that's what we believe.

But how do we live that out? How do we act like people who know there is light in the darkness; that God is on the way to heal, rescue, save not only our lives, but the life of the whole world? That's a challenge for us before Christmas, as we try not to get caught up in competitive gift-giving and conspicuous consumption. It's a challenge during Christmas, whether we're trying to keep the family peace or missing those no longer with us. And it'll still be a challenge after Christmas, as the earth turns from darkness to light, yet not everything that's wrong in our lives or the life of the world will have been resolved.

Not all Mary's questions were answered by the birth of her child, either. Yet as she held him in her arms, she could ponder all these things and return, as can we, to rest in God's promises:

'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.'

'Look, your Saviour comes!'

'All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.'

Happy Christmas to you and yours, and God's blessings for 2026!

Revd Sarah

THE SOCIAL CUP IN DECEMBER AND HELP BEAT THE JANUARY BLUES!

The Social Cup is your warm space on the run up to Christmas and into January. We will be open every Thursday morning, except 25 December and 1 January, from 10am-11.30am in the Abbey Hall Lounge for a warm welcome, a warm space and somewhere for a chat with a friendly face.



January can be a challenging time of year for everyone; as well as taking its toll on mental health. This long, dark month can be financially difficult and many households face the stark choice between heating and eating.

Why not give 'Blue Monday' (19 January) a colourful makeover in Warm Welcome Week. Wear warm colours and get creative with pinks, oranges, reds, and purples to chase the blues away. If January is a struggle mentally or financially, we are there for you. Drop in to Abbey Hall Lounge for a warm drink and a place to sit and catch up with friends or some space to enjoy a good book – you will always be welcome. We are also part of the Chatty Café Scheme.



MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Material for February 2026 to be submitted by
5pm (latest) on Thursday, 22 January 2026
Please email to abbeyurcnews@gmail.com

**Alternatively, you could call Carole C, pop it in her letter box, or leave in the pigeon-hole at the back of the church.
Thank you.**

Dear friends in Christ

Just over the road from where we live now is, I think, a Silver Birch tree that, with its copper leaves contrasted against the blue sky in the winter sun, looks absolutely magnificent!

As garden centres around the country have already begun selling evergreen Christmas trees to decorate at home, to brighten the mid-winter darkness, so it is that the deciduous trees (like the one opposite our home) are dropping their leaves in preparation for winter rest.

Preparations are well under way now for our Advent and Christmas services across the Fellowship of our six churches, and we hope to welcome you at some of these occasions and events.



(Photo – Revd Mike)

Favourite services of mine are the candlelight carol services at Braishfield and at Abbey URC – very different services but both very much evoke the wonder of the Christmas story.

At Braishfield URC on Sunday 21 December, at 3 pm, we gather to sing carols – traditionally, unaccompanied! and we listen to the Christmas story, and have a laugh (or a groan) at Christmas cracker jokes! A mixture of heartfelt gratitude to God for coming to the world in Jesus, and the joy and wonder of new birth.

The evening before, on Saturday 20 December at 6.30 at Abbey URC, we have our Candlelit Carols, always a very popular event for our churches and for the wider community of Romsey – and wider afield. As always, we will hear the Christmas story, sing carols, and listen to some traditional and more contemporary poetry. We always benefit from the gifts of our musicians and soloists who participate in this service and we thank God very much for them, especially at Christmas.

Returning to the theme of trees, we will of course have lovely Christmas trees in all our churches, bringing a sense of awe and wonder to all our Christmas worship. And here is a poem that will be read at Abbey URC's Candlelit Carols service that speaks to me of the love, light and generosity of spirit that lies at the heart of Christmas for all Christian people.

The not-so perfect Christmas tree (author, anon)

One December afternoon, a family set out to find the perfect Christmas tree.

They searched the tree farm from end to end - tall trees, round trees, trimmed ones, wild ones.

"This one's too thin," said the father.

"This one leans," said the mother.

"This one's too short," said the children.

They walked and walked until the sun was low and their fingers were cold. Still no perfect tree.

Then they came to a quiet corner and saw a tree no one had picked. It was lopsided, with a crooked top and a few bare branches.

"Not perfect," the father said.

"Not even close," the mother added.

The children were quiet. Then the youngest said, "But I like it. It looks like it's trying its best."

And slowly, the others smiled.

So, they tied it to the roof of their car and brought it home.

That evening, they decorated the tree with lights, old ornaments, popcorn strings, and love. And by the time the star went on top, it looked just right.

Maybe not perfect for everyone.

But perfect for them.

Marie and I pray that you will all have a wonderful Christmas when it comes, and we wish you a very happy new year. God bless you all!

In Christian love, **Revd Mike**

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

If you wish to explore the Advent readings as part of your preparations for the Advent season, why not join us for our Advent Bible Studies on Sunday evenings at 6.30 pm on Zoom (ID 864 1780 6994 PC learning) when we will look more deeply at the Gospel verses listed under 'Morning Prayer'. These will be on 7, 14, and 21 December. Contact Revd Mike if you wish to be added to the list to receive the weekly study sheet.



We also meet on the Sunday evening of 4 January 2026. All welcome!

PRAYER FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

O come, o come, Emmanuel!
Come to us, disheartened by disharmony; perplexed by politics;
looking for light, hoping for help.
Come, God-with-us, come to us!

O come, o come, Emmanuel!
Come to us, worried by warfare; indignant at injustice;
searching for solace, praying for peace.
Come, God-with-us, come to us!

O come, o come, Emmanuel!
Come to us, burdened by busyness; lost in loneliness;
bemoaning meaninglessness, asking for answers.
Come, God-with-us, come to us!

Come to us, vulnerable newborn;
come to us, caught up in our old ways.
Come to us, God's son and Mary's child;
come to us, Jew born under occupation.

Come to us, fulfiller of prophecies;
come to us, breaker of rules.
Come into our lives, transform them into yours.
O come, o come, Emmanuel!

Amen

Revd Sarah

LAST POSTING DAYS FOR CHRISTMAS AT ABBEY URC

Our Christmas Post Box for sending cards to members of the congregation, who can collect them from church, will again be available this year. Please do not use this for sending to those who will not be in church to collect them.

The box will be available on Sunday, 30 November and 7 December. If you miss these dates, we will empty the box at 9am on Saturday, 13 December when you can always bring your cards along and help bundle all the cards ready for collection on 14 December, to ensure they are all collected by our Candlelight service on Saturday, 20 December.



CHURCH NEWS

Recently I have been in hospital and now home feeling much better. Gwen delivered lovely flowers to me recently, and cheered me up! Much appreciated. Thank you all for your good wishes. Love, **Alice C**

May you have a wonderful Christmas and many blessings for the coming year. With love, **Kathleen xx**

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas and happiness for 2026. Thank you for all the help and support you have given me during the year. With love, **Sarah and Richard xx**

FELLOWSHIP WITH FRIENDS FROM ST JOSEPH'S

Over the past fifteen years a small group of representatives from the Roman Catholic and the United Reformed Churches have been looking at the denominations' theologies, differences and similarities. They have recently published a 56 Page document which states "... we quickly discovered that living as Christian communities outwith the Established Church was something we had in common."

We are now hoping to use this document as a basis for discussions with our neighbours, St Joseph's Roman Catholic church, and are looking for a few representatives from our congregation to join with a few from St Josephs' to further explore better understanding each other and work more closely together.

Our first meeting will be at 2.30pm on Tuesday, 13 January at St Joseph's Parish Office, opposite 1 Abbey Water. One of the founding members of this Dialogue Group is one of our very own Ministers, Revd Sarah, and we are pleased that she will be able to join us to explain about the Group's hopes for developing closer working with our Catholic friends. If you would like to join this group, or know more about its purpose, please let Andy Bevan know. St Joseph's have about four members ready to join this group, and it would be great if we could have a similar representation.

Here in Romsey, we have long enjoyed a warm fellowship with our Catholic friends and look forward to again sharing our Carols by Candlelight service and our morning service to mark the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on 18 January, when Dominic Lodge from St Joseph's will be offering the reflection for this service.

ABBEEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



*JOIN US FOR OUR CAROLS
BY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE*

at 6.30pm



The church by the
arch in Romsey



**SATURDAY,
20 DECEMBER 2025**

A special evening of carols and readings, made more magical by the candlelight. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

If you wish to send one Christmas card to the church, this can be pinned on the board which will be at the side of the church, near the door leading to the Rainbow Room. Donations in lieu of your individual Christmas cards will be given to the Gaza/Lebanon Justice Appeal, which is a joint programme between the URC Commitment for Life Department, the Methodist Mission Department and the All We Can.

Philip Brooks, Deputy General Secretary (Mission) for the United Reformed Church (URC) says, "Given the desperate humanitarian crisis experienced by the people of Gaza and Lebanon, it is good for the URC and its global justice programme, 'Commitment for Life', to join with our Methodist ecumenical partners and All We Can in support of this vital appeal. In the face of overwhelming force and deep injustice, we hope to bring ecumenical solidarity and practical support to help alleviate the plight of so many people who are enduring conflict in this region." More details about this appeal can be found at www.urc.org.uk under their Commitment for Life section.

Donations at our Christmas Eve Midnight Communion will go to Shelter, for its work with those experiencing homelessness this Christmas.

Our annual church Christmas donations will be given to Muscular Dystrophy (Romsey branch), RAFA Wings Appeal and Step by Step, the charity about which we heard at our Community Awareness Service earlier this year and which offers help and a range of services to young people in the local area.

MORNING PRAYERS

If you would like to take the opportunity to reflect upon God's word and to pray for the needs of the world, and the Church, in your own time during the week, here are the readings for Advent, Christmas and into the new year.



December	7	Isaiah 11:1-10	Matthew 3:1-12
	14	Isaiah 35:1-10	Matthew 11:2-11
	21	Isaiah 7:10-16	Matthew 1:18-25
	25	Isaiah 9:2-7	Luke 2:1-20
	28	Isaiah 63:7-9	Matthew 2:13-23
January	4	Psalms 72	Matthew 2:1-12
	11	Psalms 29	Matthew 3:13-17
	18	Psalms 40	John 1:29-42
	25	Psalms 27	Matthew 4:12-23

FREE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CRAFT DROP IN

We're opening the Abbey Hall to invite children to a free drop-in Christmas craft session on Saturday, 6 December from 2– 4pm. There will be lots of different creative options, including paper chain characters, star decorations, lanterns, colouring - or just come along and be inventive using the materials provided! Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

TREE OF ANGELS

Our Tree of Angels is now in our church. It has started Advent simply with lights and a star. At our All Soul's service people were invited to write the name of the person they were remembering on an angel; we have kept these safe and they have now been placed on our tree.

There are angels at the back of church after our services for you to write on and add to the tree. Alternatively pop in on Saturday mornings, or drop into our church during one of our open events to add your angel to the tree. There are also angels by our prayer post box in our doorway; you can come along at any time, write on an angel and post it into our prayer post box. They will be collected and added to our Tree of Angels.



By Christmas morning the tree will be filled with memories and messages for loved one's no longer with us.

OPENING OF CHURCH FOR ROMSEY CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Our first open event took place on Saturday, 22 November at the Romsey light switch on. We had people pop in to say hello, and to find a little warmth and time to sit down – it was lovely to welcome them into our church. The weather was not kind to Romsey, but Santa was found, the lights were switched on and the live music in the square was excellent! There were many people out braving the weather, and it was lovely to welcome some of them into our church.

We'll be open for the lantern parade and winter carnival on 29 November, then on 14 December for the Makers' Market, finally for Carols in the Market Place. Thanks to Wessex Synod for their grant which supported with this initiative, reaching out to our community. To see the church lit up and welcoming in the corner of the Market Place is an excellent witness to our presence in the Romsey community.



COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

We are delighted to welcome Revd Bernie Collins to lead our annual Commitment for Life Service on 7 December. There is a small display at the back of the church telling more about the work of Commitment for Life and, in particular, its work in Israel and the Occupied Territories. If you have been collecting coins for Commitment for Life throughout the year, please bring them to this service.

A reminder that all proceeds from our refreshments served after Sunday morning worship are donated to the URC Commitment for Life programmes, and are added to the total we send at the end of the year.

REVD MIKE'S PREACHING ROTA

December 2025

1-7		Revd Mike on annual pre-Christmas leave
14	10.30 am	Avenue St Andrew's URC, Holy Communion
20	6.30 pm	Abbey URC Candlelight Carols (Saturday)
21	10.30 am	Bitterne URC Carols
	3.00 pm	Braishfield URC Carols by candlelight
25	10.00 am	Avenue St Andrew's URC (with Isaac Watts)
28	10.30 am	Bitterne Park URC

January 2026

4	9.30 am	Braishfield URC, Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Abbey URC, Holy Communion
11	10.30 am	Bitterne Park URC and Church Meeting
18	10.30 am	Avenue St Andrew's URC
25	10.30 am	Bitterne URC and Church Meeting

PRAYER POST BOX

Our prayer post box can be found in the front garden outside Abbey URC. It stays out day and night, as the need to pray does not always come at a convenient time.

Anyone who feels the need is invited to write a prayer, pop it into the box - we include these prayers in our Sunday service. Sometimes it helps to know someone is thinking about you.



Abbey United Reformed Church, Romsey



CA
Jane Austen
Christmas

To be held at Abbey Hall, Romsey
4pm Saturday, 13 December 2025

A delightful programme of carols,
music, poetry and readings plus
seasonal refreshments.

Celebrate the 250th anniversary with an
enchanting afternoon of Regency festive cheer.

Tickets are £10 for adults and £6 for under 16s
from carole.cox@btinternet.com



Proceeds towards Abbey URC church funds

JOIN US FOR SOME CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

Are you looking for the true meaning of Christmas, not the tinsel and fairy lights or the crowded shops and panic buying – but why we really celebrate this special day of the year? We have several opportunities to help you and the family explore and enjoy this festive season



20 December 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight: soak in the wonder of Christmas by the light of candles as we follow the Christmas story through singing, readings, poems and prayer.

Christmas Eve 24 December 11pm: mulled wine and mince pies to warm you before our Midnight Communion at 11.30pm led by Revd Sarah.

Christmas Day 25 December 9.30am: united service at Braishfield URC led by Revd Sarah, join us welcome the Christ child Christmas morning.

Sunday 28 December 10.30am: united service with our friends from Braishfield, held at Abbey URC, Romsey led by Revd. Wendy White, a time to reflect and unwind.

CAN YOU HELP?

To help ensure the success of our Christmas celebrations please could you help with any of these events

- 9–10am Saturday, 13 December to help sort out the Christmas cards posted in our Church post box and bundle these at the back of church for collection on Sunday, 14 and 21 December.
- 14 and 21 December take your bundles of Christmas cards and any bundles marked for friends and neighbours you are able to deliver, so that all are cleared for our 6.30pm 20 December Candlelight Service; your co-operation in not adding to bundles, or leaving cards for people who have already collected their bundle, would be greatly appreciated.
- 9am Saturday, 20 December help to put in place the candlesticks for the evening Candlelight Service.
- After the Candlelight Service help to take down the downstairs candlesticks and place them in the vestry.
- 9am Monday, 22 December help is needed to put away the candlesticks.

CHILL OUT TUESDAY



Chill Out Tuesday will be returning in January, after a short break, with a fresh look - a new venue, same day, and a little earlier than before! So, if you would like to join us for a chat over a drink, then find us at The White Horse, Romsey from 7.30pm–9pm on Tuesday, 13 January 2026. We'll be meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month thereafter. Just look for the Chill Out poster on the table, and that's where you will find us!

Wendy

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

We would like to thank all the volunteers who provide coffee for us after our Sunday services.

A couple of our long-standing helpers are stepping down and we're making a plea for more teams of two to join us. It would be about every 5-6 weeks and would make sure we can all continue to enjoy our coffee every week. Please contact John and Louise if you'd like to join the Sunday coffee crew!

CRAFTED ANGELS ARE FLYING IN TO ABBEY URC

Romsey, along with the wider community, has shown wonderful support this year in response to our call for handmade angels. During our service on Sunday, 14 December, Revd Sarah will offer a blessing over all the angels that have been lovingly created and donated.

Following the morning service, the angels will take flight to the railings outside the church, ready to be chosen by their new families and to carry our love into their new 'forever' homes. If you have crafted angels, we would like to invite you to join us and help place them on the railings.

Our church will then be open from 11.30am onwards during the Romsey Makers Christmas Market; pop in to rest your feet and warm up! Free mulled apple juice and mince pies available.

Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has crafted an angel for us. Each one is beautifully unique - just like the home it will fly to. They bring joy to all who pause to admire them, spark magic in the eyes of young people, and carry a little love and care to every doorstep they reach.



SHINING A BRIGHTER, GREENER LIGHT

We hope you've already noticed the fresh brightness brought by the new energy-efficient LED lighting in Abbey Hall, along with the successful completion of the recent roof repairs. These improvements have not only enhanced the space but also moved us closer to our commitment to stewardship and sustainability.

We are delighted to share even more good news! Thanks to the generosity of several grant providers, we have secured enough funding to upgrade the lighting throughout the church to LED as well. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Benefact Trust, Hampshire County Council Councillor's Grant and Test Valley's Climate Change Grant for making this possible.

While the warm, peaceful ambiance of the church sanctuary will remain unchanged, our energy consumption should not! With this upgrade, we are taking meaningful steps to reduce the carbon footprint of both our buildings - an effort we can all celebrate and take pride in.

Work has already begun, and we anticipate completion in December or January. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to care faithfully for our church and community.

Thérèse

REMEMBER THE FALLEN

This year our Easter cross had a makeover for Remembrance Day. Thank you to everyone who 'planted' poppies and put the display at the front of our church. As always, it brings people into our front garden to have a closer look, and remember those who died.

Remembrance Day each year brings the Romsey community together. The poppy in our lapels, and in our church garden, tells many different stories of bravery and loss. We remember them.



THIS JANUARY, RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS JUMPERS



In January, if you have a Christmas jumper you are going to replace why not drop it in to Abbey URC? Chris L will collect Christmas jumpers, t-shirts, hats, etc which we will then pass to Romsey Methodist Church for their Christmas Jumper Swap next November and provide people with a "new to them" Christmas jumper for next Christmas.

It is estimated that 1 in 4 Christmas jumpers are thrown away each year, or never worn more than once. This year give your old Christmas jumper a new lease of life with someone else! Drop your unwanted Christmas jumpers to Abbey URC on a Saturday morning in January; we'll wash them and look after them ready to pass to a new wearer next year.

Thank you to everyone who donated jumpers this year, Romsey Methodist Church were very grateful.



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AVAILABLE 24 HOURS

BRAIN TEASER:

Question: What can travel around the world while staying in a corner?

(Answer on page 33)

CALENDAR

December		
1-7		Revd Mike on annual leave
1	2.30pm	Hope Christmas Choir at Cedar Lawn Nursing Home SO51 7US
2	2.30pm	Hope Christmas Choir at Abbeyfield House SO51 8EW
3	10.30am	Hope Christmas Choir at Friars House SO51 5AD
3	2.30pm	Church Table Tennis in Abbey Hall
4	10-11.30am	The Social Cup in Abbey Hall Lounge. All welcome.
5	2.30pm	Hope Christmas Choir at Woodley Grange Nursing Home SO51 7NU
6	10am-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
6	2-4pm	Free children's Christmas craft in Abbey Hall for accompanied children.
7	9.30am-3.30pm	Romsey Christmas Brocante and Gift Market. The Hundred closed to traffic.
7	10.30am	Commitment for Life Morning Worship including Holy Communion led by Revd Bernie Collins
7	2pm	Romsey Ladies Choir Concert with guest singer Kirsty Purves
7	6.30pm	Advent Bible Study on Zoom ID 864 1780 6994 PW learning
8	10.30am	BALM in Abbey Hall Lounge
8	2.30pm	Hope Christmas Choir at Durban House Nursing Home SO51 7JL
8	7.30-9pm	Amnesty Romsey Group 'Write for Rights' evening. everyone is welcome to join us
9	12.30pm	'The Spirit of Christmas' Rum's Eg Singers Christmas Concert
10	11am	Hope Christmas Choir at Mottisfont Lodge SO51 8AG
11	10-11.30am	The Social Cup in Abbey Hall Lounge. All welcome.
12	7.30pm	Sing Now Concert
13	9am	Empty post box and bundle cards
13	10am-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
13	4pm	A Jane Austen Christmas in Abbey Hall. Join Kirsty for carols, music, poetry and

		readings plus seasonal refreshments. Tickets £10.
14	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd Sarah, including dedication of crafted angels before they fly out into the community
14	11.30am	Church open during Romsey Makers Christmas Market – somewhere to rest your feet and warm up. Warm juice and mince pies available.
14	6.30pm	Advent Bible Study on Zoom ID 864 1780 6994 PW learning
16	1.30pm	Hope Christmas Choir at Marie Louise House SO51 8GZ
16	7.45pm	Rock Choir Christmas Concert
17	2.30pm	Church Table Tennis in Abbey Hall
18	10-11.30am	The Social Cup in Abbey Hall Lounge. All welcome.
20	9am	Working party to put up candle holders for evening service
20	10-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
20	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight led by Revd Mike, everyone welcome.
21	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Andy Bevan
21	6.30pm	Advent Bible Study on Zoom ID 864 1780 6994 PW learning
22	9am	Return of candle holders to the undercroft
22	6pm	Carols in the Market Place – the church will be open for a place to sit, warm up and use of facilities
24	11pm	All invited for a warm drink and mince pies before the 11.30pm midnight communion service, led by Revd Sarah
25	9.30am	United Christmas Day Service at Braishfield URC led by Revd Sarah
26 to 2 January 2026		Revd Sarah on annual leave
27	10-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
28	10.30am	United service with Braishfield URC at Abbey URC Romsey led by Revd Wendy White
January		
3	10-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
4	10.30am	Morning Worship including Holy Communion led by Revd Mike

7	2.30pm	Table Tennis in Abbey Hall
8	10-11.30am	The Social Cup in Abbey Hall Lounge. Everyone is welcome.
10	10-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
11	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd Adrian Bulley
12	10am	BALM in Abbey Hall Lounge
13	2.30pm	Joint St Joseph's/Abbey URC working group at St Joseph's Parish Rooms
13	7.30 pm	Chill Out Tuesday at The White Horse Hotel
15	10-11.30am	The Social Cup in Abbey Hall Lounge
15	7.30pm	Youth and Outreach Group on Zoom ID: 851 4528 3637 PW: business
17	10-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
18 to 25		Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
18	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Andy Bevan with reflection offered by Dominic Lodge from St Joseph's Church, Romsey
20	7.30pm	Finance & Fabric Group in Abbey Hall Lounge
21	2.30pm	Table Tennis in Abbey Hall
21	7.30pm	Worship Group on Zoom ID: 851 4528 3637 PW: business
22	10-11.30am	The Social Cup in Abbey Hall Lounge. Everyone is welcome.
23 to 25		Romsey Chamber Music WinterFest. Go to romseychambermusic.com for more details
24	10-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer
25	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Andy Bevan
25	6.30pm	United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Romsey Abbey
27	7.30pm	Elders Meeting in Abbey Hall Lounge
29	10-11.30am	The Social Cup in Abbey Hall Lounge. Everyone is welcome.
31	10-12.30pm	Church open for quiet reflection and prayer

BRAIN TEASER:

Q. Rearrange the following letters to make one word: NEW DOOR

Q: In what year did Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall in the same year?

(Answers on page 33)

Braishfield United Reformed Church

Minister:	The Reverend Mike Perrott, MA e-mail: revd.mike13@gmail.com Day off: Mondays	01794 512163
	The Reverend Doctor Sarah Hall e-mail: sarah.hall.swhg@gmail.com Day off: Thursdays	02380 768004
Secretary:	Shirley Smith	01794 368447
Treasurer:	Sharon Whitfield	01794 328853
Serving Elders:	Shirley Smith	01794 368447
	Allison Symes	02380 262803
	Sharon Whitfield	01794 328853

December

7	9.30	Holy Communion led by Rev Bernie Collins
14	10.00	Family Worship led by Daniel Symes
21		No morning service, join us in the afternoon instead
21	3.00	Carols by Candlelight led by Revd Mike Perrott
25	9.30	Christmas Day service at Braishfield URC; a short joint service with Abbey URC, led by Revd Dr Sarah Hall
28		No service at Braishfield URC, united service at Abbey URC at 10.30 am led by Revd Wendy White

Please note that the third Sunday of the month is the time to bring in tinned goods etc for the food bank collection.

News from Braishfield

As ever, the Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial was deeply moving. Daniel Symes laid the wreath on behalf of our church and Allison Symes read the lesson from Psalm 103 verses 13 to 17.

The Memories Service, led by the Reverend Mike on 16 November, was also deeply moving. Many thanks to Mike for supplying the candles for this.

We were all thinking of Daniel Symes when he led the service at Salisbury URC on 16 November. We were pleased to hear it went well. Daniel is currently taking the Stepwise course run by the URC.

Many thanks to all who brought back their Jars of Coins on Sunday, 23 November, when the Reverend Mary Thomas was with us. I hope to let

you know the total raised for this in a future magazine. The monies will, of course, be going to our charity, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance.

Also, many thanks to all who donated new toys for our Toy Service on Sunday, 30 November, which was led by Andy Bevan. These toys will be distributed by Southampton Social Services to those most in need and they are appreciated.

We hope as many as possible will come and join us for our Carols by Candlelight service at 3pm on Sunday 21 December. There will be no morning service that day. The service will consist of favourite carols, readings, cracker jokes followed by tea, coffee and mince pies. It is always a lovely, fun occasion and we hope you can join us.

On Christmas Day, we will have a short thirty-minute service. This will be led by the Revd Sarah. There will be no service at Abbey URC, and we have invited them to join us in Braishfield if they can.

Apologies are due too, as I made a mistake in the last magazine. There won't be Holy Communion on Christmas Day. It will just be the usual thirty minutes service, which we hope you can join us for.

I also hope some of us from Braishfield will join Abbey URC as they have invited us to a joint service on Sunday, 28 December, starting at 10.30am. This service will be led by Revd Wendy White. We will not be holding a service that day in Braishfield.

Last, but definitely not least, all of us at Braishfield wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Allison Symes



ROUND THE SOUTHERN FELLOWSHIP OF UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Bitterne

Members of Abbey URC visited Bitterne's **Jigsaw Puzzle Festival**. They had a lovely time and came away with some fabulous new jigsaws - thanks for running this amazing event!



Step into a winter wonderland at Bitterne URC! From 6 December, their sanctuary will be transformed into a sparkling forest of Christmas trees, each lovingly decorated by local groups, organisations, and friends from the community. Every Wednesday and Saturday at 10am, alongside their welcoming Community Café & Coffee Morning, you're invited to wander among the twinkling trees, soak up the festive atmosphere, and celebrate the creativity and warmth of our neighbourhood. It's more than a festival—it's a gathering of light, joy, and togetherness, where every tree tells a story and every visitor becomes part of the magic.

URC NEWS UPDATES ON SAFEGUARDING

The Offices of General Assembly safeguarding team ran its third bi-annual Symposium in October. There was an emphasis on the need to act with wisdom when we navigate safeguarding in the church.

The event brought together more than 150 attendees from synods, local churches, and guests from outside of the denomination. Information was shared on changes within safeguarding, including the newly updated training framework, and a keynote speaker from Restored UK led a thought-provoking session on domestic abuse in church settings. One participant said the event "shows that safeguarding is being taken seriously". He added: "The domestic abuse session was enlightening. I felt encouraged that our denomination is working to help in these areas."

CAN YOU HELP SHARE OUR GOOD NEWS?



Do you have social media? If you do, you can help grow interest in what we're doing and share our good news but simply liking our posts or sharing them with your friends. To date in November, we grew our followers on Facebook to 448 and we had 777 reactions to our news. Please help us grow this further with a simple click or share! Thank you.

Romsey Ladies Choir
and guest singer
Kirsty Purves

**CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

Sunday December 7th 2.30 p.m.
Romsey United Reformed Church

*Celebrate the magic of Christmas
through joyful music*

Tickets £7 ~ Children free
TICKETS: On the door; Oasis bookshop & ticketsource.co.uk

in aid of YOUNG CARERS

Refreshments and
superb hamper raffle

ABBAY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

**CHRISTMAS
HAMPER**

Raffle

**TICKETS ON SALE
DURING DECEMBER**

Tickets: £1 per ticket
In aid of Church funds

TO BE DRAWN BEFORE THE
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
SATURDAY, 20 DECEMBER AT 6.30PM

ROMSEY YOUNG CARERS

Romsey Young Carers will be hosting their annual Christmas Party on Saturday, 13 December 2025 at Braishfield Village Hall.

The event will bring together young carers, their families, staff, and volunteers for a festive afternoon of celebration and refreshments. Romsey Young Carers provides vital support to local children and young people who help care for a family member with an illness, disability or mental health condition.



In the run up to christmas they would be grateful if you are able to support them. They are looking for items for a gift bag from Father Christmas, eg selection boxes, boxes of biscuits, toiletry sets for teenagers, torches, socks, notebooks, gloves, keyrings, etc. If you are able to donate items, please contact Keren on 07392 846143.

Alternatively you can donate directly using this QR code.



They are as determined as ever to make christmas as special as possible for their 150+ young carers and their families by providing gifts for every young carer, and siblings, whilst also being able to offer additional support for the families who struggle most. Thank you.

2026 MAGAZINE CHARGES

We hope you have enjoyed our 2025 magazines. The subscription for 2026 is due in **January**. If you collect a printed version from church, or if you have it delivered by hand, the cost for the year will be £10.50. Please let Jill Girdlestone know if you want your name added to the list.

Payment can be made:

- by bank transfer/BACS to: Abbey United Reformed Church Romsey, Sort Code 40-52-40, Account Number 00033457 (please use the reference MAG and your name; also let Reg know)
- by post with a cheque to Jill Girdlestone and a note stating MAG and your name/address. Cheques to be made payable to "Abbey United Reformed Church".

You can have a paper copy posted to you at a cost of £20 per year, to cover the printing, envelopes and postage for 10 issues. If you wish the magazine posted to you, please tell Jill Girdlestone, and ensure payment is received by 15 January 2026.

It will continue to be available as an e-magazine, delivered by email. Although this is free, a donation would be much appreciated. The magazine can also be viewed on the church website at www.abbeyurc.org.uk, Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Thank you

**BRAISHFIELD
GARAGE LTD.**



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www.braishfieldgarage.co.uk

MOT

REPAIRS

SERVICING

**Complete vehicle inspection services
in Romsey and Southampton**

MINISTERS HOLIDAYS

Please note our Ministers are on holiday:

Revd Mike 1– 7 December

Revd Sarah Hall 26 December – 2 January

Alternative contact whilst they are away: Andy Bevan 07483 319618,
email andybevan1@btinternet.com.



OASIS
ROMSEY
More than a Bookshop

25 Church Street, Romsey
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shop@oasisromsey.co.uk
www.oasisromsey.co.uk

**A large range of books and bibles for all ages—Third world crafts—
CDs/DVDs—Greetings cards—Fairtrade foods— Church resources—
Scout & Guide uniform**

Opening times: Monday– Friday 9.30-4.30, Saturday 9am-4pm

HELLO TO ALL HOPE CHOIR SINGERS

Thank you very much for supporting me at Harvest and here we go again as we approach Christmas.

The homes are very happy to see us again and the dates I have arranged with them are:-

Cedar Lawn SO51 7US	Monday, 1 December	2.30pm
Abbeyfield House SO51 8EW	Tuesday, 2 December	2.30pm
Friars House SO51 5AD	Wednesday, 3 December	10.30am
Woodley Grange SO517NU	Friday, 5 December	2.30pm
Durban House. SO51 7JL	Monday, 8 December	2.30pm
Mottisfont Lodge SO518AG	Wednesday, 10 December	11.00am
Marie Louise House SO51 8GZ	Tuesday, 16 December	1.30pm



I do hope as many of you as possible will come to as many homes as you can, I really rely on your support to make it successful for the residents. Please bring any friends who would like to sing with us!

Many thanks and looking forward to seeing you soon.
Best wishes to you all.

Clive Andrews, organiser of Romsey Hope Choir

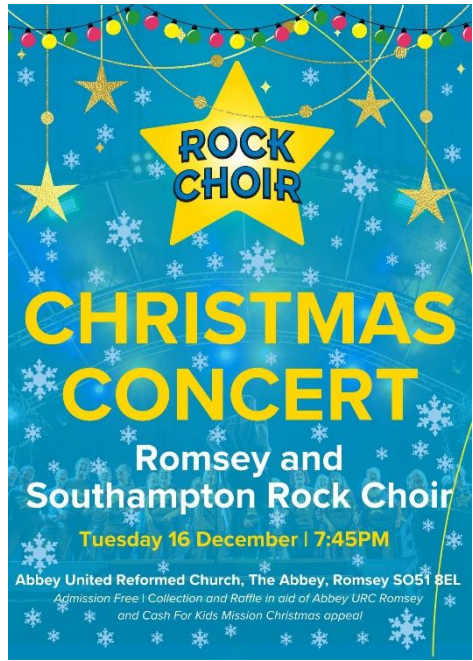


“The Spirit of Christmas”

Join the *Rum’s Eg Singers*
for a lunchtime concert to celebrate
the Festive Season 🌟
*(Including Traditional Carols, Vivaldi’s ‘Gloria’ (1st move))
and Handel’s ‘Hallelujah Chorus’)*

Tuesday 9th December 2025
At 12.30pm
**Abbey United Reformed Church, Market Place,
Romsey**

Free admission, with retiring
bucket collection in aid of
Prescription Art Test Valley,
Romsey Young Carers & The
Mayor’s Community Chest



ROCK CHOIR

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Romsey and Southampton Rock Choir

Tuesday 16 December | 7:45PM

Abbey United Reformed Church, The Abbey, Romsey SO51 8EL
*Admission Free | Collection and Raffle in aid of Abbey URC Romsey
and Cash For Kids Mission Christmas appeal*

The Unity Community Team provides support to those in need within the community.



Unity offers a variety of support pathways to help you manage your energy costs and improve your home's efficiency:

- Winter Fuel Payment:** Financial assistance to help cover your heating bills.
- Help to Winter Proof Your Home:** Advice and support to make your home more energy efficient.
- Energy Saving Support:** Tips and resources to reduce your overall energy consumption.
- Food support:** Vouchers and food boxes available for those in need.



CONTACT US

☎ 03304 004 116

✉ info@unityonline.org.uk

Bus Station, West Street, Andover SP10 1QP

www.unityonline.org.uk

Registered Charity no: 1061655

AMNESTY ROMSEY GROUP



This month we wrote letters to the Singapore government to protest about its use of the death penalty, particularly for minor offences. Singapore is one of a small minority of countries executing people for smaller crimes although it is contrary to The UN Charter on international law, which Singapore has signed up to.

On 8 December will be our annual 'Write for Rights' evening, where we write cards and messages of support to individuals or groups around the world who have suffered injustice or persecution, to give them hope and let them know they haven't been forgotten. We'll be in the Abbey Hall Lounge from 7.30pm to 9pm and everyone is welcome to join us!

As well as the 'Write for Rights' evening, at the back of the church in December there will be details of two persecuted individuals with cards for anyone to sign and show their support. The cards will be sent to them.

John H

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

There has been a good response from Abbey URC members who have either completed safeguarding training, or who are booked to do so in the new year. It is now mandated for most roles within the church to have training every 3 years, and includes everyone from the elders, to those involved in various groups or delivering flowers. Training can either be in person or completed online. There will be 'in person' safeguarding courses in 2026 however dates have not been arranged yet.

Courses can be found at www.urcwessex.org.uk/safeguarding/. Listed below are the scheduled online courses:

Online Foundation & Intermediate safeguarding training course: delivered across 3 online sessions, participants must attend all 3 sessions to complete the course and gain a certificate. Tuesday evenings on 27 January, 3 February and 10 February 2026 from 6.30pm–8pm. [Book here.](#)

Advanced safeguarding course in February/March: delivered across 2 online sessions, participants must attend both sessions to complete the course and gain a certificate. Monday evenings on 23 February and 2 March 2026 from 6.30–8.30pm. [Book here.](#)

You can also book by emailing development@urcwessex.org.uk for the attention of Ruth Heine or phoning 023 8067 4513.

CHRISTMAS FUN....



Q: Why did the turkey join the band?

A: Because it had the drumsticks!



Q: What do you call a snowman in the summer?

A: A puddle!

Q: What do angry mice send to each other at Christmas?

A: Cross mouse cards!

Q: How did Mary and Joseph know that Jesus was 7lb 6oz when he was born?

A: They had a weigh in a manger!



Q: What do you call a snowman with a six pack?

A: An abdominal snowman!

HAVE YOU EVER...

.....walked into a room and instantly forgotten what you went in there for, as if your brain has wiped the memory?

According to Brian Cox, the physicist, this has got nothing to do with ageing or being distracted. It is called the Doorway Effect. It happens because your brain treats every room as an entirely new environment so when you walk through a doorway your brain dumps short term memory to make space for new information.

Scientists proved this at Notre-Dame Cathedral. They ran experiments where people memorised objects, walked through a door and suddenly couldn't recall what they were carrying just seconds earlier. The moment they crossed the threshold their memory accuracy collapsed.

Your brain evolved this glitch because ancient humans needed to reset their awareness every time they entered a new space, like a cave or a forest to scan for threats. The scariest part is that your brain doesn't tell you it deleted the memory and you feel completely normal but the information is gone forever.

You didn't forget, your brain threw away the entire thought the moment you opened the door!

TAKE A STAND AGAINST YOUTH HOMELESSNESS THIS CHRISTMAS



As the Christmas season approaches, we are reminded of the power of light and compassion in the midst of darkness. This year, Step by Step is calling on the congregation at Abbey URC to come together

and make a meaningful difference.

As you will know from their talk in the summer, Step by Step provides much more than just a roof over a young person's head. They offer life skills training, education support, mental health services, and a caring community for young people aged 11-25 who are facing homelessness and other struggles. In a year where many young people face increased challenges, your support can offer hope, stability, and the opportunity to build a brighter future.

In the words of Step by Step's CEO, Debbie Moreton, "No young person should have to face homelessness. With your help, we can continue to provide these young people not just with a roof over their heads, but with the support and guidance they need to build brighter futures."

From December 2nd to 9th, Step by Step is participating in The Big Give, a special campaign where all donations will be doubled at no extra cost to you or the charity. Donating during this period offers a unique opportunity to amplify your gift and provide twice the support to young people in need, offering them not only a safe place to live, but also the tools to rebuild their lives.

At Christmas, we are reminded of our shared values of compassion, community, and care for those who are struggling. Step by Step is working tirelessly to provide young people with not only a place to live, but the resources and support they need to thrive. This Christmas, we invite you to stand with young people facing homelessness, helping them find refuge, resilience, and the power to overcome.

Together, we can shine a light in the darkness and provide the gift of hope this Christmas.

For more information on how you can support Step by Step this Christmas, visit <https://www.stepbystep.org.uk/christmas/> or contact fundraising@stepbystep.org.uk

Nic Goom

CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRAW

There will be Christmas Hamper raffle at Abbey URC during December, in aid of church funds. It will be full of tasty treats for the Christmas period, tickets on sale during December after our services at £1 each, and the raffle will be drawn before the Carols by Candlelight service.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

We are looking forward to hosting the concerts below, they promise to be excellent events – so put the dates in your diary!

Sunday, 7 December at 2.30pm Romsey Ladies' Choir, with guest vocalist Kirsty Newbury in Abbey URC

Tuesday, 9 December at 12.30pm Rum's Eg Singers in Abbey URC

Friday, 12 December at 7.30pm Sing Now Choir in Abbey URC

Saturday, 13 December at 4pm A Jane Austen Christmas in Abbey Hall with Kirsty Newbury

Tuesday, 16 December at 7.45pm Romsey and Southampton Rock Choirs in Abbey URC

If you would like to help steward one of these concerts, please contact Andy. Thank you.

The Social Cup
Thursdays 10am – 11.30am
in the Abbey Hall Lounge, Romsey



A warm welcome – and a warm space
to sit and catch up with friends.

Open to all.



FAMILIES LIVING WITH A DEMENTIA DIAGNOSIS NEEDED!

Would you be willing to talk to first year medical students about dementia?

Southampton University Faculty of Medicine has joined a ground-breaking programme called “Time for Dementia”. On this programme, pairs of students from the Medical Faculty visit families in the region who



are living with a dementia diagnosis. These visits take place once a term, ie 3 times a year – once in Spring, once in Summer and once in Autumn.

Each visit lasts about an hour or an hour and a half (max). The students are there to learn from the families and gain the fullest

possible picture of everyday life with the condition. The visits give the students an invaluable understanding that they can't get from a book or a classroom. It's an experience the students will remember for many years.

Talking to students is one way families living with dementia can have a powerful impact on how dementia is understood by the consultants, doctors and researchers of the future.

Duncan Salkeld of Alzheimer's Society, said, 'This is about shaping attitudes before the students begin their career in medicine. It's a great programme and we are looking for local families to participate. The feedback we've had so far has been amazing. Families feel they are giving back and students get a unique experience and gain confidence. Joining Time for Dementia means your voice will be heard, and you'll have a real impact. It's also fun, and you'll develop a rapport.'



If you feel you'd like to join in with Time for Dementia, or just chat it over, please contact Duncan Salkeld, Time for Dementia Officer, on 07834 406272 or email him at duncan.salkeld@alzheimers.org.uk or timefordementia@alzheimers.org.uk

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated items this November for Amber and Southampton Social Services. Your donations mean so much. Thank you.

DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM HERITAGE EXHIBITION THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who came along to view the 'Heritage Exhibition 2025: Pilgrims of Hope'. It was wonderful to see so much interest and to hear some of the fascinating conversations taking place. Many people from the local community came along and they also welcomed the Daughters of Wisdom archivist from Paris, France.

Thanks to the generosity they received in supporting the 'Friends of Wisdom' tombola and cake sale - an incredible £1,132 was raised for the Amber Charity. The funds will go towards helping the outreach service, supporting women's health and wellbeing on the streets of Southampton.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity traditionally starts on the Feast of St Peter on 18 January and lasts until the Feast of St Paul on 25 January. This year both dates fall on a Sunday, giving the opportunity to celebrate both the start and the end of the week in our services of worship.



For the start of the week, we are delighted we will be joined by a Worship Leader from St Joseph's, who will be giving the reflection at our 10.30am service on 18 January. The week will end with the Service at Romsey Abbey at 6.30pm on Sunday, 25 January.

The theme for 2026 is "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling (Ephesians 4:4).

BRAIN TEASERS:

Answer: A stamp

Answer: ONE WORD

Answer: Every year.

WESSEX SYNOD ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Net Zero Lead: Champion the Synod's response to the climate crisis, guiding our journey towards Net Zero and helping churches care for God's creation through practical action and shared inspiration.

Mission Lead: Inspire and resource mission and evangelism across the Synod, supporting churches as they reach out to their communities and discover fresh ways of sharing God's love.

New Christian Communities Lead: Encourage and support the creation of new Christian communities and fresh expressions of church, helping to identify and nurture pioneering mission across the Synod.

Racial Justice Advocate: Promote racial justice and inclusion throughout the Synod, raising awareness, supporting local churches in good practice, and keeping equality central to our shared life.

Rural Advocate: Champion and support the life of rural churches, ensuring their voices are heard, their needs understood, and their ministry celebrated and strengthened.

Trustees of the United Reformed Church Wessex Trust Ltd: Serve as a trustee to help oversee Synod resources and property in line with charity and company law: we seek people who understand local church situations and needs, and care about the URC's mission in Wessex.

Convener of Synod Executive: Chair meetings and guide the work of the Synod Executive, ensuring good communication, clear follow-through on decisions, and a spirit of collaboration and encouragement in Synod leadership.

Local church file sorting: We have a number of local church files inherited from District Councils which now need to be weeded and sorted before they are scanned and digitized. This can be done from home or from the Synod Office. This needs to be a URC member with enough awareness to know what to keep and what can be destroyed.

All volunteers work within the context of a supportive staff team and full expenses reimbursed. The Synod will follow a Safer Recruitment process for everyone wishing to serve, and the Synod reserves the right not to appoint every applicant.

To express interest email Deborah Walker on office@urcwessex.org.uk
To ask for more information, or suggest possible candidates, email Michael Hopkins on moderator@urcwessex.org.uk as soon as possible – we are hoping to have a team in place by 1 January 2026. Thank you!

JOIN US AT *Christmas*

Abbey United Reformed Church,
Romsey - the church by the arch



Advent

Come in and add a name to our Tree of Angels, which will be in our church during Advent. At other times angels can also be found by our front door, simply add a name or message and post it in our Prayer Post Box – we'll place it on the tree for you.

22 Nov
4pm

Church open during Romsey lights and festive delights: Romsey light switch-on, festive fun and finding Santa! Come in to have a seat, warm up and use our facilities.

29 Nov
5.30pm

Church open during Romsey Winter Carnival and Lantern Procession, pop in to warm up and rest for a while. Free mulled apple juice and mince pies available.

06 Dec
2-4pm

Free children's Christmas crafts in Abbey Hall. Free craft event for accompanied children. Walk under the arch by TSB towards the park. Abbey Hall is the second green door on the left.

13 Dec
4pm

A Yuletide Celebration of Jane Austen in Abbey Hall, Romsey; carols, music, poetry and readings plus seasonal refreshments including mince pies and traditional Twelve Cake. Tickets £10.

14 Dec
11.30am

Church open during Romsey Makers Christmas Market; pop in to rest your feet and warm up! Free mulled apple juice and mince pies available.

22 Dec
6.30pm

Church open during **Carols in the Market Place**, if you need a seat, a warm up or to use our facilities!

JOIN US AT *Christmas*

Abbey United Reformed Church,
Romsey – the church by the arch



Advent

Come in and add a name to our Tree of Angels, which will be in our church during Advent. At other times angels can also be found by our front door, simply add a name or message and post it in our Prayer Post Box – we'll place it on the tree for you.

30 Nov
10.30am

Morning worship, Southampton Voluntary Services and Amber will join us to receive our donations of toys and gifts.

30 Nov
3pm

Advent Carol Service we will be joined by other members of the URC Southern Fellowship, when we prepare for God to enter afresh into our lives and hearts. Led by Revd Mike.

14 Dec
10.30am

Morning worship Revd Sarah blesses our crafted angels. They then fly to our railings ready to find new homes in our community, sharing the love of Christmas.

20 Dec
6.30pm

Carols by candlelight, the church will be filled with candlelight, music and anticipation for the coming of Christmas Day. We look forward to you joining us.

24 Dec
11pm

Mince pies and mulled apple juice, prior to our **midnight communion**. Service at **11.30pm**, we share communion, light the Christmas candle and welcome Christmas morn.

25 Dec
9.30am

Christmas morning service a joint service at **Braishfield URC** including Holy Communion, led by Revd Sarah.