**BIRMINGHAM CIRCUIT 5/1**

**Circuit Preaching Plan 1st December 2024 – 23rd February 2025**

**Superintendency Team: Rev Cleopas Sibanda, Rev Farai Mapamula**

***Pastoral Letter***

Friends

This year, the first day of Advent falls on 1st December, the date most people think it starts because Advent calendars work that way. As Christians, we know it actually begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. Increasingly, people are putting up their Christmas decorations for 1st December, or even sooner, and more likely as not taking them down Boxing Day because they’re fed up with them. Christmas has become conflated with Advent, literally having your chocolate and eating it for those who put up an Advent calendar with a chocolate behind each door, at the same time as they put up the rest of the decorations. Whilst I don’t wait until Christmas Eve to put up my Christmas tree, as my Mum recalls when she was a child, and perhaps that was your tradition too, I work roughly on a 12-12 rule – it’s up for the 12 days of Christmas, which begins on Christmas Day, and goes up around 12 days before Christmas.

Advent is about the waiting time, and what are we supposed to do in that waiting time? Well, in the midst of writing and sending cards, buying and wrapping presents, shopping, pre-Christmas baking, carol singing and Christmas parties, we’re supposed to be taking time to think about the meaning of Christmas. That will mean different things for different people. That might mean looking forwards to being with family, and seeing that as more important than presents.

For some, it’s about the birth of a baby boy. Even the first Christmas, people knew that he was a very special baby; special enough for workers to walk off their night shift watching sheep to go and see for themselves; special enough for a group of foreign academics to trek for miles to seek him out. Amidst all the hubbub of Christmas preparations, take time to think about what Christmas really means to you.

Whilst it seems very early to be saying this, I do wish you all a joyful Christmas. In the meantime, happy Advent waiting!

Every blessing

Deacon Angie Allport

**December 2024**

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| **CHURCH** | **TIMES** | **1st December**  **1st of Advent** | **8th December**  **2nd of Advent** | **15th December**  **3rd of Advent** | **22nd December**  **4th of Advent** | **29th December**  **1st Sunday of Christmas** |
| **Purple Mission and Ministry Team** | | | | | | |
| **Beacon** | **10:00 am** | A Lane | C Lane | T Bailey | R Bicknell | T Bailey |
| **Great Barr** | **10:30 am** | Q Ababio Joint Service | L Laing | Q Ababio HC / CSe | C Sibanda | L Laing |
| **Lozells** | **10:30 am** | Joint Service at Great Barr | Q Ababio CSe | A Allport | D Dorsett t | O Theophilus t |
| **Perry Barr** | **11:00 am** | Joint Service at Great Barr | P Bates | O Ayeni | Q Ababio HC | O A |
| **Perry Hall** | **10:45 am** | Joint Service at Great Barr | D Ker | G Davies | O Ayeni | Q Ababio HC |
| **Red Mission and Ministry Team** | | | | | | |
| **Castle Bromwich** | **11:00 am** | E Mitchell Toy | M Bell | D Ker | O A CSe | C Hague HC |
| **Lyndon** | **10:30 am** | K Webber HC / G | B Davis | A Wildbur | O A Crib | O A |
| **Lyndon** | **5:00 pm** | H Cook |  |  |  |  |
| **Nether Whitacre** | **10:30 am** | F Beadle | O A | K Webber HC | P Bates CL / 6.30 pm | O A |
| **Saltley** | **10:30 am** | N S | N S | N S | N S | N S |
| **South**  **Yardley** | **11:00 am** | I Howarth | K Webber HC | E Mitchell | K Webber CSe | N S |
| **St Andrew's C W** | **10:30 am** | Anglican | Anglican | Anglican | P Bates | Anglican |
| **The Church at Carrs Lane** | **10:30 am** | C Homan / E Hutchinson CA | O A Amnesty | C Sibanda HC | O A CSe | E Harris t |
|  | **6:00 pm** |  |  | Taize |  |  |
| **Water Orton** | **10:30 am** | G Day | E Mitchell G / BB | O A | N S | P Bates HC |
| **Green Mission and Ministry Team** | | | | | | |
| **Acocks Green** | **10:45 am** | J Keast | J Clark HC | L Helliar | J Clark | O A |
| **Cambridge Road** | **10:30 am** | J Clark HC | R Matthews | J Clark AA / G | O A CSe | O A |

**December 2024**

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| **CHURCH** | **TIMES** | **1st December**  **1st of Advent** | **8th December**  **2nd of Advent** | **15th December**  **3rd of Advent** | **22nd December**  **4th of Advent** | **29th December**  **1st Sunday of Christmas** |
| **Green Mission and Ministry Team (Cont’d)** | | | | | | |
| **Dorridge** | **10.30am** | S Clutterbuck G | R Keast | C Hague HC | N S | S O'Hare CAFE |
|  | **7.00pm** | C Hague  Drum |  |  | C Hague  CSe @4.00pm |  |
| **Hall Green** | **10:30 am** | L Shorten HC | A Sampson | O A CSe | N Headley Ct | M Meatcher |
| **Earlswood** | **10:00 am** | M Chitokwindo | P Fowler | P Bates | C Harland-Davies | O A |
| **St Michael's** | **10:00 am** | I Crockford ACS | I Crockford HC | M Stephenson HC | I Crockford CSe | M Murphy |
| **Shirley** | **10:30 am** | C Hague | C Hague HC | M Beaven | R Matthews | A Sampson CAFE |
|  | **6.30pm** |  |  |  | C Hague  CSe |  |
| **Solihull** | **10:30 am** | D Ker | M Chitokwindo HC | J Craske | C Hague CSe | C Sibanda |
| **Solihull** | **6:30 pm** |  |  | Candlelight  Carol Service |  |  |
| **Trinity Monkspath** | **10:00 am** | K Hawkings | P Pardoe O A | K Hawkings | M Chitokwindo | M Chitokwindo |
| **Blue Mission and Ministry Team** | | | | | | |
| **Chinese Church** | **2:00 pm** | P T Chen HC | O A | P T Chen | P T Chen | O A |
| **Chinese Church Youth** | **2:00pm** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Cotteridge** | **10:30 am** | B Calvert AA / P | G Steele HC | T McClelland t | R Collins CSe | B Calvert |
| **Hawkesley** | **10:30 am** | P Bates | Anglican | Anglican | C Homan HC | O A |
| **Hazelwell** | **10:00 am** | M Beaven | M Churchouse Ct | M Bell HC | O A CSe / 3.00 pm | M Churchouse HC |
| **Longbridge** | **11:00 am** | G Davies | C Sibanda HC | O A CSe | O A Ct / Nat | D Ker |
| **Northfield** | **10:30 am** | C Sibanda HC | P Hoar | J Dolman Nat | C Kirby | O A |
| **St Andrew's B30** | **10:30 am** | T McClelland t | P T Chen HC | F Mapamula CSe / 4.00 pm | S Jenkinson | P Pardoe O A |

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| **Selly Oak** | **10:30 am** | F Mapamula HC | P Woodall | F Mapamula CSe | F Mapamula | O A |
| **Zimbabwean Fellowship** | **12:00 pm** | O A | O A | O A | O A | O A |
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**January 2025**

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| **CHURCH** | **TIMES** | **5th January**  **2nd Sunday of Christmas** | **12th January**  **Ordinary 1** | **19th January**  **Ordinary 2** | **26th January**  **Ordinary 3** |  |
| **Purple Mission and Ministry Team** | | | | | | |
| **Beacon** | **10:00 am** | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |  |
| **Great Barr** | **10:30 am** | Q Ababio Cov | L Laing | C Kirby | C Lane |  |
| **Lozells** | **10:30 am** | D Ker Cov | Q Ababio HC / H S | O Ayeni | O Theophilus t |  |
| **Perry Barr** | **11:00 am** | C Homan | A Allport | D Ker | W Hudson |  |
| **Perry Hall** | **10:45 am** | W Hudson | J Hudson | Q Ababio HC | S O'Hare |  |
| **Red Mission and Ministry Team** | | | | | | |
| **Castle Bromwich** | **11:00 am** | O A | J Keast | E Mitchell O A | K Webber Cov |  |
| **Lyndon** | **10:30 am** | I Howarth Cov | B Davis | G Davies | H Cook |  |
| **Lyndon** | **5:00 pm** | K Webber |  |  |  |  |
| **Nether Whitacre** | **10:30 am** | F Beadle | O A | K Webber Cov | J Keast |  |
| **Saltley** | **10:30 am** | K Webber / E Mitchell Cov | D Webb | J Craske | E Mitchell O A |  |
| **South Yardley** | **11:00 am** | L Helliar | K Webber HC | O A | N Headley |  |
| **St Andrew's C W** | **10:30 am** | Anglican | Anglican | Anglican | P Bates |  |
| **The Church at Carrs Lane** | **10:30 am** | P Woodall | N Johnson | C Sibanda Cov | P Hoar |  |
| **Water Orton** | **10:30 am** | O A | E Mitchell O A | G Day | F Mapamula Cov |  |
| **Green Mission and Ministry Team** | | | | | | |
| **Acocks Green** | **10:45 am** | G Davies | J Clark Cov | B Kesseler | J Clark |  |
| **Cambridge Road** | **10:30 am** | J Clark Cov | I Howarth | J Clark AA | J Hudson |  |

**January 2025**

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| **CHURCH** | **TIMES** | **5th January**  **2nd Sunday of Christmas** | **12th January**  **Ordinary 1** | **19th January**  **Ordinary 2** | **26th January**  **Ordinary 3** |  |
| **Green Mission and Ministry Team (Cont’d)** | | | | | | |
| **Dorridge** | **10.30am** | R Matthews | C Hague HC | Pulpit Exchange WPCH CTiKDBH | S Jenkinson |  |
|  | **7.00pm** | C Hague  Drum |  |  |  |  |
| **Hall Green** | **10:30 am** | P T Chen Cov | O A Pulpit Exchange | C Homan | B Kesseler |  |
| **Earlswood** | **10:00 am** | E Harris t | S Ker | M Chitokwindo Cov | S Clutterbuck |  |
| **St Michael's** | **10:00 am** | I Crockford Ct | Pulpit Exchange | R Keast | I Crockford HC |  |
| **Shirley** | **10:30 am** | C Hague Cov | D Ker | A Wildbur | C Hague |  |
|  | **6.30pm** |  |  | WPCU - OLW |  |  |
| **Solihull** | **10:30 am** | M Chitokwindo | M Chitokwindo Cov | O A | L Helliar |  |
| **Solihull** | **6:30 pm** |  |  |  | F Beadle /  C Giles HC / HE |  |
| **Trinity Monkspath** | **10:00 am** | K Hawkings | P Bates | K Hawkings | M Chitokwindo Cov |  |
| **Blue Mission and Ministry Team** | | | | | | |
| **Chinese Church** | **2:00 pm** | P T Chen HC | O A | P T Chen | P T Chen |  |
| **Chinese Church Youth** | **2:00pm** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Cotteridge** | **10:30 am** | L Weaver AA | R Collins HC | J Cooper t | S Faber HC |  |
| **Hawkesley** | **10:30 am** | H Woodall | Anglican | Anglican | A Sampson Cov |  |
| **Hazelwell** | **10:00 am** | O A | O A | B Calvert HC | O A |  |
| **Longbridge** | **11:00 am** | T McClelland t | B Calvert Cov | M Bell | C Sibanda HE |  |
| **Northfield** | **10:30 am** | P Bates Cov | W Hudson | M Beaven | J Dolman |  |
| **St Andrew's B30** | **10:30 am** | H Rose O A | F Mapamula Cov | R Matthews | M Bell |  |

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| **Selly Oak** | **10:30 am** | F Mapamula Cov | P T Chen | F Mapamula | H Rose O A |  |
| **Zimbabwean Fellowship** | **12:00 pm** | O A | O A | O A | O A |  |

**February 2025**

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| **CHURCH** | **TIMES** | **2nd February**  **Ordinary 4** | **9th February**  **Ordinary 5** | **16th February**  **Ordinary 6** | **23rd February**  **Ordinary 7** |  |
| **Purple Mission and Ministry Team** | | | | | | |
| **Beacon** | **10:00 am** | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |  |
| **Great Barr** | **10:30 am** | W Hudson | L Laing | Q Ababio HC | O A |  |
| **Lozells** | **10:30 am** | G Davies | O A | M Chitokwindo HC | D Dorsett t |  |
| **Perry Barr** | **11:00 am** | N Headley HC | O Theophilus t | S O'Hare | Q Ababio HC |  |
| **Perry Hall** | **10:45 am** | A Allport | O A | O Ayeni | C Sibanda HC |  |
| **Red Mission and Ministry Team** | | | | | | |
| **Castle Bromwich** | **11:00 am** | O A | E Mitchell O A | K Webber HC | D Webb |  |
| **Lyndon** | **10:30 am** | K Webber HC | B Davis | M Mahachi t | O A Leprosy Mission |  |
| **Lyndon** | **5:00 pm** | K Webber |  |  |  |  |
| **Nether Whitacre** | **10:30 am** | F Beadle | C Homan | O A | C Giles HC |  |
| **Saltley** | **10:30 am** | O Ayeni | K Webber HC | H Woodall | E Mitchell O A |  |
| **South Yardley** | **11:00 am** | L Weaver | I Howarth HC | O A | C Kirby |  |
| **St Andrew's C W** | **10:30 am** | Anglican | Anglican | P Bates | Anglican |  |
| **The Church at Carrs Lane** | **10:30 am** | M Smith | O A | C Sibanda HC / Racial Justice | R Becher |  |
| **Water Orton** | **10:30 am** | E Mitchell O A | O A | G Day | K Webber HC |  |
| **Green Mission and Ministry Team** | | | | | | |
| **Acocks Green** | **10:45 am** | M Murphy | J Clark HC | I Howarth | A Wildbur |  |
| **Cambridge Road** | **10:30 am** | J Clark HC | C Harland-Davies | J Clark AA | L Helliar |  |

**February 2025**

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| **CHURCH** | **TIMES** | **2nd February**  **Ordinary 4** | **9th February**  **Ordinary 5** | **16th February**  **Ordinary 6** | **23rd February**  **Ordinary 7** |  |
| **Green Mission and Ministry Team (Cont’d)** | | | | | | |
| **Dorridge** | **10:30 am** | C Hague | O A | C Hague | D Ker |  |
|  | 7.00pm | C Hague  Drum |  |  |  |  |
| **Hall Green** | **10:30 am** | M Meatcher HC | A Clark | K Dennis | M Meatcher |  |
| **Earlswood** | **10:00 am** | R Keast | M Chitokwindo HC | P Pardoe O A | P Fowler |  |
| **St Michael's** | **10:00 am** | I Crockford HC | I Crockford | M Stephenson HC | P Bates HC |  |
| **Shirley** | **10:30 am** | H Woodall | C Hague HC | D George | O A |  |
| **Solihull** | **10:30 am** | O A | P Hoar HC | G Davies | M Chitokwindo F |  |
| **Solihull** | **6:30 pm** |  |  |  | D Ker HC / HE |  |
| **Trinity Monkspath** | **10:00 am** | K Hawkings | P Fowler | K Hawkings | S Ker |  |
| **Blue Mission and Ministry Team** | | | | | | |
| **Chinese Church** | **2:00 pm** | P T Chen HC | O A | P T Chen | P T Chen |  |
| **Chinese Church Youth** | **2:00 pm** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Cotteridge** | **10:30 am** | B Calvert AA / P | J Tomlison HC | M Smith | R Collins HC |  |
| **Hawkesley** | **10:30 am** | M Mahachi t | Anglican | Anglican | B Calvert HC |  |
| **Hazelwell** | **10:00 am** | O A | O A | T McClelland HC / t | O A |  |
| **Longbridge** | **11:00 am** | R Matthews | C Sibanda HC | M Murphy | S Jenkinson |  |
| **Northfield** | **10:30 am** | C Sibanda HC | A Sampson | J Dolman | P Hoar |  |
| **St Andrew's B30** | **10:30 am** | H Rose O A | P T Chen HC | E Harris Racial Justice | H Rose O A |  |

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| **Selly Oak** | **10:30 am** | P Bates HC | G Hall | R Matthews Racial Justice | E Harris |  |
| **Zimbabwean Fellowship** | **12:00 pm** | O A | O A | O A | O A |  |
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***CHRISTMAS SERVICES***

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| ***CHURCH*** | DATE AND TIME OF SERVICE |
|  |  |
| Acocks Green | 15th December 2024 – 4.00pm – Carol Service |
| 25th December 2024 – 10.30am - Christmas Day Family Service |
|  |  |
| Beacon | 15th December 2024 - 5.00pm – Community Carol Service |
| 22nd December 2024 – 3.00pm –  Quiet Christmas Service (for those who will find Christmas difficult this year) |
| 24th December 2024 – 4.00pm –  Family Christingle Service |
| 25th December 2024 – 10.00am –  Christmas Day Service |
|  |  |
| Cambridge Road | 24th December 2024 – 4.00pm - Christingle |
| 24th December 2024 – 6.00pm – Holy Communion |
| 25th December 2024 – Christmas Day Service – Rev Ian Howarth |
|  |  |
| Castle Bromwich | 25th December 2024 – 11.00am – Christmas Day Worship |
|  |  |
| Church at Carrs Lane | 25th December 2024 – 10.30am - Christmas Day Holy Communion Service –  Rev Caroline Homan and Rev Elaine Hutchinson |
|  |  |
| Cotteridge | 25th December 2024 – 10.30am – Christmas Day Holy Communion – Rev Roger Collins |
|  |  |
| Dorridge | 10th December 2024 – 11.00am – Forget me not Carols (Open to all but Dementia friendly) – Caz & Friends |
| 17th December 2024 – 7.00pm – Jesus – the Gift of Hope (A Reflective Christmas Service) – Ruth & John Keast |
| 19th December 2024 – 6.30pm – Scout Group Carol Service –  Caz |
| 22nd December 2024 – 4.00pm – Candlelight Carol Service – Caz & Friends |
| 24th December 2024 – 2.30pm – Christingle - Caz |
| 25th December 2024 – 10.00am – Christmas morning family AA Worship – O A |
|  |  |
| Earslwood | 25th December 2024 – 9.45am – Christmas Day Service –  Rev Elaine Russell |
|  |  |
| Great Barr | 22nd December 2024 – Carol Service |
| 24th December 2024 – Midnight Communion Service |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Hall Green United Community Church | 25th December 2024 – 10.30am – Christmas Day Service –  Rev Mark Meatcher |
|  |  |
| Hazelwell | 9th December 2024 – Christingle and All Age Worship |
| 25th December 2024 – 10.00am – Christmas Day Service |
|  |  |
| Longbridge | 24th December 2024 – 11.15pm – Christmas Eve Service at Northfield M C |
| 25th December 2024 – 11.00am – Christmas Service –  Rev Cleopas Sibanda |
|  |  |
| Lyndon | 22nd December 2024 – 10.30am – Crib Service  - 6.30pm – Carol Service |
| 25th December 2024 – 11.00am – Christmas Day Service – Joint Service at South Yardley |
| Nether Whitacre | 22nd December 2024 – 6.30pm – Carols – Rev Peter Bates |
|  |  |
| Northfield | 13th December 2024 - 7.00pm – International Carol Singing |
| 24th December 2024 – 11.15pm – Christmas Eve Service |
| 25th December 2024 – 10.00am – Christmas Service –  Rev Cleopas Sibanda |
|  |  |
| Perry Barr | 15th December 2025 – Carol Service |
|  |  |
| Perry Hall | 30 November 2024 – Christmas Fayre |
|  |  |
| St Andrew’s B30 | 25th December 2024 – 9.30am - Christmas Day All Age Worship |
|  |  |
| St Michael’s | 24th December 2024 – 12noon – Holy Communion –  Rev Ian Crockford |
| 24th December 2024 – 3.30pm – Messy Church |
| 25th December 2024 – Holy Communion for Christmas Day –  Rev Ian Crockford |
|  |  |
| Selly Oak | 7th December 2024 – 3.00pm – Community Carol Singing |
| 14th December 2024 – 10.30am 12.30pm - Messy Church |
| 17th December 2024 – 10.00am – Holly Hill School Nativity |
| 24th December 2024 – 6.30pm – Christmas Eve Communion |
| 25th December 2024 – 10.30am – Christmas Day All Age Worship |
|  |  |
| Shirley | 22nd December 2024 – Candlelight Carol Service – Caz & Friends |
| 24th December 2024 – 4.00pm – Christingle - Caz |
| 25th December 2024 – 10.30am – Christmas morning family AA Worship - Caz |
|  |  |
| Solihull | 1st December 2024 – 3.00pm – Memorial Service |
| 25th December 2024 – 10.30am – Christmas Day Service |
| 5th January 2025 – 10.30am – Camel and Angel Service |
| 18th January 2025 – 3.00pm - Christingle |
|  |  |
| South Yardley | 22nd December 2024 – 11.00am – Carol Service |
| 25th December 2024 – 11.00am – Christmas Day Service (Joint Service with Lyndon) –  Rev Peter Bates |
|  |  |
| Trinity Monkspath | 25th December 2024 – 10.00am – Christmas Day Service |
|  |  |
| Water Orton | 22nd December 2024 – 6.30pm – Candlelight Service |