



CROWN COURT
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
COVENT GARDEN

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 7th December 2025 at 11.15am
Holy Communion

Minister: Rev Canon Professor Paul Middleton
The lessons are read by Harry Mackrill

The Prophet of the Most High will be the Lord's forerunner, to prepare his way and lead his people to knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins. St Luke 1:76-77

Almighty God, you sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah. Inspire the ministers and stewards of your truth to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

** Indicates where those who are able should stand*

VOLUNTARY

WELCOME

A warm welcome to worship at Crown Court Church of Scotland – ‘*The Kirk of the Crown of Scotland.*’ Whether you are visiting for the first time or are with us occasionally or often - we are delighted to be able to welcome you today in person or online.

We regularly stream our services. The camera will mainly be focused on the minister and the front of the sanctuary. However, should you wish to ensure you are not included in the livestream, please may we ask that you sit to the rear of the sanctuary by the stained-glass windows.

CALL TO WORSHIP

*** HYMN 334 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry**

WINCHESTER NEW (CRASSELIOUS)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may love you completely,
and rightly magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

M: We seek your comfort. Both mighty and tender, you come.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.

P: Isaiah announced God's coming to a people exiled in a broken and parched wilderness. He declared that God's redemption would make a highway in the desert and change the rough places into plain. God would come as a shepherd—feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock. This Advent, we seek such a God.

THE CANDLE IS LIT

M: Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. Prepare us to be changed. This Advent, teach us to be tender and just, as you are. Amen.

LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 11:1 – 10 (p. 696)

* **HYMN 48 (Psalm 72) His large and great dominion**

EFFINGHAM

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 15:4 – 13 (p. 1141)

ANTHEM

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:1 – 12 (p. 967)

SERMON

* **HYMN 277 Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes**

CREDITON

THE OFFERING AND DEDICATION

As the Offering is brought forward the congregation stand and sing the doxology:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures here below;
praise God, the Trinity of love,
before, beneath, around, above**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE COMMUNION

INVITATION

*** HYMN 666 Let all mortal flesh keep silence**

PICARDY

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**P: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF BREAD

M: Jesus, Lamb of God,

P: Have mercy on us.

M: Jesus, bearer of our sins,

P: Have mercy on us.

M: Jesus, redeemer of the world,

P: Grant us peace

COMMUNION

THE PEACE

*** HYMN 283 The voice of God goes out to all the world**

MORESTEAD

*** THE BLESSING & SENDING**

*** SUNG AMEN (Hymn 819)**

***RECESSIONAL HYMN 333 (Nunc Dimittis) Now Lord, according to thy word**

LAND OF REST

POSTLUDE

Please stand if you are able as the elements are carried from the church.

We offer a warm welcome to any visitors. Please join us for tea and coffee in the Hall downstairs after the service. You will be very welcome.

There is a retiring offering today for ScotsCare, a London based charity that helps Scots in need. Donations may be made by cash or cheque.

Remember to take your Order of Service with you to stay up to date with all the events taking place at Crown Court Church.

INTIMATIONS:

Sunday 14 December

Sunday morning worship service at 11.15am with Rev Chris Kellock.

Carols by Candlelight at 6.30pm with Rev Alistair Cumming.

Sunday 21 December

Sunday morning worship service at 11.15am with Rev Chris Kellock.

Wednesday 24 December

Christingle Service at 2pm. Join us at 1.15pm in the hall to make your Christingle.

Thursday 25 December

No Christmas Day Service.

Church Email

If you would like to receive our weekly church email, please contact the church administrator at office@crowncourtchurch.org.uk.

Donations under the Gift Aid Scheme

Visitors who are UK taxpayers are invited to make use of the yellow Gift Aid envelopes which are available both in the pews and at the back of the church. Completed envelopes may be placed in the offering plate.

Carol Singing in Trafalgar Square

Please join us for our yearly Carol Singing in Trafalgar Square in support of Christian Aid. This year we will be singing around the tree on Friday 12 December from 8-9pm. We will gather at 7pm at the Trafalgar Square Christmas Bar for hot chocolate and mulled wine to prepare us for the main event at 8pm. For further details please contact Christian Aid coordinator, Harry, on harry.mackrill@gmail.com

Bruce House

We are collecting monetary donations to provide 49 gift bags for the residents of Bruce House. Each bag will contain toiletries and a few treats. If you would like more information, please speak to **Margaret Ross** after the Sunday service.

Prayers & Pastoral Support

If you require pastoral support, please contact your Elder in the first instance. For longer term support, please contact the Pastoral Care Team either by phoning the church office on 020 7836 5643 (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9.30am-2.00pm) or by emailing clerk@crowncourtchurch.org.uk. All information is kept completely confidential.

Community Christmas Tea

Join us on Sunday 14 December from 3.30-5.30pm in the hall for a festive afternoon tea for both members of our congregation and our neighbours in Covent Garden.

Gaelic Service and a Masterclass on Traditional Psalm-Singing

Before the quarterly Gaelic Service at 3pm next Sunday, Rev Donald Michael MacInnes of Garbraid Parish Church, Glasgow, will give a masterclass on traditional psalm singing in the church hall. Rev MacInnes is an amazing musician who received a Mòd double gold medal. This will be a spectacular event which should not be missed.

ScotsCare Christmas Carol Service

You are warmly invited to this year's Carol Service which will be held at St Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street, Knightsbridge, London, SW1X 0BD on Sunday 21 December from 17.00 to 19:00. The service is open to all and will be followed by refreshments. All donations made at this event will go towards helping Scots in London this Christmas. For more information, please contact Jacqueline, our Fundraising Officer on 0207 240 3718 or fundraising@scotscare.com

Church Membership

We are always delighted to welcome new members to Crown Court. If you are a regular attender, but have not yet joined the congregation, we would encourage you to consider becoming a member or an adherent. If you have been a member of a Church of Scotland elsewhere, transferring your membership is a very simple process; please contact Laura Daniels, Roll Keeper on office@crowncourtchurch.org.uk to ask for your lines to be transferred.

If you are not yet a member of any church and would like to explore your faith journey through baptism or confirmation, please do speak to Rev Alistair Cumming either in person or email acumming@churchofscotland.org.uk

The Guild

Seasonal quiz sheets are available with a donation to Daisy Chain, a Church of Scotland CrossReach Guild project which supports families and children in Glasgow. Please see Jennifer Laird after the service in the hall to purchase your quiz sheet.

Christmas Cards 2025

Crown Court Christmas cards are back for 2025 with 2 different designs! The first card is a lovely new image of the Christmas Tree and Candles in the Sanctuary, and the second card is the print of Mia Osawa's Crown Court Church in the snow.

These will be available to purchase in-person after the service in the Church Hall. Cards cost £5.00 for 5 or can be purchased singly at £1.00 each. You can buy them by card or by cash.

If you cannot purchase them in-person, please contact Norma McGoldrick (normamcgoldrick@yahoo.co.uk or 07912 583285) and she will make arrangements for them to be posted to you.

New mugs for Crown Court Church

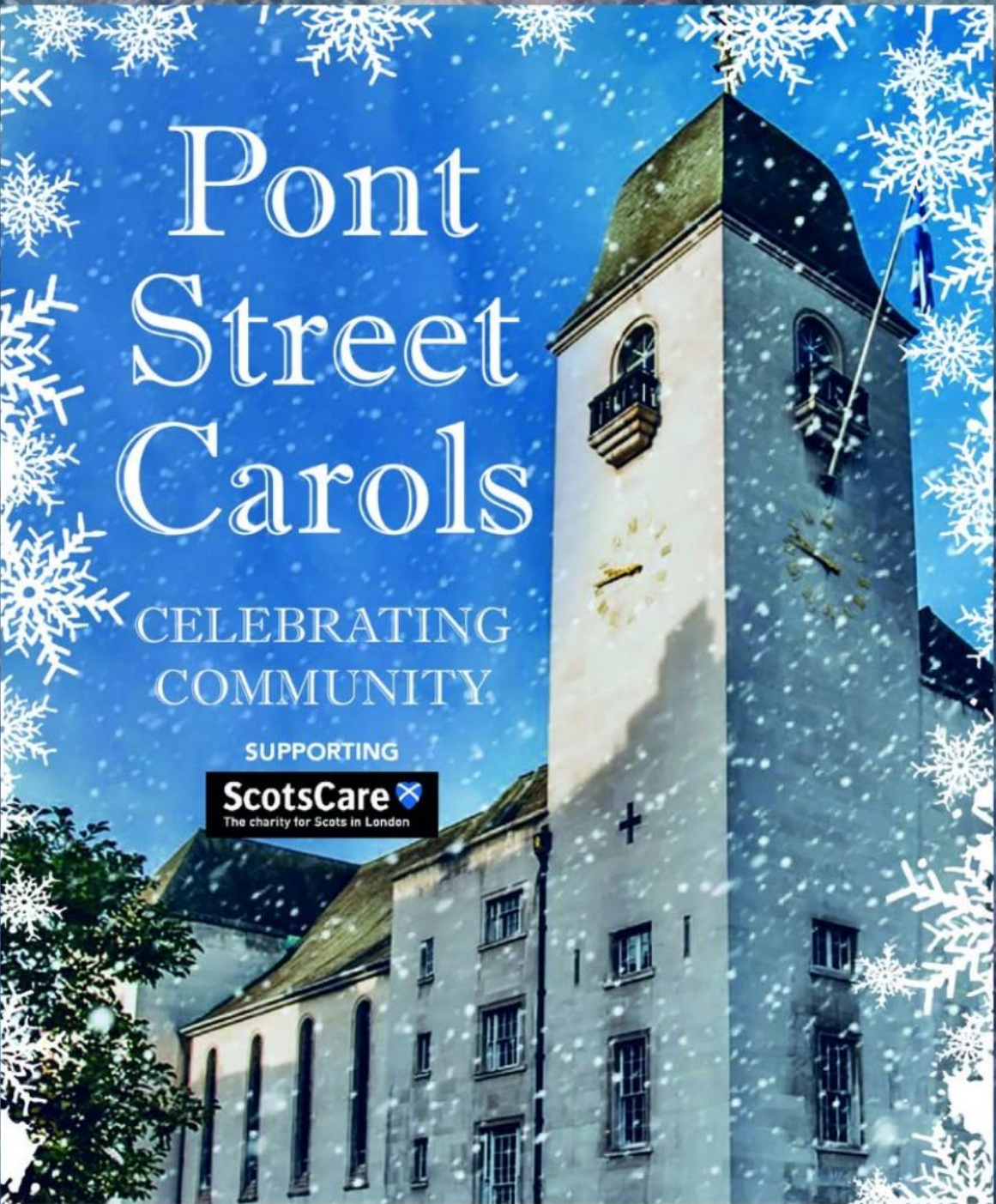
We are excited to offer new mugs for sale at £7.50 each, available in new colours of blue and yellow. The mugs can be purchased after the Sunday worship service in the hall by either cash or card.

If you unable to come to church to purchase the mugs, please contact Norma McGoldrick (normamcgoldrick@yahoo.co.uk & 07912 583285).

Can you help us?

We are looking for people to join the duty teams.

Duty is once a month, ideally arriving at church for 10:30am, put orders of services into hymn books which you would hand out or standing at the door welcoming people in. Assisting in taking the offering with the other team members. After the service helping to tidy the church before heading to coffee or home. If you think you can help please speak to the Session Clerk.



Pont Street Carols

CELEBRATING
COMMUNITY

SUPPORTING

ScotsCare 
The charity for Scots in London

5PM SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2025

REFRESHMENTS AFTER SERVICE

Crown Court Church of Scotland

Russell Street, Covent Garden

London WC2B 5EZ

crowncourtchurch.org.uk

Interim Moderator: Revd Alistair Cumming MSc., CCS., FIoL., FLPI
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Church Administrator: Laura Daniels
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Follow us on Social Media

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Instagram: [crowncourtchurchofscotland](https://www.instagram.com/crowncourtchurchofscotland)

YouTube: [@crowncourtchurchofscotland9930](https://www.youtube.com/@crowncourtchurchofscotland9930)

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CCLI Licence: 554438

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Please ensure that mobile telephones are silent.



The Church of Scotland