

**THE RIBBLE VALLEY PARISHES OF
ST WILFRID, LONGRIDGE: ST MARY, CHIPPING:
ST PETER AND ST PAUL, RIBCHESTER.**

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Dutton

Telephone: 01772 782641

Email: stwilfridslongridge@outlook.com

Website: <http://stwilfridsparish.org.uk>

Emergency contact please phone Fr Doyle: Tel: 01772 782244

1st Sunday of Advent

30th November 2025 Year A

<u>Day</u>	<u>St Wilfrid</u>	<u>St Mary</u>	<u>Ss. Peter & Paul</u>
Monday 1st December	Priest's Day Off	Priest's Day Off	Priest's Day Off
Tuesday 2nd December	Mass 10.00am		
Wednesday 3rd December			Mass 10.00am
Thursday 4th December	Lection 7-8pm Parish Room	Mass 9.30am	
Friday 5th December	Morning Prayer 7.45am		
Saturday 6th December	Mass 5.30pm. Confessions 4.15pm – 4.45pm		
Sunday 7th December		Mass 9.30am	Mass 11.00am



*“Stay awake so that
you may be ready.”*

Sacramental Programme

This weekend we warmly welcome our children enrolled on the Sacramental Programme who begin a journey of preparation towards receiving Holy Communion for the first time next year on the feast of Corpus Christi. With our prayers and support, may they keep the flame of faith alive in their hearts in readiness to meet the Lord who gives us life in the Eucharist.

Pie & Peas – Thank you

I would like to thank all those who worked so hard to make our “pie, peas and pickles” such an enjoyable occasion. I would also like to thank Bernard and Polly for the musical entertainment which was greatly appreciated. A total of £919.88 was raised to boost parish funds. Thank you so much.

Christmas Flowers

To help offset the cost of Christmas flowers to the parish there will be a special collection taken at the end of Mass for the next few weeks

Cleaners Wanted

We are looking for volunteers who can spare an hour a month to help with cleaning the church. Cleaning is done on a Wednesday at 9am once a month and takes about an hour.

Please contact either Catherine Pennington or Fr Tony if you can assist.

Many thanks.

The Faithful Departed

We pray for our faithful departed brothers and sisters, and for all those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again. We remember especially:

Alice Bamber, Margaret Mary Eastham, Judith Swinton, Mollie Dawson, and Harry Duckworth.

May the Lord welcome them to the table of God's children in heaven.

Churches Together Longridge and District**Dates for your diary:**

Sunday 30th November at 6.30pm – Ecumenical Advent Service – St Lawrence's. All Welcome.

Saturday 6th December at 11am – Blessing of the Crib by the Station Café

Sunday 11th January 2026 at 6.30pm – Epiphany Service at St Paul's.

Morning Prayer will take place at St Paul's Berry Lane from 9th January 2026 at 7.45am.

There will be no Morning Prayer on Boxing Day or 2nd January 2026.

First Friday Mass – Lee House Church

Fr Tony will be celebrating Mass on the First Friday 5th December at Lee House Church at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Baptism Preparation

If you are thinking of having your child baptised next year in any of our three parishes, you are now required to attend a preparation meeting for the Sacrament of Baptism, taking the form of a half day retreat. These meetings will run from 10am – 2pm on Saturdays - lunch will be provided. Each of the meetings will take place in St Wilfrid's Parish Room. The date of the next session is **Saturday 17th January 2026 10 – 2pm**. If you haven't already done so, please contact Fr Tony or email St Wilfrid's if you wish to attend.

Parish of St Mary Chipping

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Welcome

We welcome Tommy John Tallentire into the family of the Church, who was baptised here at St Mary's last weekend. We pray that with the help and support of his parents and godparents he may continue to grow in the ways of faith.

Coffee Morning

There will be a Coffee morning after Mass on Sunday 8th December. We are offering a wee dram with coffee and mince pies. There will be a box at the back of the church the next couple of weeks for the food bank. An offering of something festive would be good but staples are always well received.

Christmas Flowers

The cost of flower decorations at Christmas is always a problem. Any donations would be much appreciated. There will be a basket at the back of church for the next 3 weeks.

Christmas Carol Service

It is the turn of St Mary's to host the Ecumenical Christmas Carol Service this year. This will take place on Sunday Dec 21st at 7pm. Followed by tea/coffee/ mince pies in the community centre. All Welcome.

The Faithful Departed

We pray for those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again and for those whose anniversaries presently occur. We remember especially: Harry Slater, Michael Joseph Connolly, and Mary Veronica Ann Seed. May the Lord grant them a share in his resurrection.

Recent Offertory Donations:

Sunday 23rd November: £340.20

Thank you.

Parish of Saint Peter & Saint Paul Ribchester

Parish Notices

The Faithful Departed

We pray for those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again and for those whose anniversaries presently occur. We remember especially:

Margaret Eileen Hardman, Eric Wilkinson, John Hardacre, Elizabeth Kee, Alice Fry, Vernon Cookson, Mary Morris, Mary Towers, James Stanford, John George Gilbraith Louis Bennett, Veronica Gayford, Annie Seed, and John Mark Walker. May the Lord welcome them to the table of God's children in heaven.

Recent Offertory Donations

Sunday 23rd November:
T.H.O.M.A.S.

£169.00
£39.00

Thank you.
Thank you.

The First Sunday of Advent

St Paul urges us to wake up to the dawning light – 'the night is far gone, the day is at hand.' Repenting, not out of near despair but out of joyful hope; out of Isaiah's outrageous, over the top, joyful hope in the first reading. Indeed, the first readings throughout almost all of Advent will be passages from Isaiah with vivid images and poetic force, and the gospels will be chosen to show the realisation of these promises in the life and ministry of Jesus, the Light of the World. Advent is not Lent – it is shorter and easier to deal with – but it is also, as the liturgical books put it, 'a season of devout and expectant joy.' Hope and joy and courage.

Christian Hope is not to be confused with optimism. Ours is a dark world of warfare, violence, injustice and heart-breaking sorrow. Things will not necessarily get better. Our hope is in God, and in all that Christ has given us in our lived-out lives of faith, hope and charity – scriptures and sacraments, teachings and devotions, mission and communion, truth and life. Perhaps Advent is a time to stop taking these Christmas gifts for granted and instead as *gifted*, to be appreciated and developed. The Advent wreath recalls the lighted candle given to us at baptism. We are called to be lights to the world bearing the light of Christ. 'Stand ready' says Jesus in the gospel.

Christian Hope is not a sentiment but a style of living – just as expecting a house guest involves preparing a guest room, laundering sheets, buying food or even flowers. So, our hope in Christ leads to two almost contradictory virtues – humility and ambition. A diminishing of the ego and an enlarging of the heart. With God's grace, hope leads to an off centring of the self and the courage to think big and be large hearted. 'Be ambitious for the higher gifts.... Gifts that are for up-building, encouraging and consoling' (I Cor 12.31-14.3). On Christmas night, the angels above Bethlehem will sing of peace to people of goodwill. The world needs such people and Christians of hope and courage and joy. Wake up!