

# **Muddiford**

## **United Reformed Church**



*(The Chapel in  
the Valley)*

**Stepping  
Stones**



**December  
2025**



*The Blessings of Peace,  
The Spirit of Love,  
The Comfort of Faith.  
May these be your Gifts  
this Christmas Time.*



***Happy Christmas.***



# MUDDIFORD MONTHLY

## DECEMBER 2025

Date	Service Leaders	Reader
7 <sup>th</sup>	Andrew Chapple (including Holy Communion) led by Martin Dowding	Daphne

14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Carol Service @ 6.00 p.m.</b>	led by Rev Rob Weston
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21 <sup>st</sup>	 members of the congregation	
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25<sup>th</sup>

**CHRISTMAS  
DAY**



25 <sup>th</sup>	Local arrangement	
28 <sup>th</sup>	Tim Hedgecock	

Pam  
Sheila

**Flowers**

Sheila

**Tea & Coffee**

Rosie & Chris

7 <sup>th</sup>		
14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Christmas flowers.</b>	

21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Christmas flowers.</b>	
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Pam & Jean

25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Christmas flowers.</b>	
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Daphne & Paul

28 <sup>th</sup>	Pauline	
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Penny & Gary



Zoom internet lines open from 9.30 a.m. for a 10 a.m.  
Service,



*Items for* **the Muddiford Christmas  
Magazine**

*To me please  
by 7<sup>th</sup> December.*



*Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
7.00p.m. for a Mid-week  
Christmas Evening in the  
Chapel.*

Advance Diary Date 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

*You are invited to an evening at Paul  
and Daphne's.*

*6.00 p.m. for 6.30 p.m.*

*Rev. Rob Weston will preside at a  
Communion Service followed by*

*Christmas songs and festive music and light seasonal  
refreshments. Please let us know if you are able to come. Transport  
can be arranged if necessary. Daphne & Paul.*



# Banning of Christmas

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Doesn't it seem like an awful idea that anyone would want to ban Christmas, but this is what happened in seventeenth-century England. It was during a time when Christmas was lavishly celebrated in the Tudor and Stuart courts. However, the Puritans in Great Britain and America were appalled by the revelry of Christmas customs and sought to eliminate the celebration. Oliver Cromwell and his Parliament abolished Christmas in England on 3 June 1647. The act, which abolished Christmas, read: 'No observation shall be had of the five-and-twentieth day of December; nor any solemnity used or exercised in churches upon that day in respect thereof.' For twelve years Parliament sat on Christmas Day and soldiers ensured shops were kept open and churches were closed. Evergreens were banned and mince pies outlawed because they were seen as temptation to wickedness and overindulgence. In Massachusetts, USA, Puritan leaders made the celebration of Christmas illegal between 1659 and 1681. One law stated that 'whosoever shall be found observing such a day as Christmas shall pay five shillings as a fine'.

Despite government efforts, many people continued to celebrate the holiday in the privacy of their homes. In opposition, more than 10,000 people from Kent, who demanded that 'if they could not have their Christmas Day, they would have the king back on the throne . . .' signed a petition. In 1660 the Royalists returned and Charles II was put on the throne. The festival of Christmas came back; it was to a great many people a welcome return and it has been with us ever since.

