

PARISH DIARY

TODAY 16th December 2018

Saffron Walden	8.00am	HOLY COMMUNION 1662
	President:	Paula Griffiths
	10.00am	FAMILY SERVICE
	Leader:	David Tomlinson
	Talk:	Tracey Nicholls
	11.45am	HOLY COMMUNION
	President:	Rachel Prior
Hadstock	6.30pm	A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS
	Leader:	David Tomlinson
	9.30am	HOLY COMMUNION
	President:	Paula Griffiths
Ashdon	9.30am	HOLY COMMUNION
Debden	President:	Richard Spencer
	6.30pm	CAROL SERVICE
Wimbish	Leader:	John Saxon
	3.00pm	CAROL SERVICE
	Leader:	John Saxon

THIS WEEK (All at St Mary's Saffron Walden, unless stated)

Monday 17th December

8.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesday 18th December

8.30am Morning Prayer

8.30am Morning Prayer *at Hadstock*5.00pm Evening Prayer *in the North Chapel*Wednesday 19th December

8.00am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Communion

Thursday 20th December

8.30am Morning Prayer

Friday 21st December

8.30am Morning Prayer

Saturday 22nd December

9.00am Morning Prayer

5.00pm Carol Service *at Little Walden*5.00pm Carol Service *at Swards End*NEXT SUNDAY 23rd December 2018

Saffron Walden	8.00am	HOLY COMMUNION 1662
	10.00am	HOLY COMMUNION
	4.00pm	EVENSONG
Hadstock	9.30pm	HOLY COMMUNION
Ashdon	9.30am	HOLY COMMUNION
	6.30pm	CAROL SERVICE
Debden	9.30am	HOLY COMMUNION
Wimbish	11.00am	HOLY COMMUNION

See St Mary's church, SW, website at www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org to find out more.



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<https://twitter.com/RectorSW>



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www.facebook.com/saintmaryschurchsaffronwalden

The Grapevine

COVERING THE PARISHES OF SAFFRON WALDEN, WIMBISH, DEBDEN, ASHDON AND HADSTOCK.

Welcome to our services today

Third Sunday of Advent

16th December 2018

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: Zephaniah 3.14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Gospel: Luke 3.7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Churches Together Prayer Cycle: In December please pray for the New Life church & Great Chesterford Primary School

Those who are unwell: Stan Bradley, Dennis Sheldrick & Christine Coughlan

Simon Gore is **recovering well** from his recent illness and would like to thank everybody for their prayers.

The family and friends of those who have died recently: Eileen Agnew & John Green

EVENTS

M5 MEN'S LUNCH Our first meeting of 2019 will be on **Wednesday 2nd January**, from 12:15 at the Kings Arms, Market Hill. As usual all are welcome and I look forward to seeing you for an hour or so of fellowship and good food. Meanwhile, I wish you all the joy of Christmas and a Happy New Year to follow. *Bill Rose*

THE NEXT TIME OF SILENT PRAYER will be on **Thursday 3rd January** at 10am in St Mary's Parish Rooms. All welcome. *Anne Rose*

A SERVICE WITH PRAYERS FOR WHOLENESS & HEALING will take place on **Thursday 3rd January** at 1 o'clock in St Mary's Church, SW. All welcome whether you seek healing for yourself or another.

TEAM JC will restart on **Sunday 6th January** at 10.00am (waffles and chocolate served from 9.45am). *Matt Williamson*

Please note there will be **NO H2H YOUTH LED SERVICE** on Sunday 6th January. *David*

MOTHERS' UNION Next meeting is in St Mary's Parish Rooms on **Thursday 10th January** at 1.30pm for 2pm. Speaker, Rachel Prior, talking about her trip to Kenya. All welcome. *Brenda Sheath*

ST MARY'S BOOK GROUP will hold their next meeting at 8.15pm on **Friday 11th January** at 4 Castle Street to discuss **Peter Doherty's** medieval detective novel '**A Pilgrimage to Murder**'. Please contact me if you would like a copy (520291). *Robin O'Neill*

PILGRIM a course for the Christian journey. John will be hosting 'Turning to Christ,' a six week course exploring issues of faith, particularly the promises made at Baptism. Co-authored by Bishop Stephen Cottrell. Wednesdays 8.00-9.30pm **16th Jan – 20th Feb @** the Rectory Debden **or** Thursdays 2.30-4.00pm **17th Jan – 21st Feb @** St Paul's Mission Hall, Wimbish. Suitable for everyone, at whatever stage of Christian Discipleship. Please register interest by contacting Rev John Saxon, Assistant Curate 01799 541619.

AREA CONFERENCE on **Saturday 26th January**, 9.30 -3.30pm, at St John's, Colchester. Nick Shepherd, the Programme Director for Setting God's People Free, is giving the keynote address. Also, there are workshops on 'thriving through creativity' and 'thriving through exercise and activity.' Booking forms from the parish office. There is a discount for each group of 5, we take. *David*

THE TRANSITION PROJECT

Self-help and support, CV writing and improving, Interview practice, job search, discussion. Tuesdays 10am to 12 noon in the Parish Rooms, beside St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden
www.transitionproject.co.uk

NOTICES

TODAY

ST MARY'S SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS @ 6.30pm - All welcome. *David*

St Mary's School are looking for a new **CHURCH SCHOOL GOVERNOR** to start at the end of January. If you are interested, and have some suitable experience or expertise, do let me know. Thank you. *David*

The **CHILDREN'S SOCIETY/CHRISTINGLE SERVICE** (Sunday 9th December) **A HUGE THANK YOU** to all involved in the preparation and planning of this event. The collection raised the sum of £490.69. Wonderful support – much appreciated. *Eunice Harris, Children's Society Rep.*

HADSTOCK QUIZ Test your brains over the Christmas and New Year break with the ever-popular and fun Hadstock Quiz. All proceeds to the Friends of St Botolph's Church Hadstock. Quiz sheets (£2 each) available from St Mary's Parish Office, from Janice Snell (jimjanhadstock@outlook.com , 01223 892338) or Paula Griffiths (paula.greatford@btinternet.com , tel. 01799 599141), to be returned to Janice by 12th January 2019.

PETE AND MARGARET have finally moved this week! We want to thank you all for journeying with us over many years and especially for your love and support during these last stressful months. Our new address and other contact details are with the Parish Office.

LYNN TRENEARY'S CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER Lynn has written an inspiring Newsletter with plenty for us to pray for. Do pick one up at the back of St Mary's church, SW, and pray for Southern Sudan, Chaima Institute and Lynn. With thanks. *Sue Walker*

Please note that copies of the **DUSTING ROTA FOR 2019** are at the back of St Mary's church, Saffron Walden. *Anne Rhodes*

ST MARY'S PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED from 12 noon on Friday 21st December until Tuesday 1st January inclusive. It will re-open on Wednesday 2nd January at 9.30am.

Foreign and British commemorative **STAMPS, CURRENCY & BRITISH COINS** and notes that are no longer in circulation, please hand to me or St Mary's Parish Office. All proceeds go to Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. *Margaret Walter*

All items for the **GRAPEVINE** should be sent to secretary.swrectory@ntlworld.com by 9am on Wednesdays.

CLERGY TEAM

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Revd Paula Griffiths	01799 599141
Revd Tim Hardingham	01799 542874
Revd Alex Jeewan	01799 531153
Revd Richard Spencer	01799 584171
Revd Canon Jenny Tomlinson	01799 500757
Revd. Angela Want	01799 540051
Revd Rachel Prior	01799 500047
Revd John Saxon	01799 541619