

PARISH DIARY

TODAY 15th December 2019

Saffron Walden	8.00am	HOLY COMMUNION 1662
	President:	Michael Lovegrove
	10.00am	FAMILY SERVICE
	Leader:	Rachel Prior
	11.45am	HOLY COMMUNION
	President:	Richard Spencer
	4.00pm	HOLY COMMUNION with <i>prayers for wholeness & healing</i>
	President:	Rachel Prior
Hadstock	9.30am	HOLY COMMUNION
	President:	Paula Griffiths
Ashdon	9.30am	HOLY COMMUNION
	President:	Richard Spencer
Debden	9.15am	HOLY COMMUNION
	President:	John Saxon
Wimbish	11.00am	MATINS
	Leader:	John Saxon

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

Monday 16th December

8.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesday 17th December

8.30am Morning Prayer

8.30am Morning Prayer *at Hadstock*

11.30am Baptism

5.00pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 18th December

8.00am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Communion

Thursday 19th December

8.30am Morning Prayer

1.00pm Funeral of Marjorie Mackie

Friday 20th December

8.30am Morning Prayer

Saturday 21st December

9.00am Morning Prayer

5.00pm Carol Service *at Swards End*5.00pm Carol Service *at Little Walden*NEXT SUNDAY 22nd December 2019

Saffron Walden	8.00am	HOLY COMMUNION 1662
	10.00am	HOLY COMMUNION
	12 noon	BAPTISM
	6.30pm	CAROL SERVICE
Hadstock	9.30am	HOLY COMMUNION
Ashdon	9.30am	HOLY COMMUNION
	6.30pm	CAROL SERVICE
Debden	6.30pm	CAROL SERVICE
Wimbish	3.00pm	CAROL SERVICE

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



Please 'Like' our Facebook page so we reach more people! Click on the link on our website, or go to:
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
15th December 2019

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: Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Gospel: Matthew 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

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 **New Life Church & Gt Chesterford Primary School**

Those who are unwell: Ken Ryles, Anne Rose, Lilian Maddams, Mark O'Neill

The family and friends of those who have died recently: Denise Johnson, Marjorie Mackie, Vera Presland, Margaret Thorn

Those who are being baptised at St Mary's SW: Penelope Brett on 17th December & Ashton Clyburn on 22nd December

Those who are getting married at St Mary's SW on 28th December: Thomas Price & Charlotte Campbell

EVENTS

Please note that **COFFEE, CAKES & COMPANY WILL NOT BE HELD TODAY.**

EVENING PRAYER OVER CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR Due to Tuesdays falling both on Christmas Eve (24th December) and New Year's Eve (31st December) there will be no evening prayer. We start back on **Tuesday 7th January**, which will be followed by mulled wine and nibbles at 3 Springhill Road. *Sue Walker*

Wondering what your gifts are and how you might use them in God's service? The **Deanery SHAPE course** will be starting in January 2020. If you are interested, please pick up a flyer at the back of St Mary's church, SW, for more information and speak to me. *Rachel*

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

ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS FAIR You did it again! All you stars, shepherds, kings, angels and other wonderful characters, all in the Starlight Cafe, our wonderfully talented musicians, singers and bell-ringers, every single stallholder, our publicists, printers, setters up and clearers away, all who came to support and help in every way – **THANK YOU**. The Christmas Fair would have been nothing without you. A marvellous £5,500 plus was raised for church funds, but more importantly brought hundreds of people into St Mary's. Well done! *Richard Garvey*

A selection of **PHOTOS** taken can be seen in the News section of the church website. *Martin*

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

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NOTICES

THANK YOU so much for a wonderful final weekend. The Barn Dance, the glorious celebration of Christ the King on Sunday 24th November, and the cards, gifts and affirmation. I'll enjoy riding the state-of-the art bike, the picture of Saffron Walden and spending the generous cheque. Working with and knowing you have been such a joy. With love and prayers. *David*

DAVID'S FAREWELL Photos can be seen in the News section of the website. *Martin*

A HUGE THANK YOU to all who helped with the Barn Dance. I know David and his family really enjoyed the occasion as I am sure all who attended did. It was a great success and shows what team work can do. *Gill and Denis*

CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE READY TO BE DELIVERED to all the homes in Saffron Walden. **WE NEED YOUR HELP.** Please do take some to deliver this week so that all the homes have a welcome to any of our Christmas Services.
Thank you. Dawn Saxon

Copies of the revised "**WHO'S WHO AT ST MARY'S**" are now available at the back of St Mary's church, SW, or from the Parish Office. This use to appear on the inside cover of the old style Parish News magazine, but because of GDPR and the fact that the new Parish News magazine is available via the web we can no longer include it. Please let me know of any amendments. *Dawn Saxon*

THANK YOU to everyone for making a successful Christingle Service; it was much appreciated. *Jenny Hallinan*

HADSTOCK QUIZ The ever-popular Hadstock Quiz returns again this year to test your brains over the Christmas and New Year break. All proceeds to the Friends of St Botolph's Church Hadstock. Quiz sheets (£2 each) available from St Mary's Parish Office, Janice Snell (jimjanhadstock@outlook.com , tel. 01223 892338) or Paula Griffiths (paula.greatford@btinternet.com , tel. 01799 599141), to be returned to Janice or Paula by 11th January 2020.

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*

CLERGY TEAM

Parish Administrator: Dawn Saxon	01799 506024
Email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org	
Revd Paula Griffiths	01799 599141
Revd Tim Hardingham	01799 542874
Revd Alex Jeewan	01799 531153
Revd Richard Spencer	01799 584171
Revd. Angela Want	01799 540051
Revd Rachel Prior	01799 500047
Revd John Saxon	01799 541619