

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST MARY'S



St Mary's Church
Saffron Walden
Sharing God's Love

Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24th December

8.30am Morning Prayer

4.00pm Lighting the Christmas Tree

6.00pm Lighting the Christmas Tree

Carols: 19 (omitting vs.3 & 6), 7, 13, 6 and

12 (omitting v.4)

You are invited to bring a toy for a child, preferably unwrapped. These will go to EACH (East Anglia's Children's Hospices). There'll also be a retiring collection, shared between the church and the mayor's chosen charity 'Mesothelioma UK Research'.

11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

Carols: 1, 6, 2, 10 (Communion: 13)

Christmas Day

Wednesday 25th December

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Family Communion

Carols: 19, (omitting vs 3 & 6) 9, 18, 12

(Communion: 8)

Thursday, 26 th <i>Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr</i>	9.30am	<i>No Morning Prayer</i> Holy Communion
Friday, 27 th <i>John, Apostle & Evangelist</i>	9.30am	<i>No Morning Prayer</i> Holy Communion
Saturday, 28 th <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	9.30am 12.30pm	<i>No Morning Prayer</i> Holy Communion Wedding of Thomas Price & Charlotte Campbell
Sunday, 29 th <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i>	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion 1662 Holy Communion Carols: 3, 15, 16, 7 (Communion: 6)
Monday, 30 th	4.00pm 8.30am	Evensong Morning Prayer
Tuesday 31 st		<i>No Morning Prayer</i>
Wednesday, 1 st Jan 2020 <i>Naming of Jesus</i>	9.30am	<i>No Morning Prayer</i> Holy Communion
Thursday 2 nd	8.30am 1.00pm	Morning Prayer Healing Service
Friday 3 rd	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Saturday 4 th	9.00am	Prayer Meeting in the Parish Rooms

THE GRAPEVINE

Christmas Edition 2019

December often passes us by in a hurly-burly. In the weeks and days leading up to Christmas, we may find ourselves whisked from one thing to another, with multiple things simultaneously clamouring for our time, our attention, and our money. Internally, too, we may face the challenge of creating 'the perfect Christmas' when our hearts are not full of cheer, but rather grief, loneliness, or worry. Sometimes it is all we can do to keep going and resist the temptation to hibernate.

The run-up to the first Christmas was also busy, stressful and unpredictable. There is a surprise pregnancy, an unexpected journey, and a complete muddle over the accommodation when they finally arrive. And then, after the trials of labour, the new family has to welcome a whole host of strange visitors!

But in the midst of this seeming chaos, there is a startling message. The angels proclaim *glory to God and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased*. The birth of this new babe is the dawning of peace for the world. This peace is not the absence of conflict, but instead the presence of wholeness and healing even in the midst of tension. In his life, Jesus continually chooses the way of peace, and through his death and resurrection, he offers us a new start, so that we can be at peace with God.

Jesus offers this peace to all who want to receive it. He knows the weights and the cares of life and gives us an invitation:

Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

As we face the dawning of a new year, may we respond to his invitation and become teachable, being channels of God's peace in a desperate and raging world.

May you know the joy and peace of Christ in your hearts this Christmas.

With love,

Rachel

Please take this sheet home with you.
We hope you will find the enclosed information useful.

Welcome to St. Mary's!

Revd. Rachel Prior
Tel: 01799 500047

e-mail: curate@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

If you wish to enquire about baptisms, weddings or other church information, contact:

Parish Office in St. Mary's, Church Path,
Saffron Walden
Tel. 01799 506024

e-mail: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

Opening hours:

Mondays - Fridays 9.30am - 12 noon
(Closed from 12 noon on 23rd December
to 9.30am on 6th January).

Most of our church organisations are taking a break over Christmas. Please contact the people named below or the Parish Office for more information about any of them.

Children's & Youth Activities in St Mary's Parish Room

Team JC in term time: for children aged 3 to 11. Meets in the Parish Rooms for breakfast at 9:45am on Sunday. Followed by games, stories and crafts.

Aftershock Youth Club: for young people aged 11 - 18 years. Meets on Sunday 7.00pm - 8.30pm. A chance to socialise, learn & enjoy each other's company. And there's normally food involved!

Contact: Matt Williamson on
07794 518907

Guides: Tuesdays 7.15pm - 8.45pm.

Brownies: Tuesdays at 5.30pm.

Rainbows: Mondays 4.15pm - 5.30pm.
(Girls aged 5-7 years.)

Contact: Margaret Jacobs on 522801

M5 Men's Lunch in January Please note that with the first Wednesday of the month falling on New Year's Day, the next Get-together at the Kings Arms will be deferred to the second Wednesday, **8th January**. Bill Rose 516609

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS...

to you, from all the clergy. Our grateful thanks for the beautiful cards and gifts you have given us.

We trust you will know God's peace at Christmas and God's blessing in the New Year.

Revd Rachel Prior, Assistant Curate

St. Mary's Tinies: 9.30am in St Mary's Parish Rooms followed by a Service at 10.15am in St Mary's church, Saffron Walden. Under 5s and parents/carers are most welcome to join us on Tuesdays in term time for tea and toast in the Parish rooms, followed by a short informal service in St Mary's church. Contact Alison Knights 01223 835912

Epiphany Carol Service Sunday 26th January at 6.30pm



Our Church School and Pre-School



St Mary's Primary School in Castle Street, offers a first class education with a caring and Christian ethos.
Head Teacher: Mr C.D. Jarman
Telephone: 01799 523384

St Mary's Church Pre-school in the grounds of the Primary School
Learning through play
Manager: Mrs F. Jeffs
Telephone: 01799 520358

Look on our website for more news and information:

www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org

Normal Service Times

Sundays:

8.00am

10.00am

Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Holy Communion

with Team JC in term time (*for children*)
(*all Sundays except third of the month*)

Family Service

(*third Sunday of the month*)

4.00pm

or 6.30pm

in summer

Evensong-Service on 5th January 2020
(*2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays of month*)

Evening Communion with prayers for wholeness & healing (*third Sunday*)

H₂H Youth Led Service (*first Sunday*)
(*no service on 5th January 2020*)

Tuesdays in term time:

10.15am

St. Mary's Tinies (*in St Mary's church*)

Tuesdays:

5.00pm

Evening Prayer resumes on 7th January, which will be followed by mulled wine & nibbles at 3 Springhill Road.

Wednesdays and Saints' Days:

9.30am

Holy Communion

First Thursday of the month

1.00pm

Service with Prayers for Healing

Sewing Circle: meets every Monday from 9.30am at The Priory, making kneelers and banners. Contact Tessa Hawkes - 523888

Mothers' Union: next meeting is in St Mary's Parish Rooms on **Thursday 9th January** at 1.30pm for 2pm. Speaker: Anna Wilson talking about her visit to Rwanda. Members and visitors are welcome. Contact Brenda Sheath on 513204

Julian Group: meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 7.30pm - 9.00pm for a short meditation and discussion. Contact Tessa Hawkes.

Please note that copies of the **Dusting Rota** for 2020 are at the back of St Mary's church, SW. Anne Rhodes

St. Mary's Music Association: supports the Director of Music with practical, administrative and financial support. We have a strong choir and brass group and a woodwind group. Brochures are available at the back of St Mary's church. Contact Bron Ferland on 521497

Friends of St. Mary's: If you would like to help us maintain and preserve this beautiful building, you can join the Friends - forms at the back of St Mary's church, SW, or contact Pamela Mugliston on 521697

St Mary's Book Group will hold their next meeting at 8.15pm on **Friday 10th January** at 4 Castle Street to discuss **Dodie Smith's** novel **I Capture the Castle**. Please contact me if you would like a copy (520291). Robin O'Neill.