

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST MARY'S



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

## THE GRAPEVINE Christmas Edition 2020

Sunday 20th December 4th Sunday of Advent

### Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### First Reading: 2 Samuel 7.1-11,16

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.' But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

### Gospel: Luke 1.26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

### Post Communion

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December**  
10.00am Holy Communion  
(In church, Zoom, Youtube)  
6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols  
(Youtube only)

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**  
5.00pm Evening Prayer (Zoom)

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**  
9.30am Holy Communion (Zoom)

### Christmas Eve

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December**  
4.00pm Lighting the Christmas Tree  
(YouTube only)

### Christmas Day

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December**  
10.00am Christmas Holy Communion  
(In church, Zoom, Youtube)

Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> December *No Service at St Mary's*  
9.30am Holy Communion at Ashdon  
9.15am Holy Communion at Debden  
9.30am Cam Churches together - streamed  
Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> 5.00pm Evening Prayer - Zoom  
Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> *No Service*  
**2021**  
Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 8.00am Holy Communion -  
*First Sunday of Christmas* In church, Zoom, YouTube  
Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> 5.00pm Evening Prayer - Zoom  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Holy Communion - Zoom

### BIBLE READINGS

Tue 22nd	Morning Psalm 124 & 2 Peter 1:16-23 Evening Psalm 48 & Matthew 19:13-15
Wed 23rd	Morning Psalm 130 & 2 Peter 2:4-end Evening Psalm 89:1-37
Sun 27th	Isaiah 61: 10-62:3 & Luke 2:15-21
Tue 29th	Morning Psalm 19 & John 1:1-18 Evening Psalm 132 & Colossians 1:1-14
Wed 30th	Morning Psalm 113 & John 1:19-28 Evening Psalm 65
Sun 3rd	Isaiah 61:1-6 & Matthew 2: 1-12
Tue 5th	Morning Psalm 48 & John 2:13-end Evening Psalm 97 & John 4:7-26
Wed 6th	Morning Psalm 132 & John 1:29-34 Evening Psalm 98

We are deeply saddened to tell you that Revd. Jeremy Collingwood, retired priest in the Saffron Walden and Villages and faithful servant of Jesus Christ, died on 10<sup>th</sup> December after a brief illness. We thank God for his life and rich ministry – may he rest in peace and rise in glory. Please hold Margaret, daughters Olivia, Elizabeth and Emma and all the family in your prayers. *Denis and Gill*

## Welcome to St. Mary's!

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

### St Mary's Parish Office

Church Path, Saffron Walden CB10 1JP

Tel. 01799 506024

e-mail: [office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org)

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS** The Parish Administrator is available by phone or email on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9.30am - 12noon

The office is not currently open to personal callers.

Please note that the Parish Office will close at 12 noon on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and reopen on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Dawn Saxon

**Thank you** to everyone who has continued giving regularly to support the work of the church.



With our fundraising cancelled and other income significantly reduced this year, St Mary's would be very grateful for your donations over the Christmas period. You can give online via the website,

[www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/donations](http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/donations)

or via online banking (ask the Parish Office for details) or by posting a cheque, made payable to Saffron Walden PCC, to the Parish Office.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS...

**THANK YOU**, from all the clergy and ministry team, for the many cards, greetings, gifts and good wishes you have sent us at this time. Thank you also for your support to us all and your continued determination to follow the way of Christ throughout this exceptionally challenging year. As we hear again the joyous message of the angels, may we put our trust in Jesus Christ, born at Bethlehem, the Saviour of us all. We wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and blessed Christmas and a happy New Year. and God's blessing in the New Year.

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

**Looking for work?** The Transition Project provides a free, service to help those who are looking for work. Our weekly clinic is available on Tuesdays from 10am to 4pm, with remote but personal support by phone, email, Zoom, Skype etc. Contact [www.transitionproject.co.uk](http://www.transitionproject.co.uk)

**ALPHA** is a 10-week course that creates a space, online or in person, where people join together for a conversation about faith, life and God. Looking at questions such as 'Who is Jesus?' 'How and why should I read the bible?' and 'What does the Holy Spirit do?' The format is based around watching a presentation video followed by informal discussion. Join our welcome session 'Is there more to life than this?' Wednesday 13 January 8-9.30pm or Thursday 14 January 2-3.30pm. No expectations or long-term commitments; online or in person if guidance allows (details to be confirmed in the New Year). To register interest or to find out more please contact: Revd John Saxon on 01799 541619/07484 332734 [debdenwimbishcurate@gmail.com](mailto:debdenwimbishcurate@gmail.com)

**Christmas Message from the Revd. Jeremy Trew**  
our next Team Rector who will join us in March 2021

*The birth of any child is a special moment to those who become parents and grandparents. Yet most births go largely unnoticed. The birth of Jesus was one such unremarkable event. Even his name was a common name for a Jewish lad at the time. An older father and younger mother would not have drawn a second look. As for being born amongst the animals and laid in a manger, well "join the club", that's how it was for many an infant. It's the story behind the story, and the stories that came after, that were remarkable. And, to understand those you have to look a little harder, and a little further, than the manger of Bethlehem.*

*Children are still being born today, mostly in unremarkable circumstances. Many – too many – share the risks that were present at a birth two thousand years ago, which means that for a great portion of humanity Covid is simply not that great a worry. The wonder of that first Christmas, and the scandal for many, is that in that child God chose to take human form. God's aren't meant to do that – to get down into reality and dirty their hands with the wonder and banality of human existence. Yet, in Jesus, that's exactly what God did. That is what Christians believe and will be celebrating this December.*

*We enter 2021 with the uncertainties of a post-Christmas Covid rebound, the continuing wonders of Brexit, and whatever personal concerns you may have in your own lives. So I close with the words of the poet Minnie Haskins, quoted by George VI in his 1939 Christmas speech; 'I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."' Whatever 2021 brings I pray that for you it will bring the continuing unfolding of the story of God-with-us, Emmanuel.*  
*Every blessing*  
*Jeremy.*

Whilst COVID restrictions have affected a number of our services and activities, there is still lots going on. Many services are available on YouTube and Zoom and, subject to current guidance, we expect to have at least one service each week in the New Year that you can attend in person; pre-booking is recommended via the website or the Parish Office.

Some of our groups are meeting on Zoom and others are on hold until it's safe to meet in person.



**Look on our website for more news and the latest information:**

[www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org](http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org)

**You can sign up for our weekly email bulletin or request a posted copy of the Grapevine by contacting the Parish Office**

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