

20th December 2020



A Christmas Romance?

I've had a 'lodge' at the Vicarage for a few months, Hannah, who has introduced me to the wonders of Netflix! The other night she tried to persuade me to watch a Christmas film. We trawled through dozens, but they all seemed the same. They seemed to fall into one of two categories: the Santa Claus and elves variety or the Christmas RomCom. Neither appealed to me at all (I know I'm an old cynic—Bah Humbug!).

It occurred to me that there seems to be a tried and tested (predictable?) formula for the Christmas Romance. We have the would-be couple, but there is usually some sort of obstacle to their happiness. They overcome their difficulties and love blossoms. However, just as they are about to live happily ever after, a big spanner gets thrown in the works, leading to a massive misunderstanding. Eventually everything is cleared up and they realise they are meant to be together. Close-up of them kissing under the mistletoe, cue the final the credits.

But I wonder, how the connection between Christmas and romance came about and how the two came to be linked so strongly. There's a carol, Love Came Down at Christmas, but it isn't about romantic love.

On the face of it there is a Christmas Romance lurking in the midst of the Nativity story. There we have Mary and Joseph planning their happily ever after, when a huge spanner gets thrown in the works and there is an enormous misunderstanding. It takes an angel to sort it all out. But this is a story of so much more than romantic love. This is a sacrificial love, for both Mary and Joseph. The consequences of this love will have repercussions and a cost for both of them, for the rest of their lives. They will both have to set aside their own hopes and expectations for the sake of this child. They will have to trust that God knows what he's doing. As Mary and Joseph find the faith and strength to love, they are reflecting the true love of Christmas—God's love. The love that was willing bear the cost and to sacrifice everything to be with us.

Catherine

Don't forget to head to our Facebook page...

To see the daily Advent posts and Sunday videos from Market Drayton Churches Together, as well as information on forthcoming Christmas events for St Mary's.



Christmas Plans

Here are our plans for services over the Christmas period:

New—Zoom Carol Service Sunday 20th December 6.30pm. If you haven't already received the Zoom link please e-mail the Church Office.

Christingle: Videos will be posted on our Facebook page each day between **21st and 23rd December**, where people can hear the message of Christmas and follow some simple crafts to do at home, including making their own Christingle. Packs for these can be picked up from St Mary's on **Tuesday 22nd December 2-4pm—order by 16th December** on Facebook or by e-mail from the Church Office. A short service will be held in the churchyard on **Christmas Eve at 4.30pm**—bring your Christingle! *If you can help with stewarding at this service, please let Catherine know.*

Late Night Communion Christmas Eve: This will be pre-recorded and available to watch on Facebook and YouTube at 11.00pm <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3RShnzNqIS-bTomDxAxqJA>

Christmas Day Communion 9.00am: This will take place in church. *Please let the church office know if you are expecting to attend.*

Christmas Day Zoom Service 10.30am: Same Zoom details as for our usual Sunday services (see overleaf).

Regular Services

To join any of our regular Zoom services, click on the links below. If you need a copy of the liturgy for any of the services, please contact the Church Office.

Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion in Church

Alternating between BCP and CW

Sunday 10.30am (Breaking Bread) ZOOM

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09)

[pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09)

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

The readings this Sunday are: Matthew 1.18-25; 1 John 4.7-16

Wednesday Morning Prayer 10.00am

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09)

[pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09)

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday Evening Compline 7.00pm ZOOM

Please note— no Compline on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve. Next service 7th January.

Zoom link: [https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?pwd=R2lUzUJjMDRnTGhINIFPejRLTW5Xdz09)

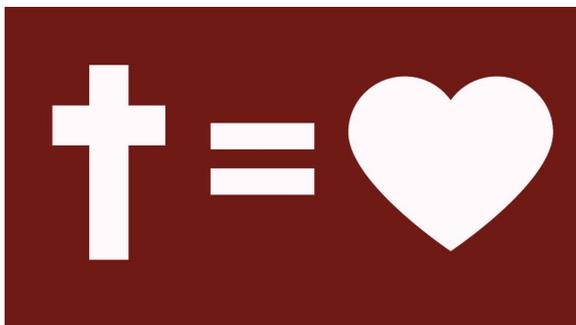
[pwd=R2lUzUJjMDRnTGhINIFPejRLTW5Xdz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?pwd=R2lUzUJjMDRnTGhINIFPejRLTW5Xdz09)

Meeting ID: 783 2122 9825 Password: 3164610

You can join any of the above meetings by phone using any of the following numbers and the meeting IDs and passwords

above: 0203 481 5237 / 0203 481 5240

0131 460 1196 / 0203 051 2874



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your prayers on my behalf in the run up to, during and now convalescing from my hip operation. I confess I was apprehensive, despite knowing that my surgeon's skill was in the hands of the Great Physician. Ray is a good and loving helpmate and I thank God for him. Thank you for all the Get Well cards and all the other practical acts of kindness shown to us at this time. May God grant you all a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. With love, Iris Thomas

New Church Postbox



We now have a new box for receiving mail at church. This is situated on the wall, just inside the main gate, on the right hand side as you come in. You can use it to drop off documents for the Church Office, the Churchwardens or Finance Team.

New Contact Details for Finance Team

The Finance team now have their own e-mail address: financeteamstmarys@gmail.com Please use this to send any queries regarding church-related finances, expenses claims or invoices etc.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required

Eggs	Sponge Puddings/Slab Cakes		
Tinned Ham & Chicken	Cartons of long-life fruit juice		
Tins of Sardines/Mackerel	Tinned Spaghetti		
Toilet Rolls	Rice Pudding	Custard	Biscuits
Cat/Dog Food-wet	Cleaning Products		
Washing Powder/Tabs/Detergent			
Local Supermarket Vouchers—Morrisons / Lidl / Aldi			

Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Rooms on Tuesdays and Fridays 9-11am. If you are unable to bring donations to the Parish Rooms or to the drop-off points in our local supermarkets, please contact Catherine McBride or Carol Corney, who can arrange to have someone come and pick up your donations.

Prayer Requests



Please pray for Joy Goldby; Iris Thomas recovering from her hip operation; Chris Ashley now at home recovering from a recent bout of illness and Barry Salter still in hospital.

Staying in Touch

Our Church Office is not staffed at the moment, but e-mails and phone messages are being picked up regularly:

Phone: 01630 653505 **E-mail:** stmarysmd@btinternet.com

We will continue to post information to our website and Facebook page:

Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Facebook: @StMarysMarketDrayton

Vicar: Catherine McBride

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com (*please note change*)

Phone: 01630 656943

If you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.