

19th December 2021

Dementia
friendly church

As we come to the final Sunday of Advent this week, the focus is on Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Whilst within some parts of the Church of England there has, historically, been a resistance or reluctance to venerate Mary, at this time of year she is someone who has a really key role in all we celebrate.

I love the image by Fra Angelico of the Angel Gabriel bowing to Mary at the Annunciation:

Even heaven was in awe of this young girl, chosen by God to doing something extraordinary. She knew that being stoned to death was more than a remote possibility (as an unwed young woman) and even if that, by some miracle, did not occur when she started to show she was pregnant then complete social rejection and disgrace was the least she and her family would expect. As for what Joseph would think: divorce was a probability, as engagement in those times was a legally binding relationship...

All of this would certainly have gone through my mind! Yet, Mary simply says 'Let it happen to me as you have said'. Her willingness to embrace all that God asked of her, giving birth as a teenager, not only transformed her life but that of the whole world.

As I read again of Mary's choice to listen to God, to act upon what He asked of her, to go against cultural expectations, face her fears of all that could happen and step out in faith, trusting that the God who was entrusting her with the gift of His Son, would meet her every need, I am inspired to be more like her. It is often a challenge isn't it to trust God rather than listen to our own doubts and fears.

May we all be inspired to be transformed by God as we listen to the simple words in Luke's Gospel:

'..she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.'

Maggie



4th Sunday of Advent

Post Communion Prayer

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.

Around our Deanery this Christmas...

Saturday 18th December St John's Ightfield - Popcorn and pizza party for primary school aged children showing live performance from Riding Lights Theatre Company - £2 per head (must know numbers asap. Contact Jill Poole (jill.poole@amica.org.uk).

Saturday and Sunday 18/19th December - Christmas tree event Hinstock

Friday 17th to Sunday 19th December Stoke on Tern - Christmas tree festival, free entry with refreshments.

Sunday 19th December 2-4pm "A Journey To Bethlehem" - enter into the Nativity story as you walk the link path from Ightfield to Calverhall,

Wednesday 22nd December St Leonards, Woore – carols around the outside Christmas scene including a visit from Father Christmas.

Sunday 26th December - Boxing day service (2.00pm) and walk (2.30pm) in United Benefice with refreshments.

Epiphany Sunday

The first Sunday of the New Year 2022, 2nd Jan, we will be celebrating Epiphany Sunday.

The service will be a Holy Communion and I would like for us to sing Epiphany themed Carols/Songs/Hymns. If you have a particular favourite for the Epiphany season that you would like to be included, please can you let me know by Tuesday 28th December and I will include the most popular choices into the service. If you could also include a 'one-liner' as to why you chose a particular piece that would be great.

Please send your choices to me at curateofstmarys@gmail.com.

Many thanks and have a Merry Christmas. Ian

Regular Services

Sunday 9.00am BCP Communion Service (CHURCH)

Sunday 10.30am Morning Worship (CHURCH)

This service is also available on 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

Readings : Isaiah 9. 1-7 Luke 2. 1-7

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

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 10.00am Holy Communion (CHURCH)

You can also join our Zoom services on your landline using any of the following numbers, with the meeting IDs and passwords above: 0203 481 5237 / 0203 481 5240

0131 460 1196 / 0203 051 2874

Christmas Services

Carols by Candlelight, Sunday 19th December, 7.00pm (also on ZOOM)

Please let us know if you are planning to attend, either by Facebook or by contacting the Church Office.

Christingle Service Christmas Eve 5.00pm (also on ZOOM)

All the tickets for this event have now gone.

Christmas Eve Communion Service 11.15pm

Christmas Day 9.00am Holy Communion

Christmas Day 10.30 Christmas Celebration (also on ZOOM)

Boxing Day (Sunday 26th December)

No service at St Mary's. There will be a short Communion service at Hinstock at 2.00pm, followed by a walk from the church at 2.30pm,, lasting about 1 hour – returning to church for mulled wine and mince pies. All welcome.

The Zoomed services above will use the same log in details as our 10.30 Sunday service:

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

Please pray for...



Helen Sweet's son-in-law, Alan. David & Rosemary Platt's new grandson. Tracy Cook, recovering from surgery. Peter & Pat Fox's granddaughter, who is recovering from a broken wrist, Val Creasey's daughter Sarah who has cancer and is recovering from surgery. John Panter, who is unwell. Please also pray for Barry Salter, Jean Arbon and David Jones.

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required



Long –Life Cartons of Fruit Juice—No Stocks

Washing up Liquid; Sponge Puddings/ Slab Cakes; Shampoo; Conditioner; Tins of ham/chicken/pork/Spam; UHT Milk; Ladies & Gents Deodorant

We have plenty of

Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans; Tinned Tomatoes

If you need to contact the Foodbank please call **01630 654007** (not the number in the current church directory).

Advent Complines on Zoom

Wednesday 22nd December 7.00pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88127815715?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88127815715?pwd=K3V3WDDmbks3bHVCV1o3S3AwaGtFQT09)

[pwd=K3V3WDDmbks3bHVCV1o3S3AwaGtFQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88127815715?pwd=K3V3WDDmbks3bHVCV1o3S3AwaGtFQT09)

Meeting ID: 881 2781 5715 Passcode: 236230

or dial in on 0131 460 1196

0203 481 5237

0203 481 5240



ACORN update!



Hello friends—We are very excited to be actively integrating the ACORN spiritual practice into our church life here at St Mary's. If you would like to find out more, and/or if you would like to get involved, do please get in touch with Sue or Keren. suefrankfort@gmail.com or Kerenmacfarlane@gmail.com or see <http://www.gpcweb.org/assets/documents/ACORN.pdf>

Staying in Touch

The office is now open Mon-Fri 11.00am—1.00pm.

Helen will be in the office from 9.00am.

Phone: 01630 653505

E-mail: stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.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

Phone: 01630 656943

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

Please be aware that the office BT email address no longer works. Please use stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com