

# Benefice of Ruscombe & Twyford with Hurst

Shaped, trusting, growing in Christ and inspired by the Holy Spirit

Sundays 17th, 24th and 31st December 2023

Third and Fourth Sundays of Advent and Christmas Services

## St Mary's Twyford

## St Nicholas' Hurst

17th Dec 10.30am	<b>Holy Communion (Revd Helen Charlton)</b> Romans 8:14-17 Mark 1:1-8	17th Dec 11.00am	<b>Holy Communion (Revd Marina Brain)</b> Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28
24th Dec <b>3.30pm</b> <b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Crib Service (Revd Helen Charlton)</b> <b>Carols for All (Revd Helen Charlton)</b>	24th Dec <b>4.00pm</b> <b>11.30pm</b>	<b>Crib Service</b> <b>Midnight Communion (Revd Marina Brain)</b> Hebrews 1:1-4 John 1:1-14
25th Dec <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (Revd Helen Charlton)</b> Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-20	25th Dec 11.00am	<b>Holy Communion (Revd Graham Theobald)</b> Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:1-20
<b>St James' Ruscombe</b>		<b>Twyford U.R.C.</b>	
17th Dec 9.00am	<b>Morning Prayer (Alan Gwynn)</b> Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11 John 1:6-8,19-28	17th Dec 10.30am	<b>Nine Lessons and Carols (Linda Jackson)</b>
24th Dec 9.00am	<b>Holy Communion (Revd Graham Theobald)</b> Romans 26:25-27 Luke 1:26-38	24th Dec 10.30am	<b>No Service</b>
31st Dec 9.00am	<b>No Service</b>	31st Dec 10.30am	<b>LEP Christmas Celebration Service</b>



## Church Family News

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE FOR CHRISTMAS:** The office will be closed from Friday 22nd December until Monday 1st January inclusive and then open on Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd January only. Normal hours will resume from Monday 8th January. Emails and answer machine messages will be monitored but only answered if urgent. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

**4 x 4 ADVENTURES:** We are getting ready for the next adventure trip looking at the Christian life with any fellow explorers. The sessions will run on Monday evenings during February in the upstairs Stephenson Room in St Mary's Church Centre (**February 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th from 7.45 to 9.15pm**). We already have a group of people from our autumn programme who are keen to carry on together but there is space for a few more! New expressions of interest are always welcome, so if you would like to join us for refreshments and discussions, then please contact Helen at [helen@thru-christ.org](mailto:helen@thru-christ.org).



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT ST MARY'S:** We are looking for some extra people to operate the EasyWorship screens and the PA desk on Sundays. No experience is necessary and all training will be provided. It is very straightforward and the more people we have, the less frequently you will need to be on the rota. Thank you!

# Prayer



We pray for all who are ill and in need of God's healing, in particular:

Lizzy, Hope, Eldred, Ted, Peter, Paul, Joan, Clara, Sharon, John, Tony and Anne.

*Please email or ring the church office to be included in this section.*

**God of Love,  
Your son, Jesus, is Your greatest gift to us. He is a sign of Your love. Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent, as we wait and prepare for His coming.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Saviour.  
Amen.**

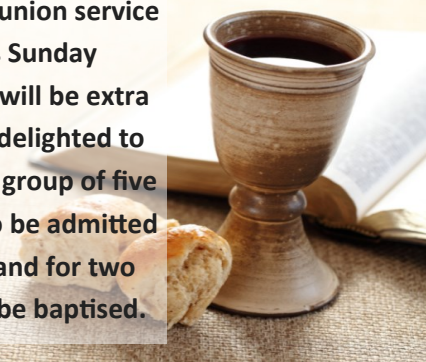


We announce the sad news of the passing of Theresa Betty Searle on December 2nd 2023 at the age of 96 and we offer our prayers to her family.



Everyone is very welcome to attend her funeral which will be held at 2.15pm on Thursday 21st December at St James' followed by a burial in the churchyard.

The Holy Communion service at St Mary's this Sunday 17th December will be extra special. We are delighted to be welcoming a group of five young people to be admitted to Communion and for two of them to also be baptised.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Youth Club:** Friday 15th December 7.00-8.30pm at Hurst Scout Hut for years 7-9. Contact Phillippa for more info.

**Friendship Club:** Tuesday 19th December 1.45pm at the URC - Heritage Too (Alan Dodd & Kevin Lowen).

**Tots on Tuesdays** will resume on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

**Family Service with baptism:** Sunday 7th January at St Mary's when we will be welcoming a very special person officially into our church family. Our theme will be growing in giving.

**Twyford Pantomime:** Friday 12th to Sunday 14th January at Loddon Hall, Twyford. [www.twyforddrama.co.uk](http://www.twyforddrama.co.uk).

**ZOOM:** We have 2 regular weekly zoom events: Tuesday 9.30am Morning Prayer and Sunday 6pm Village Prayers. Please use the link in the weekly email or contact the church office for more information.

## Next Week: Sunday 7th January - First Sunday of Epiphany

### St Mary's Twyford

10.30am **Family Service (Revd Helen Charlton)**

### St Nicholas' Hurst

11.00am **Holy Communion (Revd Graham Theobald)**

### St James' Ruscombe

9.00am **No Service**

### Twyford U.R.C.

10.30am **Morning Service**

### Church Office