



December 2017

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

The Season's greetings to you.

The Church is about to enter the season of Advent which gently moves us towards the celebration of Christmas. During this exciting time we Christians are encouraged to think more deeply about our faith and how we can become closer to God and live our lives as He, through Jesus, showed us.

In this newsletter we have listed the many activities and services that we have planned for this period and warmly invite you to join us here at St Mary's Church to experience those which appeal to you.

Our Christmas Tree of Prayer welcomes all those who visit the church; please feel free to add the names of those for whom you are praying or who are weighing heavily on your mind at present to its branches, so that they can be included in our prayers too. While you are in the church, perhaps visit our Crib which provides a perfect place for quiet reflection.

We hope you will be able to join us for some of the Services during the Christmas and New Year period which continues until the Feast of the Epiphany on 6th January, on which date we have a special Said Service with incense.

Wherever you spend Christmas and the New Year, may it be a time of happiness, joy and peace.

God's blessings to you all.

Reverend Scott Talbott
Associate Priest

Christingle Service

4pm, Sunday 3 December

Come and join us as we make and light Christingles at this lovely Service. All ages are welcome for both the Service and the cakes and drinks we enjoy afterwards in the Church following the Service.



All money collected at this Service is given to The Children's Society. Some children and adults save up money especially - with some using a special Christingle candle collecting box to collect their money in. If you'd like a candle box to collect your money in, call the Church Office and we'll let you know where you can collect one: 721002.

You can find out more about The Children's Society by visiting:
childrenssociety.org.uk.

Batchworth Lock Christmas Carol Singing

4.30pm, Saturday 9 December

Come and join us for our first Christmas Carols of the year. At the Batchworth Lock Carol Service, organised by the Boaters' Christian Fellowship, we are always accompanied by a Brass Band. It's a delightful start to the 'Festive Season'. Put on hat and gloves to keep you warm, and bring a torch!



Advent Carol Service

6pm, Sunday 3 December

Welcome the Season of Advent with our traditional service of Advent Carols and readings.



Look out for...

The **star on the tower** - alight from Christmas Eve until Epiphany encouraging us to follow the star to find Jesus.

The Travelling Crib

During Advent, Mary & Joseph make their way from house to house around the local area. Look out for 'notices' on houses revealing where they have been.

Contact Details for St Mary's

St Mary's Church, Church Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1JB

Church Office: 01923 721002

www.stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk

@StMarysRickyLEP

Christmas Experience

Monday 11 December - Fri 5 January 2018

Come and 'walk through' the Christmas Story and enjoy the opportunity to discover something more of the meaning of Christmas for you.

There will be activities for all ages, with prompts for thought and prayer. The church will be open from 9am to 3.30pm each day, so do drop in to look, read, experience and reflect.

Christmas Carol Service

6pm, Sunday 17 December

Following the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols format, with readers from across the local community taking part, we also hear the Christmas Story and sing Carols too. The congregation is invited to share seasonal refreshments after the Service. We'd love to see you there!



Christmas Eve 4pm, Crib Service

Children are encouraged to come dressed as a shepherd, sheep or angel for this simple, 'child-friendly' Service. We tell the Christmas Story and sing our favourite Christmas Carols. The Service ends with all the children gathered at the front of the Church to create a Christmas tableau.

Christmas Eve

11.30pm, **Midnight Communion Service**

Christmas starts here!

The moment of the year when we focus on the amazing gift of Jesus - God in human form. Emmanuel - 'God-with-us', the Saviour is born to change the world. People of all ages come to join with us for this traditional beginning to Christmas celebrations - come and join us!



Christmas Day Services

8am, **Christmas Day Holy Communion**

10am, **Christmas Day Family Communion Service**

We celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ with much laughter and joy - and Carols! The Church remains open throughout the day, so please drop in if you'd like some space for quiet and contemplation.

The Feast of the Epiphany

9.30am, Saturday 6 January

We celebrate the visit of the Wise Men to Christ. The three Kings are placed into the Crib, and incense is used at this Service to recall the gift of Frankincense - given alongside the gifts of gold and myrrh.



Christmas Giving

At Christmas we support three Charities:

Crisis supports those without home or shelter across the UK.

Action for Children supports children and young people in need across the UK.

Christian Aid supports people across the world in need - particularly in disaster zones.

All the money given at our Christmas Services is passed straight on to them all.



With best wishes for a
Blessed Christmas and a
Happy New Year from the
people of St Mary's,

