



St. Mary's Church
Chiddingfold

Advent and Christmas 2017 NEWSLETTER



sarahbrough@btinternet.com www.stmaryschurchchidd.org.uk 01428 682008



The pumpkins have been carved, Saints celebrated, bonfires lit, fireworks sent soaring and the poppy wreaths laid. As our lives move on apace from one season to the next, Advent brings an opportunity to reflect on the year drawing to a close, a time for fellowship amid the many and varied activities, and a time to prepare for the gift of the Christ child, our Saviour, being born. Our open church building will offer reflective and interactive spaces for everyone to engage with aspects of the Advent journey. Then the culmination of all the preparations when Christmas arrives with the perfect opportunity to rediscover God in our daily lives as we engage with well-loved carols, readings, and with the constant refrain that God is always with us – we just have to say Hello.

Time for the diary and your chosen refreshment whilst you make a note of everything that is on offer at St Mary's during the coming weeks

NOVEMBER

Saturday 18th 10.30-3.30 pm, Quintessentially English Christmas Fayre

This very popular seasonal sale of vintage and artisan goods will be held in the Village Hall, homemade refreshments available.

Friday 24th 3 – 4pm (families) & Sat 25th 10 – 11am (all others), 'Preparing the Church for Advent'

Come along with images or items which express the Advent themes of Listening, Watching, Waiting and Welcoming to create prayer stations around the church. Be part of bringing the Advent Journey to life!

Tuesday 28th, 8-9pm in Church Room, 'Advent Hope' - the last in our series 'A New or Renewed Faith'

An opportunity to explore faith for the first time or revisit long held beliefs. All welcome, whether you have been to one of these sessions before or not. This session will be led by Sarah, seasonal refreshments served afterwards.

DECEMBER

Saturday 2nd 9.30 am – 12.30pm, Church and Churchyard Tidy Up

If you want to avoid the crowds and enjoy some purposeful activity you would be most welcome to join the churchyard pre-Christmas tidy up, or help with the cleaning/brass polishing in church. Please bring along your own gloves, everything else is provided.

Sunday 3rd 1.30-3.30pm, FREE Angels Family Fun event at Guildford Cathedral

School children across the Diocese, including St Mary's Chiddingfold, are busy making Angels to decorate the Cathedral for Christmas and in preparation for the 'Angels Family Fun' event. Do try and make time away from the hustle and bustle of the high street to go along join a lovely way to mark the start of Advent. The Advent Angels will remain on display until Christmas so do pop in to see them if you are passing.

Sunday 3rd 6.30 pm, Service of Advent Readings and Carols - a beautiful service to start this sacred season followed by refreshments.

Monday 4th 'Advent Reflection in Art and Music' led by Rev Ian McKillop, 8-9 pm, Church Room



Join us to hear from Iain, a local artist and religious art historian, and to reflect on the story of Advent through Art & Music. Seasonal refreshments afterwards.

Tuesday 5th Carers' Tea Party, 3.30 pm, Church Room

A thank you to all who give so freely of their time and talents to care for the church and churchyard throughout the year. By invitation.

Sunday 10th Messy Church Christmas Party, 4-6 pm in the Village Hall Christmas fun for all ages craft activities, games, storytelling and tea. Admission free!

Thursday 14th Church Mice Christmas Special, 9.30-11.00 am, Church Room

Join Hannah with your pre-primary children for time out of the Christmas rush with toys, craft and of course coffee and cakes. Christmas games, story and music will also be on the cards! This is a taster for a group we will be running in 2018 – look out for further details.



Friday 15th LAST DAY OF SHOEBOX APPEAL

This Christmas why not wrap, fill and drop off a Christmas Shoebox for the Homeless? St Mary's are supporting the work of the Society of St James who work hard to help those facing homelessness in and around Southampton. Pick up a label and list of suggested items from St Mary's Church and bring your box to church or leave at the Rectory (opp village hall, Coxcombe Lane).

Saturday 16th Wintershall Nativity Play

If you would like to go the 2.30 p.m. performance with other members of our church, please contact Sarah. Tickets are £16 for adults and £8 for children. More details about the Play and other performances can be found at www.wintershall-estate.com

Sunday 17th Christingle at 10.00 am and Carols by Candlelight at 6.30 pm

Since 1968, Christingles have helped millions of children explore the significance of Jesus. At this special family service, we are reminded of the different elements that make up the Christingle and what they represent. Christingles for everyone to take home!

At 6.30pm our traditional service of Christmas Carols and Readings will be followed by seasonal refreshments in the church room.

Monday 18th St Mary's School Carol Service, 6.30 pm

Everyone welcome to attend whether you are connected directly with the school not.

Tuesday 19th Carols on the Green from 6.30 pm

Traditional carol singing around the Tree of Faith accompanied not only by members of St Mary's Church choir but by mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies! If we all sing heartily Father Christmas may hear us and pop into Chiddingfold.

Wednesday 20th Carol Singing in The Crown, 7-8 pm

Another opportunity sing favorite Christmas carols in the cheerful ambiance of the oldest pub in Surrey. Just come along, grab a Bethlehem Carol booklet and join in – the more the merrier!

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday morning services at 8 and 10am as normal.

4 pm - Crib Service - Children are invited to come dressed as a character from the nativity to join in the telling of the Christmas story. A joyful occasion for all the family.

11 pm - Midnight Mass - to welcome the Light of the World... #God with Us!

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am - Prayer Book Holy Communion

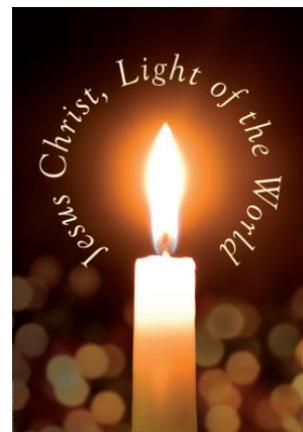
10.00 am - Parish Communion, an intergenerational celebration on this joyful day!

Sunday, 31st Sunday services as normal with Rev Geoffrey Curtis leading a Children's Nativity during the 10.00 service. (No All Stars).

and finally, looking ahead to 2018

The Chapel and Porch are being decorated in January. Access to the church will not be affected. This work has been financed by a generous donation from The Michael Fellingham Trust and the remainder of the Church Roof Appeal monies for making good of the Chapel.

March 4th 10am The Rt Revd Dr Jo Bailey Wells, Bishop of Dorking, will preach and preside.



(This newsletter is compiled by Jane Bell and any feedback, comments or suggestions are most welcome - jane.bell@btinternet.com)