



Keeping in Touch



December 2018 - January 2019

Dear Friends,

**Christmas is coming,
The goose is getting fat;
Please put a penny
In the old man's hat.
If you haven't got a penny,
A ha'penny will do;
If you haven't got a ha'penny
God bless you.**



Familiar words of a 16th century rhyme, made popular in the Victorian era when Christmas, for the most, was centred on hospitality and charity – unless you were Scrooge of course! The sharing of a Christmas Day meal (although turkey over time became a cheaper bird than goose) and offering charity by remembering those in greatest need, made the 'season of goodwill' exactly that!

Whilst it may be hard to believe sometimes, hospitality and charity remain central to Christmas today. It is still a time when we can all give generously to charities throughout the world working in the interests of people in need, in particular projects, large and small, throughout the country offering hospitality and friendship and a place to be over the Christmas period, to someone who may be otherwise alone this Christmas.

It's been a great privilege for me to get know many of you in recent months during the vacancy at St Mary's. I have been touched by the many things that you do as a church to extend hospitality to people and for your care for those living within the church community and beyond. These are the marks of an outward-looking church, seeking to show God's love for all. There is certainly room for everyone in this Inn!

During the season of Advent (the period leading up to Christmas) we are encouraged to look forward to Christmas and the joyful celebration of Jesus birth, but also simply to look, stop and reflect as we wait for Christmas Day to arrive and all that brings. Sadly, stopping, reflecting and waiting are not much valued these days because success is so often measured by doing, achieving multiple tasks and activities and so the big countdown to Christmas makes us focus on the big day and getting there as fast as we can.

Cont'd.....

But that's not what it really should be about. Instead Christmas is such a special time and reminds us that into our world comes a new life...

*a very special baby, born in a stable,
wrapped in swaddling clothes and laying in a manger.*

Jesus' birth says so much more to us when the nights are long and days are dark, when life's meaning has sunk into an uncolourful mire, we are reminded that it was into this darkness that Christ comes!

A cry from the stable God becomes man!
entering, experiencing, living and showing us how to live,
in the light of His Light!

A new dawn! For God is with us!

I wish you every blessing for a peaceful Christmas filled with love,
charity and hospitality.

Rev Sue Stilwell

ST MARY'S CHURCH REMEMBERS.....



On Sunday 11th November over 300 people attended St Mary's Church for the Remembrance Day Service to honour those who had given their lives in both world wars and more recent conflicts. The particular emphasis this year on the end of WWI was poignantly commemorated by the silhouettes and stories of the Might Men of Mymms at the end of each pew thanks to the hard work of Mike Allen. In the evening people gathered outside St Michael's Room to hear the bell-ringers join their colleagues around the country to ring for peace.



A memorable day - lest we forget.



The Memory Tree

As last year you are invited to remember a loved one at Christmas by writing a note on a star and hanging it on the Christmas Tree in the Church Porch. The stars will be collected up on Christmas Eve and placed upon the altar at the Midnight Service



CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2018



by Wendy Fuller
St Mary's Art Group

Sunday 16th December

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Eucharist
6.30pm Carol Service followed by refreshments and a Christmas Cake Sale

Sunday 23rd December - Services as usual

Monday 24th December - Christmas Eve

4.00pm Children's Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass with blessing of names on the Christmas Tree

Tuesday 25th December - Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Eucharist

Christmas Flowers.

Anyone who has visited St Mary's Church over the Christmas period cannot fail to notice how beautifully the church is decorated. This is all down to a valiant band, led by Diana Glanfield, who find time between all the other pressures of Christmas to provide such a stunning show. This doesn't come without a price and every year we ask for donations towards the cost of the flowers. There are plates in church from early December or you can give your donations to one of the Churchwardens or hand it in at the parish office.



If you would like future copies of this Newsletter posted to you then please send your name and address to the St Mary's Parish Office, North Mymms Park, Hatfield, AL9 7TN

Sunday Services at St Mary's

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Eucharist
1st Sunday of the Month 10.30am Family Service followed by a short
communion service
6.30pm Choral Evensong
3rd Sunday of the Month 11.30am Baptisms

Parish Registers for October and November 2018

Baptisms

21 October Edward and Alexander Hodgkinson

Funerals

5 October Funeral of Robert Fowler
9 October Burial of Ashes of Albert Nott
11 October Funeral of Barry Willis
19 October Burial of Ashes of Margaret Griffiths
26 October Funeral of Doris Chandler
28 October Burial of Ashes of Margaret Gilbert

Contact us

During the interregnum please contact either the Churchwardens or the Office Administrator for service bookings or queries.

Churchwardens

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Parish Office open Tuesday & Wednesday

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