

Services on Sunday 5th January 2019

Epiphany

St Mary's 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) Leading: Rev Ursula Simpson
Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9 (Martin Jarratt) Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

St James' Chapel Over Norton 9.15am Holy Communion (BCP)
Leading: Rev Ursula Simpson

St Mary's 10.45am Family Communion (with Sparklers, Ignite, Oneway)
Leading: Rev Martha Simpson Preaching: Rev James Kennedy & Ablaze)
Reading: Genesis 2:4-15 (Jamie/Rachel Bell) Prayers: Nicola Riley

Contacting St Mary's

Website: www.stmaryscnorton.com

Clergy Team

Team Rector of Chipping Norton Benefice:

Rev Dr James Kennedy

✉ vicar@stmaryscnorton.com

Tel: 01608 642688

N.B. James takes his rest day on a Friday

Curates

Rev Martha Simpson

Currently on Maternity Leave

Rev Toby Artis

✉ toby.artis@stmaryscnorton.com

Tel: 01608 644363

N.B. Toby takes his rest day on a Saturday

Team Vicar of Kingham & Churchill:

Rev David Salter

✉ david.w.salter@btinternet.com

Tel: 01608 658852

N.B. David takes his rest day on Friday

Team Ministers:

Rev Ursula Simpson

✉ ursula.simpson@stmaryscnorton.com

Tel: 01608 674541 (Mon-Wed)

Churchwardens

Graham Povey

Tim Woolcock

✉ churchwarden@stmaryscnorton.com

Financial Giving

If you would like to give to support the mission and ministry of St Mary's, may we encourage you to join our planned giving scheme. If you are a UK taxpayer you may be able to add Gift Aid which increases your giving by 25%. Please pick up a leaflet to explore ways to give or you can give online at <https://my.give.net/donations>

St Mary's is a caring fellowship.

Being a member of a **Small Group** is the best way to make sure you are both cared for, and able to care for others. For more information about joining a group please email smallgroups@stmaryscnorton.com. Otherwise, if you or anyone you know is sad or unwell, in hospital or in need of any other support, please let the Church Office know. We have a team of pastoral visitors who would love to help.

St Mary's

Chipping Norton



Sharing the life-changing love of Jesus
serving our whole community

Notices for Christmas Period (22nd–29th Dec)

God's greatest gift revealed...

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"
2 Corinthians 9:15



Welcome to St Mary's!

Christmas is the season when we hear a lot from the angels. Mary encounters the angel who tells her she is going to be the mother of the Christ-child. Joseph has his mind changed by an angel in a vivid dream. Then shepherds leave their sheep on the hills on the strength of their confrontation with a whole host of angels, to search for a baby in a feeding trough. And do you know what these visits had in common? All three start by the angels saying, "Do not be afraid". Well yes, meeting an angel would set the heart rate racing, but what it also tells us is that the angels expected that common human reaction; it's to be expected. There's a lot about life that leaves us anxious. We have all had a bit of a roller-coaster year and there's quite a lot of anxiety around. The message of the angels can give us encouragement though; whatever this season brings, we can walk through to the other side of fear and find joy in knowing that God has show his love in the action of coming to be with us. May you find the joy this Christmas of knowing that we are not left alone. God is with us.

Judith E. Marshall

SPARKLERS



ignite

Christingle Rehearsal Ignite & One Way in Parish Rooms on 22 December. Then during the Christmas holidays there are no Children and Youth groups.

Services This Sunday— 22 December 2019

4th Sunday of Advent

St Mary's 8am Holy Communion (BCP) Leading: Rev Martha Simpson
Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-16 (Matthew Carpenter) Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

St James' Chapel Over Norton (No service on 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

St Mary's 10.45am Morning Worship (with Sparklers, Ignite & OneWay)

Leading: Rev James Kennedy Preaching: Rev Judith Marshall
Reading: Matthew 1: 18-25 (Jen/Peter Williams) Prayers: (David/Susan Bishop)

*****NOTICES*****

THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU

We have had the most overwhelming response to requests for food for hampers - yesterday the Parish Rooms really did look like Father Christmas' sorting depo as items were sorted, wrapped and packed. Please be praying for the 30+ families who will be receiving hampers of various shapes and sizes - that this might help them to discover and see Jesus love for them in a really meaningful way. THANK YOU for your incredible generosity, may it be fruitful beyond our imagination.

Sunday morning at 10.45 for Children

On **Sun 29th Dec** we'll all be worshipping together for the whole service. Our regular provision for children and youth, Sparklers (age 0-3), Ignite (age 3-5) Oneway (age 6-11) & Ablaze (11-16) will resume after Christmas on **5th January**. Have a great Christmas!

Creation Care at St Mary's

What an incredibly beautiful and complex place we live! In January we'll be focussing on the gift of God's creation and our role in joining the worship of all God has made. Then for the whole Spring term we're having an eco focus in our events and activities. We're also going to embark on a journey as a church to decrease our negative impact and promote excellent eco standards in all we do, through A Rocha's Eco Church scheme. If you're particularly interested in any of this, please contact Martha - there are lots of ways to get involved!

Martha.simpson@Stmaryscnorton.com

Eco Engage Day

On Jan 12th we will be getting into Nature! Join us for Parish Lunch after the service, and then a welly walk or conservation activity in the Parish Rooms. As lunch may be more full than normal, please could you let Martha know if you intend to come so we can set enough places. And do bring some food to share - vegan challenge anyone?!

Martha.simpson@Stmaryscnorton.com

Youth Alpha

Youth Alpha launches on **5th January for 5 weeks on Sundays at 6-7.30pm in the Parish Rooms**. A great opportunity for our youth to share their faith with friends with food, games, and great conversations off the back of Alpha videos. Please be praying.

Alpha (Tuesdays 28th Jan - 31st March in the Parish Rooms)

If you've got questions about faith, or know other people who might, then Alpha is the perfect place to discuss anything from the existence of God, to suffering, to why life is worth living. Wherever you're at, you're welcome! Enjoy talking about the big questions of life over a

Christmas cards

Please check to see if you have any in the box-folder on pew near the door as you leave the church.

CHURCH DIARY

THIS FORTNIGHT (23 December 2019)

Monday 23 December

10.30am Christingle making in the Parish Rooms

Tuesday 24 December (CHRISTMAS EVE)

2.30pm Christingle Rehearsal

4.00pm Christingle Nativity Service

11.30pm Midnight Communion Service

CHRISTMAS DAY (Wednesday)

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.45am Family Celebration

Thursday 26 December NB No Midweek Communion this week

Sunday 29 December

8.00am (St Mary's) **NO Holy Communion on 5th Sunday**

St James' Over Norton (No service on 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

10.45am (St Mary's) **Benefice Holy Communion**

(N.B. to give our helpers a well-earned rest, there will be no crèche, Ignite, 'One Way' or Ablaze)

Leading: Rev Toby Artis Preaching: Sue Coyne

Readings: Matthew 2: 13-23 Lorraine Smith Prayers: tbc

CALENDAR OF FURTHER EVENTS

- Wed 1 Jan **NO 1st Priority Prayer on New Year's Day.**
- Sun 5 Jan **Youth Alpha starts** 6pm in Parish Rooms
- Sun 12 Jan **Parish Lunch** (12.45pm in Parish Rooms)
- Mon 13 Jan **Come for Tea** (2.30-4pm in Parish Rooms)
- Tue 14 Jan **Out to Lunch** (1- 2.30pm in Parish Rooms)
- Sun 19 Jan **Friends of St Mary's AGM** (12.30pm in Parish Rooms)
- Sat 25 Jan **Burns' Night Dinner** (7.30pm in Parish Rooms) *[Friends' Event]*
- Sun 26 Jan **United Service** (10.30am in Town Hall)
- Wed 6 Feb **Creative Prayer leading into 1st Priority Prayer** (5.30pm in church)
- Sat 8 Feb **Men's Fellowship Breakfast** (8.30am in Parish Rooms)
Followed by high level cleaning in the church.
- Sun 9 Feb **Encounter Service** (5.30 for 6.00pm in the Church)
- Mon 10 Feb **Come for Tea** (2.30-4pm in Parish Rooms)

