



St Mary's News

"One Church Worshipping in Different ways"

Welcome to the St Mary's Church family
We are a diverse Church community meeting in and for our village

25th December 2016

Worship 24th and 25th

Saturday 24th December

4pm Messy Crib Service
Gather the sheep @ St Mary's
11pm Midnight Communion

Sunday 25th December

8am BCP Holy Communion
10:00am Joint Service with
@11

Luke 2.1-20

In the coming weeks

Sunday 1st January

8am BCP Holy Communion
Stewart Timbrell
10:00am All-Age Holy
Communion

Matthew 2.13-23

Sunday 8th January

8am BCP Holy Communion
9:30am Holy Communion

Matthew 3.13-17

11am St Mary's @11

Sunday 15th January

8am BCP Holy Communion
Stewart Timbrell
10:00am Joint with Methodist
at Methodist church

John 1.29-42

11am St Mary's @11

Christmas Message from Stephen

Coming back to Lytchett Matravers has been a bit like a homecoming for me having left my job as a teacher at the primary school 9 years ago to teach in Poole. I keep bumping into people I taught, or whose children I taught, or who just remember a teacher with shorts and a guitar! I have spent a lot of time looking back at the great memories I shared with staff, students and parents whilst at the school.

But I know God has brought me here to do more than look back, and I'm excited to find out about what he has planned for us in the future. It has been great to see the new heating system put in place within 4 months of my licensing service, and I'm keen for us to keep focusing on how we can truly be a **Church for the whole community** of Lytchett Matravers. I know this will be about people and place but also prayer and priorities, our prayer as we discern God's priorities journeying forward. I'm reminded of the words of the Lord through Zechariah encouraging us to remember that the rebuilding of the temple would be achieved '**Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit**'.

Thank you to everyone who has made the first few months so settling and encouraging for my family and I. There have been many uplifting words and generous deeds that have helped our transition, a reminder of the importance of the 'small things' that Zechariah also mentions. As you journey through the celebrations of Christmas and into a New Year with all its hopes and fears I hope that you will join me in praying this prayer:

Heavenly Father, whose Son is **Immanuel** - God with us,
Help us to make your priorities ours this Christmas,
may our homes and our church be **filled with your love and peace**, that all who enter in will find rest, relationship and restoration,
may we grow in our faith and trust as we hear the familiar story afresh.

Help us move forward into the new year with hope,
And may our guiding light be the presence of Jesus Christ who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

News Sheet

If you would like to get the News sheet by email please contact Debbie (See below)

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Social Media

Facebook

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Twitter

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Prayer Focus

- Please pray for all those for whom Christmas is a hard time
- Praise God for the opportunities for time with friends and family over Christmas

The Churches Together Lunch

There is **NO** lunch on December 28th

Services Throughout Advent

Our first weekend with heating after 2 years 'out in the cold' was a great occasion. We began with **Messy Church** focusing on the Advent journey on Saturday early evening, this was followed on Sunday morning by 8am, 9.30 and @11 services. The weekend finished in fine style with our **Advent Carol service**, complete with candlelit carols and led by the Churches in Harmony Choir. We were pleased to welcome **Liz Wallis**, the Diocesan Trust Officer whose committee had awarded us £10,000 towards the cost of the new heating system. Apparently, according to one longstanding member of our congregation, the church is the warmest it has been for over 60 years!



The Knittivity...

The knitted nativity set has been journeying around the village this Advent, having various 'Advent'ures and meeting lots of different families. We pray that everyone who hosted the family will have been blessed by the time they had to stop and think about Mary and Joseph's journey, and will return to church with their sheep on Christmas eve. Thank you to all those who have made this special event happen.



Stephen