



St Mary's News

"One Church Worshipping in Different ways"

Sunday 1st January

8am BCP Holy Communion
Stewart Timbrell

10am Christmas Communion – all ages welcome

Sunday 8th January

8am BCP Holy Communion
9.30am CW Communion
@11am All-Age Worship

Sunday 15th January

8am BCP Holy Communion
Stewart Timbrell
10am United Worship service at The Methodist Chapel
6pm BCP Evensong

Sunday 22nd January

8am BCP Holy Communion
9:30am CW Holy Communion
@11 Informal All-Age Worship

Sunday 29th January

8am BCP Holy Communion
Stewart Timbrell
9:30am CW Holy Communion
@11 Informal All-Age Worship

All morning services also available online

www.smlm.co.uk/livestream/

[St Mary's Calendar](#)

Welcome to the St Mary's Church family

We are a diverse Church community meeting in and for our village

Happy New Year

When a new year comes around we can spend much time looking both forward and back. Our screens and papers are filled with reviews of the year, there are discussions about the most remarkable successes and failures of 2022, along with things to watch out for in 2023. It certainly has been a momentous year in many areas of life and many parts of the world. We've seen some especially disturbing and troubling scenes along with some joyous and beautiful moments. In our own lives we will also have had ups and downs, pain and joy, battles and blessings.

The reality is that our battles and blessings will continue, but the good news is that God knows exactly what we are going through. We are never alone in our struggles because God is with us, and has journeyed through similar struggles in life as we see illustrated in the beginnings of Jesus' life in our Bible readings at this time of year.

One article that always appears around this time is 'Famous people who have died in 2022', some of these people we will know and some we won't. I am reminded that what can't yet be told is 'Famous people who were born in 2022', only time will tell what contribution those just beginning to sit up and talk will make to life in the future. What we do know is that God loves each one and wants good things for them, just as he does for us. It is said the two greatest days of our lives are the day we are born, and the day we find out why. As well as noting that about 140 million babies were born in 2022, there are also millions of people who have found their 'why' in Jesus Christ as the way, the life and the truth. We can each make this rediscovery every day but especially at milestone moments, noting that God loves us and is with us every step of our lives.

So, this New year, let us remember that God invites us, through the Gospel story, to be part of a bigger story, a story of hope, love and joy. This is a story that leads through this life and on into eternity and, on the way, we will have the wonderful opportunity to share God's invitation onto the journey, just as we were invited by others in the past.

Stephen.

Let's pray: Lord Jesus, your journey down to earth to live as one of us showed us the depth of your love for humanity. Help us to know the living hope as we deal with the trials and triumphs in our lives today. We want 2023 to be a year when we share your joy, acknowledge your blessing, receive your strength and grow closer to you day by day. May we be daily renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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)

Or visit

<http://www.smlm.co.uk/blog/>

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News Sheet and Website

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Prayers

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Social Media

[Facebook](#)

[Bellringing Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who made our Christmas celebration such a joyous time, to all who have been working hard behind the scenes supporting the ministry and mission of our church. Over Christmas we had lots of visitors join us for our various Christmas services, as well as our Sustainable Christmas installations. We were also able to give donations to the Children's Society, Ukraine Relief, Routes to Roots and to Missionaries - Chris and Kezia Pain - working in Japan.

It continues to be a privilege to lead this Church and I look forward to the new year with excitement and anticipation as we await to see what God may do in us and through us and the wider community in 2023.

Stephen.

Prayers

- Pray for the Church, especially in places of conflict
- Pray for the Holy Land, for peace with justice, and reconciliation
- Pray for refugees and asylum seekers
- Pray for homeless people
- Pray for all who have lost hope

Church Calendar

<https://www.smlm.co.uk/events/calendar/>

JANUARY		
1 st 10am	Christmas Communion	St Mary's
10 th 7.30pm	PCC	St Mary's