

WELCOME

All Christians who would normally do so are invited to receive communion. If you wish not to receive, please come forward for a blessing. **Gluten free Communion Wafers** are available on request in advance. You are warmly invited to coffee afterwards



CHILDREN

Children are very welcome at St Mary's. Junior Church takes place in the Parish Room during the Sung Eucharist. There is also a children's corner in Church for supervised pre-school children.

16th December 2018
The Third Sunday of Advent

Hymns

705, 527, 691, 263, 381, 695

TODAY

Welcome to Revd. Malcolm Surman who is leading us in worship today.

St Mary's Carol Service takes place this afternoon at 4pm.

Retiring Collection for our December charity: This month we are collecting for The Children's Society.

THIS WEEK

Carols with friends at Basingfield Court: all welcome to join the residents on Weds 19th December at 2.30 pm

St Mary's Junior School Carol Service takes place this Weds, 19th December at 6.30 pm.

Ploughmen's Lunches This Thursday 20th December at 12.30 pm. All welcome.

BITS & PIECES

BLUE CANDLES are on sale in the parish room this Sunday (16th), £1 each. Silver pens are on hand for you to write the name of a loved one on your candle. Bring your candle to light as part of the BLUE CHRISTMAS service on Dec. 21st. (refreshments from 5.00 for 6.00) or leave it for us to light if you are unable to come to the service. Candles will also be available at the service on 21st *Jeanette and Penny*

Christmas Tree Festival: We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped or contributed to last weekend's Tree Festival. It was very successful with many visitors enjoying the wonderful trees and voting Rosey and David Stevens 'Our Global Family – Flotsam & Jetsam' Tree as their favourite. The current value raised stands at £1,514. **Raffle prizes:** Please check the table in the Parish Room where there are uncollected prizes. *Jeanette, Ian, Anne, Penny, Katharine & Sue*

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS,
Sunday 16th Dec at 5pm

ST MARY'S JUNIOR SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE

Weds 20th Dec, 6.30 pm

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Friday 21st Dec, 6pm
(refreshments from 5pm)

CRIB SERVICES

Jesus' Christmas Party
3pm & 4.30 pm on Christmas Eve

MIDNIGHT EUCHARIST

11.30 pm Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS DAY

8am Holy Communion;
9.30 am All Age Eucharist

THE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE Last Sunday's service was a great success and was arranged and led by Andree McLean and our Junior Church team without clergy assistance. Great thought had been given to the presentation of the idea of Christingle and this was appreciated by the large number of families who attended.

Our grateful thanks to Andree and her team for all their hard work. Without them we would have been unable to hold this service this year. *The Churchwardens*

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH The Friends exist to raise funds for the repair of the Church. They have already agreed to give £80,000 towards the repairs to be carried out in 2019. Membership is open to all and funds are raised from membership fees and events. If you would like to know more please contact me.

This year's major event was the pantomime in November. The cast and backstage crew had spent many months preparing and it played to sell out audiences over three performances with great success.

It was supported by the Junior School and by the many who gave their time unstintingly. Many services and supplies, such as the lighting and cast and crew catering, were donated. As a result of all this it made a profit of £6,178.16.

The Committee are very grateful for all the support received from everyone.
Ian Kershaw – Chair.

Basingstoke Foodbank - Christmas Day Free Lunch If you know of anyone who is going to be isolated, alone or won't have the funds to buy food for Christmas Day please let Debbie Filer know or contact Jenny McCloy at the Foodbank via email: jennymccloy@hotmail.co.uk.

Carol Concert in aid of The Samaritans Weds 19th Dec, 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church, London Street. £7 charge (children free) which includes mulled wine & mince pies.

Big Turkey Community Christmas Lunch - It's not too late if you'd like to join in the lunch on **Saturday, 29th December**, at Old Basing Village Hall. If you'd like to join in the celebrations please contact Rachel Jones on 07717 002651, email:

rachelj.broadwater@googlemail.com

A PRAYER DURING THE VACANCY

Heavenly Father,
As we seek to discern the qualities we hope to find in our new Vicar, we pray that you will direct us with your Wisdom. Give us grace to listen to your Holy Word and open our hearts and minds to receive your wishes for us here in Old Basing and Lychpit.
In Jesus' name AMEN

Please pray for....

- Christ's light and love to break into our lives and the lives of others;
- Courage to live lives of integrity and faith.
- People experiencing poverty, hunger, longlines and homelessness, particularly in this festive season;
- Those using and volunteering at the Basingstoke Winter Night Shelter;
- The work of The Children's Society;
- Regions of conflict and disaster: Syria; Afghanistan; Myanmar; South Sudan; Iraq; Congo; Yemen; Indonesia;
- Residents of Basingfield Court & Oakfields;
- Those who are sick or suffering, among them: Jackie Deadman; Esther Wong; Jenny Surridge; and all in sorrow and pain.
- All those who have died recently: and those whose anniversaries fall at this time, and those who grieve for them; Sylvia Barton on her 10th anniversary.

During the service a collection will be taken during the Offertory Hymn. If you miss this collection, gifts can be placed in the wall pillar. Gift Aid envelopes are available in the pews. Deo Gratias. Registered Charity No. 1136606

PARISH CONTACTS:

Churchwardens - Mrs Tricia Renwick 326155, trisha.renwick@gmail.com; Mr Ian Kershaw 355500, igfkershaw@btinternet.com

Home Communion Enquiries – please contact the Parish Administrator

Parish Administrator & Parish Room Bookings - Mrs Debbie Filer 07541 698235 admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

Friends of St Mary's (Enquiries to 355500) **St Mary's Church Website Address:** www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk