

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.

23rd December 2018
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Hymns

480, 634, 683, 678, 691, 259

TODAY

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

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

BITS & PIECES

Vicar Announcement The following announcement was made at St Mary's last Sunday:

Thank you to everyone who prayed for and contributed to the recent interviews for a new Vicar. We are pleased to be able to tell you that Revd Heather Leppard, currently Assistant Curate in the Parish of Harnham in the Salisbury Diocese, has been offered and has accepted the post of Vicar in this parish. This appointment is subject to statutory checks and clearances before it can be made formal, but we can now look forward to a licensing service, hopefully in the summer

The Churchwardens and Administrator thank everyone for all their help throughout the year and wish you a very Happy & Peaceful Christmas.

Christmas Tree Festival: We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped or contributed to the recent 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 latest total raised stands at £1,759.61 **Raffle prizes:** Please check the table in the Parish Room where there are uncollected prizes. **Jeanette, Ian, Anne, Penny, Katharine & Sue**

THE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE The recent 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*

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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

Congratulations to Helen Holley who has been awarded a place on the Bishop's Permission to Preach Programme. This is a pilot programme and as such there were only 12 places available.

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.

Cathedral Passes A reminder that the Parish has 6 free passes to Winchester Cathedral. Please ask Penny Potter if you wish to borrow one for a visit.

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.

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.
- Thankfulness for times of being reunited with family or friends
- 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;

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