

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.

15th December 2019 The Third Sunday of Advent

Hymns

221, 259, 231, 295, 929, 631

TODAY

Retiring Collection The Children's Society is St Mary's chosen charity for December.

Carols at Oakfields All welcome to join Revd Heather and our friends at Oakfields in carol singing this morning at 11.30 am.

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

THIS WEEK

Morning prayer Due to the current building work Morning Prayer is being said in the **Parish Room** on Monday, Thursday & Friday at 8:30 am.

Funeral of Kenneth Bezant on Monday 16th December at 1.15 pm at Basingstoke Crematorium.

Advent Meditation and Compline Reflective services pondering some of the Old Testament prophecies relating to Jesus' birth. Monday 16th & 23rd Dec, 7.30 pm, in the Bolton Chapel.

Funeral of Brenda Hall on Tuesday 17th December at 11.30 am at Aldershot Crematorium.

Funeral of Eileen Dugate on Tuesday 17th December at 11.45 am at Basingstoke Crematorium.

There is a service of **Holy Communion** at 10 am, Wednesday in the Bolton Chapel.

Join us for Carols with our friends at Basingfield Court: all welcome to come and sing carols with the residents on Weds 18th Dec. at 2.30 pm. Do stay for a cup of tea and a chat afterwards if you are able.

St Mary's Junior School Carol Service All welcome to join with the children and staff of St Mary's Junior School for their Carol Service on Weds 18th Dec. At 5.30 pm there will be a lantern procession from the Junior School car park, arriving at the church for the service at 6pm. All welcome to stay afterwards for refreshments.

Ploughmen's Lunches This Thursday 19th December at 12.30 pm in the Parish Room. All welcome

St Mary's Junior School End of Term Visits All welcome to join the children of St Mary's Junior School for their end of term church visits. The children will come down in three separate groups (9.15 am, 10 am & 11 am)

Blue Christmas Service Friday 20th December at 6pm (refreshments from 5.15 pm). A gentle service of comfort and hope for those feeling a sense of loss at Christmas.

LOOKING FORWARD

Christmas drinks at the Vicarage Revd Heather and Dominic invite you to drop into the vicarage for mulled wine and mince pies on Sunday 22nd December, between 2pm to 4pm.

SAVE THE DATE - Parish Vision Day All are invited and encouraged to join a planned Parish Vision Day on Saturday 8th February (10 am - 3 pm). The event will take place at St John's Church in Hartley Wintney (transport can be arranged if necessary). Further details to follow.

BITS & PIECES.

Christmas Tree Festival The festival was a fantastic event with a great atmosphere. It was great to welcome so many people into the church over the weekend. Our thanks to everyone involved whether as a Christmas tree designer, helper or visitor. Congratulations to St Mary's Junior School who were voted as the most favourite tree.

Income from festivals is essential if we are to maintain our mission. We are very pleased to report that £1,881.46 was raised for church funds. You have a chance to increase this figure. The Stanley family have asked the team to sell their unique tree. Please have a look at it in the Bolton Chapel. If you would like to buy it speak to Ian. The highest offer received will secure this work of art.

The Christmas Tree Festival Team

2020 Charities Thank you to all those who nominated charities for 2020. The PCC have agreed that the charities we will be supporting next year are Christian Aid, St Francis' Hospital, Katete, Veterans Aid,

Katakala, The Leprosy Mission, Basingstoke Foodbank, The Night Shelter, Toilet Twinning, Hampshire & IoW Air Ambulance, The Children's Society, Christians Against Poverty and The Old Basing Scout Hut Appeal.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CRIB SERVICES

2.30 pm & 4pm on Christmas Eve

MIDNIGHT EUCHARIST

11.30 pm Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS DAY

8 am Holy Communion;

9.30 am All Age Eucharist

Christmas Carol Concert supporting Basingstoke Samaritans Weds 18th December, 7.30 pm, United Reformed Church, London Street, Basingstoke. An entertaining mix of carols to listen to and join in. (Conductor - Ian May-Miller Organist - Nick Willmer).

Tesco Toy Appeal We are once again supporting this appeal. A box is in the lobby. Toys should be unwrapped please. Thank you for your generosity.

Please pray for....

- Peace in our hearts and stillness in our lives as we prepare to welcome Christ this Christmas;
- Those in our community experiencing poverty, hunger and need; the work of the Basingstoke Night Shelter;
- Our newly elected members of parliament;
- The work of The Children's Society;
- Our global partners in Katakala;
- Regions of conflict and disaster;
- Residents of Basingfield Court & Oakfields;
- Our families and friends in this community, especially those who are sick or suffering, among them: Jackie Deadman; Esther Wong; Jean Schluter; Rachel Parks; Irene Alloway; David Taylor; all in sorrow & pain
- All those who have died recently; particularly Del Davis (Caroline's mum from the parish of St Peter's Henleaze); Brenda Hall; Eileen Dugate; Kenneth Bezant; 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. Thank you. Registered Charity No 1136606

PARISH CONTACTS:

Vicar - Revd. Heather Leppard 363612 or 07745 731729, vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk (day off Tuesday)

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

Home Communion Enquiries – please contact the Vicar

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

Safeguarding Officer - Mrs Jeanette Edwards 07783 091275 safeguarding@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

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