

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.

29th December 2019
The First Sunday of Christmas

Hymns

370, 486, 700, 321, 507, 755

TODAY

Retiring Collection The Children's Society is St Mary's chosen charity for December. In January we shall be supporting the work of Veteran's Aid.

THIS WEEK

Morning prayer will be said in the **Parish Room** on Monday, Thursday and Friday at 8:30 am. It will also be said on **Wednesday 1st January at 10 am.**

Men's Breakfast This Saturday 4th January at 8.45 am in the Parish Room

LOOKING FORWARD

Baptism celebration, Sunday 12th January, 9:30 am. At this service we will be celebrating the baptism of Christ and it is an opportunity too for us to remember and give thanks for our baptism. Please do come along, and bring your baptism candle to be relit. (If you don't have a baptism candle, other candles will be available on the day).

Parish Vision Day All are invited and encouraged to join a planned Parish Vision Day on Saturday 8th February (10 am - 3 pm). It is a day to pray together and consider our corporate calling as St Marys. We will be able to reflect together on the ethos and direction of the church, how we are as Christian

community and how we connect with and serve the wider community, both now and in the years to come. It is an opportunity for the whole church community to have a say and be heard. The event will take place at St John's Church in Hartley Wintney (transport can be arranged if necessary) and lunch will be provided.

BITS & PIECES.

Thank You to all those who have made our Christmas Services run so smoothly as we have shared the love and light of the infant Christ this Christmas in our beautiful church.

Congratulations to Chris Beadle who has been awarded a British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List in recognition of his services to the community of Basingstoke & Old Basing.

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.

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.

New Rotas for the first three months of 2020 have now been circulated. Please get in touch with Debbie Filer if you haven't received your copy.

Please pray for....

- Peace in our hearts and stillness in our lives as we 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;
- For our vision day, that as a community we may be guided by the Holy Spirit;
- 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 Allaway; David Taylor; all in sorrow & pain
- All those who have died recently; particularly Madam Augustine Quashigah; and those whose anniversaries fall at this time: particularly Neil Bennett; Rosemary Jacobs;

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