

# Services Next Sunday— 23 December 2018

## 4th Sunday of Advent

**St Mary's 8am Holy Communion (BCP)** Leading: Rev James Kennedy  
Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10 (Martin Jarratt) Gospel: Luke 1:39-45[46-55]

**St James' Chapel Over Norton (No service on 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)**

**St Mary's 10.45am Morning Worship (Christingle rehearsal (see page 2) & Ablaze)**

Leading: Rev Ursula Simpson Preaching: Rev James Kennedy  
Reading: Luke 1:39-55 (Yolande van Wyk) Prayers: David/Susan Bishop

## Contacting St Mary's

Website: [www.stmaryscnorton.com](http://www.stmaryscnorton.com)

### Clergy Team

**Team Rector of Chipping Norton Benefice:**

**Rev Dr James Kennedy**  
☎ [vicar@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:vicar@stmaryscnorton.com)  
Tel: 01608 642688

*N.B. James takes his rest day on a Friday*

**Curates**

**Rev Martha Simpson**  
Currently on Maternity Leave

**Rev Toby Artis**  
☎ [toby.artis@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:toby.artis@stmaryscnorton.com)  
Tel: 01608 644363  
*N.B. Toby takes his rest day on a Saturday*

**Team Vicar of Kingham & Churchill:**

**Rev David Salter**  
☎ [david.w.salter@btinternet.com](mailto:david.w.salter@btinternet.com)  
Tel: 01608 658852  
*N.B. David takes his rest day on Friday*

**Team Ministers:**

**Rev Ursula Simpson**  
☎ [ursula.simpson@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:ursula.simpson@stmaryscnorton.com)  
Tel: 01608 674541 (Mon-Wed)

**Rev Jackie Jones**  
☎ [jackie.jones@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:jackie.jones@stmaryscnorton.com)  
Tel: 01608 658616

### Churchwardens

**Graham Povey**  
**Tim Woolcock**  
☎ [churchwarden@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:churchwarden@stmaryscnorton.com)

### Financial Giving

If you would like to give to support the mission and ministry of St Mary's, may we encourage you to join our planned giving scheme. If you are a UK taxpayer you may be able to add Gift Aid which increases your giving by 25%. Please pick up a leaflet to explore ways to give or you can give online at <https://my.give.net/donations>

### St Mary's is a caring fellowship

Being a member of a **Small Group** is the best way to make sure you are both cared for, and able to care for others. For more information about joining a group please email [smallgroups@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:smallgroups@stmaryscnorton.com). Otherwise, if you or anyone you know is sad or unwell, in hospital or in need of any other support, please let the Church Office know. We have a team of pastoral visitors who would love to help.

### Youth, Children & Families

**Jonny Lowe (Youth Worker)**  
☎ [youth@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:youth@stmaryscnorton.com)  
Tel: 01608 645668  
*N.B. Jonny takes his rest day on a Saturday*

**Becca Sterry (Children and Families Worker)**  
☎ [becca.sterry@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:becca.sterry@stmaryscnorton.com)  
Tel: 01608 645668  
*N.B. Becca works part-time*

**Catherine Spring (School and Community Support Worker)**  
☎ [catherine.spring@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:catherine.spring@stmaryscnorton.com)  
Tel: 01608 645668  
*N.B. Catherine works part-time*

### Office

**Church Administrator**  
**Emma Bayley**  
☎ [office@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:office@stmaryscnorton.com)  
Tel: 01608 646202

**Administrative Manager (and Finance)**  
**Emily O'Shea**  
☎ [finance@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:finance@stmaryscnorton.com)  
Tel: 01608 645668

### Church Office

**St Mary's Parish Rooms, Church Street,  
Chipping Norton OX7 5NT**  
(Office hours 09.00-11.30 weekday mornings)  
Registered charity no.: 1132070



Sharing the life-changing love of Jesus  
serving our whole community

16 December 2018  
3rd Sunday of Advent  
Holy Communion

## Incarnation: willing to live in the mess... refining with fire

"I baptise you with water. But one more powerful than I will come... He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Luke 3:16

## Welcome to today's service!

Our Christmas festivities get ever closer and, at the same time we continue to look forward, not only to celebrating the fact that Jesus was born in all humility to save us, but also to make sure that we are prepared for when he comes again in power. Today, as our passage describes what 'being prepared' might look like for each of us, John the Baptist continues to point to the advent of the Messiah with a message of repentance and a warning of judgement. Just as he dare not draw attention to himself - we too must not regard our belongings, status or religious habits as an alternative to encountering the one who brings reality, life and judgement. How many spare sets of clothing do we have in our cupboards? What else do we have in our homes that we've accumulated over and above our needs? This week alone we received six new referrals at St Mary's, asking us how we might be able to help people who are moving into our community between now and Christmas with nothing but what they can carry. "What should we do then?" the crowds asked... 'We might not be tax collectors or soldiers, but what might our own personal responses be? Whatever our station in life - we cannot expect to get preferential treatment when God's chosen one comes. He will sift all of us and reveal whether we are those who live in expectation of the coming of our saviour and judge or are found to be insubstantial like chaff. Advent is clearly both glorious and terrible. Let's make it glorious for each of us and refuse to allow anything to hold us back as we lay down our lives in preparation for our Christmas celebrations!

James Kennedy (Vicar)



We love having families of all ages in our 10.45am service. All children and youth are welcome to join our groups: Sparklers (under 3s), Ignite (3-5 years), One Way (6-11 years) and Ablaze (youth aged 11-16 years).

## Services This Sunday— 16 December 2018

### 3rd Sunday of Advent

**St Mary's 8am Holy Communion (BCP)** Leading: Rev Victor Story  
Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10 (Barbara Ambrose) Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

**St James' Chapel Over Norton 9.15am Carol Service** Leading: Rev Toby Artis

**St Mary's 10.45am Holy Communion (with Sparklers, Ignite, One Way & Ablaze)**

**Leading:** Rev James Kennedy **Preaching:** Rev Richard Cunningham

Reading: Luke 3:7-18 (Sue Coyne) Prayers: Emma Fourie

**6.00pm Candlelit Carol Service followed by mulled wine & mince pies**

### \*\*\*\*\*NOTICES\*\*\*\*\*

**Update on buildings plans.** Immediately after 10.45 service today there will be a short presentation by the project team to update on progress with the purchase of the former NatWest building. If you have any questions or are interested in hearing more please do grab a coffee and stay on after the service.

### Christmas Services

We welcome many visitors from the community to our Christmas Services. Please consider if you can help with stewarding/welcome at any of the evening services: Sunday 16th December, Monday 24th December (Christingle at 4pm or Midnight Communion at 11.30pm) or on Christmas Day morning. Please let either Jane Butler or Linda Carpenter know if you can help or email: [churchwarden@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:churchwarden@stmaryscnorton.com) Thank you!

### Childrens Groups and Christingle

With Christmas coming, all our children's groups will be taking a break.

Sparklers/Ignite/One Way finish **16th December** and restart **6th January**

\*Christingle Rehearsal on **23rd December**- all children welcome!\*

Popcorn Sunday on **30th December**

Minis finishes with the Christmas celebration on **19th December** and will restart on **9th January**

Mini Movers will return on **11th January**

**The Christingle Service** is the highlight of the year for so many people in the church and in the town. We can't have a nativity without children though! We'll be rehearsing on 23rd December during the service and then briefly before the service on Christmas Eve. If your child would like to be involved in the nativity, please let Becca or Catherine know as soon as possible (by 21st December) so roles and costumes can be allocated/arranged!

*Have a very merry Christmas. Every blessing, Becca*

### Wooden trestle tables for sale

Two of the wooden trestle tables and one white table (used for serving coffee in the church) are for sale. Donations in excess of £25 invited. Please contact the Church Office.

### Outreach request for washing machines

If anyone has unused washing machines that can be donated to the St Mary's Outreach projects please get in touch with Emma Kennedy. She has received six referrals this week of people being rehoused before Christmas.

## CHURCH DIARY

**THIS WEEK : 17—22 December 2018**

**Mon 17 Dec St Mary's Pilates** (6pm in Parish Rooms)

**Over Norton Carols on the Green** (6.30pm)

**Tue 18 Dec CN Schools' Carol Concert** (7pm in the church)

*Rehearsing in the Church all day 9am—2.30pm*

**Wed 19 Dec St Mary's Minis Christmas Service & Party** (10am in church and 10.30-12noon in Parish Rooms)

**Heythrop Hunt Carol Service** (6.30pm at St Mary's Salford)

**Thu 20 Dec Thursday Communion Christmas Service & lunch**

*(11am in Parish Rooms)*

**St Mary's School's Carol Service** (6pm in the church)

**Fri 21 Dec Lawrence Home Nursing Team's Candle Service**

*(7pm on Town Hall Steps followed by mulled wine & mince pies in Town Hall)*

## CALENDAR OF FURTHER EVENTS

**Sun 23 Dec Christingle Making** (2-3.30pm in St Mary's Church)

**Mon 24 Dec Setting Up for Christingle Service** (12noon in Church)

**Christmas Eve Christingle run through** (2.30pm in Church)

**Christingle Service** (4pm in Church)

**Midnight Communion Service** (11.30pm in Church)

**Tue 25 Dec Christmas Day**

**8am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**10.45am Family Celebration**

**2019**

**Tue 2 Jan 1st Priority Prayer** (7.30pm in the Church)

**Mon 14 Jan Come for Tea** (2.30-4.00pm in Parish Rooms)

**Sun 20 Jan Friends of St Mary's AGM** (12.30pm in Parish Rooms)

**Sat 26 Jan Burns Night Dinner** (7.30pm in Parish Rooms) **Friends event**

Tickets £23 (to include 3-course dinner) and more information from Kirsty Garrett [kirsty.garrett@gmail.com](mailto:kirsty.garrett@gmail.com) or 07747 103749

**Sun 27 Jan United Service** (10.30 am in Town Hall)

*For further information, please contact the Church Office*