

**THIS WEEK'S SERVICES
AROUND THE TEAM**

SUNDAY 17th December**St Mary's Saffron Walden**

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion (livestreamed) +
Team JC
6.30pm Carol Service (livestreamed)

St Mary's Debden

6.30pm Carol Service refreshments from 5.30pm

All Saints Wimbish

3.00pm Carol Service

All Saints Ashdon

9.00am Holy Communion
6.30pm Carol Service followed by refreshments

St Botolph's Hadstock

9.00am Sunday Worship

Holy Trinity Littlebury

6.00pm Carol Service

St Peter's Littlebury Green

4.00pm Carols & Christingle

St Mary's Wendens Ambo

6.30pm Carol Service

All Saints Great Chesterford

4.00pm Christingle

St Mary's Little Chesterford

3.30pm Carol Service

TUESDAY

8.30am Morning Prayer, Hadstock
9.30am Tinies, Saffron Walden
5.00pm Evening Prayer - Zoom only, SW

WEDNESDAY

8.00am Morning Prayer, Saffron Walden
9.30am Holy Communion
9.30am Building Blocks, Gt Chesterford

NEXT SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER

St Mary's Saffron Walden

10.30am Holy Communion (livestreamed)
4.00pm Tree lighting service
6.00pm Tree lighting service
11.30pm Holy Communion

St Mary's Debden

5.00pm Nativity service

All Saints Wimbish

3.00pm Nativity service
11.00pm Holy Communion

St James' Sewards End

11.30pm Holy Communion

All Saints Ashdon

4.00pm Christingle & Carols
11.30pm Holy Communion

St Botolph's Hadstock

6.00pm Light of the World service

Holy Trinity Littlebury

6.00pm Crib Service

St Mary's Wendens Ambo

4.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm Holy Communion

All Saints Great Chesterford

11.30pm Holy Communion

The Grapevine

**Welcome to our services today
3rd Sunday of Advent
17th December 2023**

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of
your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading: Isaiah 61 v 1-4, 8-11

Psalms: 126

Second Reading: 1Thessalonians 5 v 16-24

Gospel: John 1 v 6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

"Make straight the way of the Lord",
as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptise with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising.

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

In December please pray for: New Life church, St Peter's, Littlebury Green, Holy Trinity, Littlebury and Great Chesterford Primary School

The family and friends of those who have died recently: June Hurry

EVENTS

CAROL SINGING ROUND THE TREE at Swards End Village Hall in aid of CRISIS followed by mulled wine and mince pies (and child-friendly refreshments!) on **Wednesday 20th December at 6pm.**

CAROLS ON THE GREEN We will be gathering on Horse River Green in Great Chesterford at **6.30pm** on **Thursday 21st December** to sing carols around the Christmas Tree. We will be led by Janet Cattley and there will be a barbecue selling hotdogs, marshmallows on a fire pit and mulled wine to keep you warm while you sing. There will be a bucket collection but there are no tickets, just turn up and join in.

BLUE CHRISTMAS on **Thursday 21st December** at **7.30pm** at St Mary's, SW is a quiet service for those who wish to mark Christmas, but find it too difficult to celebrate. **All welcome.**

EVENING PRAYER (Saffron Walden via Zoom) will take place on **Tuesday 26th December at 5pm.** The link for this service is on the Bulletin.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

St Mary's Saffron Walden

10.30am Family Communion

St Mary's Debden with Wimbish

9.00am Family Communion

All Saints Ashdon with Hadstock

9.00am Holy Communion

St James' Swards End

10.30am Holy Communion

St John's Little Walden

10.30am Holy Communion

St Mary's Wendens Ambo

10.30am Family Communion

Holy Trinity Littlebury with Littlebury Green

10.30am Holy Communion

All Saints Great Chesterford

10.30am Family Communion

St Mary's Little Chesterford

9.00am Holy Communion

TEAM SERVICE on **Sunday 31st January** at **10.30am** hosted by St Mary's, SW. A chance for everyone across the team to worship together.

NOTICES

The **HOLY COMMUNION** service on **Wednesday 20th December** at St Mary's, SW will start at **9.00am** instead of the usual 9.30am to allow time for RAB school carol service to follow.

TREE LIGHTING service at 6pm and **HOLY COMMUNION** service at 11.30pm on 24th December at St Mary's, SW. We desperately need more people to act as Welcomers at these services. If you are able to help please contact Pamela on 521697 or pjmteddybear@btinternet.com **THANK YOU.**

WIGGLE CHURCH We have made the decision to stop Team JC at the end of this term. We feel it is time to bring in a new Sunday morning provision for families at St Mary's Church and in Saffron Walden. I'm pleased to announce that we will be starting Wiggle Church a morning filled with fun, faith, and friendship held on the first Sunday of the month starting on **January 7th, 2024, at 9.15am**, in the Parish Rooms. Starting with croissants and coffee, the perfect fuel for an energetic morning of dancing, singing and activities. At 9.30am, the Wiggle Church will start, a lively and engaging 30 minute service for 0-7 years olds and their families. If you have any questions, please email me. *Matt Williamson*

Foreign and British commemorative **STAMPS, CURRENCY & BRITISH COINS** and notes that are no longer in circulation, please hand to me or St Mary's Parish Office. All proceeds go to Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. *Margaret Walters*

Please send items for the **GRAPEVINE** to Claire Dunn by **WEDNESDAY at 9.00am** to admin@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

If you need to contact Rev'd Trew, please use email as the rectory telephone line is awaiting repair.

MINISTRY TEAM

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Links for livestreamed services are available on the weekly bulletin.

Please contact the Team Administrator to be added to the mailing list.