



St. Mary the Virgin, Hartfield Holy Trinity, Colemans Hatch

First Reading: Psalm 116 1-2

I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.
Because he turned his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.

Second Reading: John 10: 1-10

The good shepherd and his sheep

‘Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger’s voice.’ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

Therefore Jesus said again, ‘Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Farewell and Thanks to Katrina, Andy, Alex and Lucy. Not forgetting 'Arthur'!



As many of you will be aware, Andy, Alex, Lucy and I will be moving at the end of the year so that I can take up the post of Associate Minister at Christ Church Chilwell in Nottinghamshire.

Preparations for the move are well underway - we are in the process of purchasing a house close to the church, and we have started the slow process of packing! The house is an extended dormer bungalow, 6 minutes' walk from both church and school, and a short walk from the tram stop to go to the train station, hospital and city.

We heard this week that Alex and Lucy have been offered places at the school closest to the church- this school seemed like a really good fit for them both, and well able to deal with Alex's medical needs.

Our prayer needs over the coming weeks are:

- *To give thanks for school places*
- *That the additional questions and specialist surveys of the house we are buying meet the needs to our bank*
- *That we can get a reasonable removals quote and start talking dates*
- *That Alex's regular visits to the hospital continue to be straightforward, and that the appointment with the surgeon in December is helpful*

We are so thankful for messages of love and support we have received as we prepare to move at Christmas and look forward to spending a little time with as many of you as possible on the 23rd of December.

Katrina, Andy, Alex and Lucy

The 23rd December is a joint service at 10am at St Mary's. During that service we will be thanking Katrina and praying for them as a family. We will then join together for a celebratory ploughman's lunch; cake and something sparkly. We would love to bless Katrina with a gift.

If you would like to give something towards the gift, please put it in an envelope with 'Katrina's present' clearly written on the blue envelope.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

As we head towards the season of Advent and the festival of Christmas a truly warm welcome (in every sense) awaits everyone at St Mary's thanks to the new heating system and so much more. The ground floor of the tower has been transformed and now contains long awaited toilet facilities as well as a stunning new mezzanine room. In the main body of the church the nave floor has been re-varnished and is much more in keeping with the rest of the building. The font has been moved to a more central location and a new refreshment area has been installed. Huge thanks are due to Dave Scott, Joel and the team who have worked tirelessly on these projects as well as carrying out unseen but essential infrastructure work such as mains water and sewerage, rewiring, installing a data network and making structurally sound the beams that support the ringing chamber.

The work so far will be celebrated in a service of dedication in the Spring. This service will be a time of thanksgiving to God and a dedication of all the work carried out. There is still some way to go: in early 2019 we will be making the important addition of an up-to-date audio-visual system. Further stages which will help us make full use of the new facilities will involve installing safety double glazing in the mezzanine room so that it can be used as more than a storage area and creating a children's area in the south west corner of the nave. Although the overall cost of the work so far is coming in very near to our original budget despite significant extra work being necessary, the combined cost of the latter two projects is estimated to be a further £53,000. We will also have to repay the Archdeacons Loan of £50,000.

A heartfelt thank you to all those whose generous giving has made possible the realisation of the Heart for The Community Project so far. When you see what has been achieved, we know you will want to see the next stages completed and to feel a part of the legacy we are establishing for future generations with the first major refurbishment of St Mary's in over 100 years.

The above wording reflects such a small part of the whole project. In January this year when the boiler room flooded, we were left wondering how we would progress with the work. It is a testament to prayer and generosity of money and of time, that we are in this amazing position of being blessed with our new facilities. I am so very grateful to the skills of Dave and Joel and the team and especially to Ian Burns and Tim Jackson who have led this project forward on behalf of St Mary's. I also want to thank my Standing Committee who have also met regularly on site and prayerfully made decisions together. This includes, Ian, Tim, Kathy and Linda.

You may have noticed that each week the church has been tidied and swept clean, chairs moved and made to feel welcoming even when there have been thick layers of dust. I especially want to thank Kathy for all her care in this respect. Also to Graham and Linda for the moving of chairs and making sure St Mary's is warm and welcoming to all. All of us in this church will benefit from the warmth and the new facilities in the years ahead.

Rev'd Julie Sear

Preparing Together For Advent



It would be really wonderful if as many as possible could help clean the church and get it ready for Advent. We are having two sessions in the church. One on Friday 30th November 8.30-11am and Saturday 1st December 8.30-11am. Please do set aside a time to come and help even if it is just for half an hour. Please could you let Kathy Green know if you can help on either day on 01892 770208.



Next Sunday is Advent Sunday. Advent is a time of watching and waiting. A time for listening and praying.

A prayer of preparation

God sent Jesus down to us at just the right time. For centuries, people were waiting and longing for a Savior to come and save them. God knew the right time and place for him to send this Savior, and Jesus was born! God doesn't come when we want Him to come. However God does always come at the right time.

Many of us are waiting for something, whether it is a solution to a problem, a relationship, or a breakthrough. We have to remember that God has a plan for us and we shouldn't fear the period of waiting. He has not abandoned you! Let the birth of Christ encourage you through your waiting. God is working with you at this very moment – even if you don't see it. Take peace in knowing that God loves you and he will present you with the perfect timing.

Prayer: Father, meet me in the waiting, the place where I long for what is not fully in view. Still my heart and give me the ability to know that You are near. I believe Your plans are good. I see it in the birth of Your only Son. But sometimes I struggle to see beyond the haze that surrounds me. Renew my confidence as I lift my eyes to You. Be glorified in my life during this season of expectation. Amen.

Baptism

Next Sunday the 2nd December we look forward to baptising Tuppence Black at our 9.30am service. Along with John and Jen we will give thanks for the gift of life and welcome Tuppence into the church.



Welcome from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York



For many of us, Christmas brings up so many emotions, memories and expectations.

We have one nativity story, but it can seem like we all have very different Christmases.

For you it might be a time of joy and togetherness. Or perhaps it's all about planning and to-do lists.

Many others can find it a sad and lonely time – nagged by the feeling that your Christmas is not like those 'perfect' ones we see in the media. But just like the unexpected assortment of people who were invited to meet the baby Jesus, #FollowTheStar doesn't ask you to be perfect.

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It says: come just as you are to take the life-changing Christmas journey.

Wherever you are this Christmas, you are invited to follow the star and to be with Jesus. You are welcome. You are deeply known and truly loved.

Mary and Joseph and all those caught up in the Christmas story were surprised by the astonishing way that God chose to live among us.

Each Christmas we are reminded of God's longing to surprise us with his gift of joy, love and new life. It's the greatest present we can receive and share with others!

We pray this booklet offers a path for your journey closer to Jesus – and we wish you every blessing this Christmas.

Archbishops Justin Welby & John Sentamu

We will have copies of the booklet for us all to use from Christmas Eve through to Epiphany.



Please note a change in
January 2019:
Rev'd Julie's rest day will be a
Monday, instead of Tuesday,
unless there is a prior
commitment.



This is a very special year for Christingle, as it marks 50 years since The Children's Society held their first Christingle service in this country.

To celebrate this anniversary, they are asking us all to help make it the biggest Christingle year yet and to support them, we will be holding our annual Christingle service once again this year.

With your help, Christingle raises vital funds to help children who are facing Christmas alone and are unable to cope.

Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story:

- The orange represents the world
- The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations
- The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

On Friday 30th November the children at St Mary's School will take part in a Christingle afternoon with Rev'd Julie, Katrina and friends from the Church.

Then there will be **Christingle Service at St Mary's at 4pm on Sunday 2nd December.**

Diary Dates:

2nd December:

4pm Christingle at St Mary's
6.30pm Advent Carol Service at Holy Trinity

7th December:

7pm Community Carols gathered around Christmas Trees in the Memorial Garden, ending up in the Anchor Inn.

9th December:

9.30am Christmas Praise service at St Mary's
11am Holy Communion with blessing of Crib, Holy Trinity

14th December:

Live Nativity in Hartfield at 6pm.

16th December:

Nine Lessons and Carols, 6.30pm at St Mary's

23rd December:

Joint Service at St Mary's 10am and Farewell to Katrina, Andy, Alex and Lucy

24th December:

Crib Service at St Mary's, 4pm

24th December:

at both churches 11.15pm Midnight Communion

25th December:

8am BCP Holy Communion at St Mary's & 9.30am Christmas Communion

Advent Carol Service with Candlelight and Carols

Holy Trinity, Colemans Hatch

Sunday 2nd December at 6.30pm



Churches Information

Rector:

The Reverend Julie Sear 01892 770436

revjuliesear1@gmail.com

Children's, Youth and Families Minister:

Katrina Thomas 07777 630249

katrina.Thomas@outlook.com

*Day off for Rector & Children's and
Families Youth Minister is a Tuesday*

Administrator: admsmhc@gmail.com

Safeguarding Officer:

Andrea McGlew 01342 850992

PCC Treasurer:

Emma Fulham 01342 822404

Licensed Lay Reader:

Donna Dewar 01342 326424

dewardonna@gmail.com

Church Wardens for St Mary's:

Kathy Green 01892 770208

Linda Graham 01892 770487

Hon. Secretary & Church Electoral Roll Officer:

Ian Burns 01892 771014

Church Wardens for Holy Trinity:

John Van Maurik 01892 770273

Paul Double

Hon. Secretary:

CJ Payne cipayne@hotmail.com

Hon. Treasurer:

Donald Clarke drc.scc1897@gmail.com

Church Services

2nd December:

St Mary's 9.30 Holy Communion

Holy Trinity 11.00 Matins

St Mary's 16.00 Christingle

Holy Trinity 18.30 Advent Carols

7th December:

St Mary's 18.00 Lighting of Tree

9th December:

St Mary's 8.00 Holy Communion BCP

St Mary's 9.30 Christmas Praise

Holy Trinity 11.00 Holy Communion

14th December:

St Mary's 18.00 Live Nativity

16th December:

St Mary's 9.30 Holy Communion

Holy Trinity 11.00 Matins

St Mary's 18.30 Nine lessons & carols

23rd December:

Joint Service at St Mary's at 10am

24th December:

St Mary's 16.00 Crib Service

St Mary's 23.15 Midnight Communion

Holy Trinity 23.15 Midnight Communion

25th December:

St Mary's 8am Holy Communion BCP

St Mary's 9.30am Christmas Communion

Holy Trinity 11am Christmas Communion