

The Parish Church of  
St Mary the Virgin, Great Shelford



Charity No: 245456

**Sunday 26th December, 2021 - St. Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr  
10:00 Parish Communion**

**Sunday 2nd January, 2022 - The Festival of the Epiphany (transferred)  
10:00 Parish Communion**

**Opening hymn 39: St Stephen Unto us a boy is born**

- 1. Unto us a boy is born!  
King of all creation,  
Came he to a world forlorn,  
The Lord of every nation.**
- 2. Cradled in a stall was he  
With sleepy cows and asses;  
But the very beasts could see  
That he all men surpasses.**
- 3. Herod then with fear was filled:  
'A prince', he said, 'in Jewry!'  
And all the little boys he killed  
At Bethlem in his fury.**
- 4. Now may Mary's son who came  
So long ago to love us,  
Lead us all with hearts aflame  
Unto the joys above us.**
- 5. Omega and Alpha he!  
Let the organ thunder,  
While the choir with peals of glee  
Doth rend the air asunder.**

Trad. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvnceCVScDI>

**Opening hymn 47: The Festival of the Epiphany  
As with gladness men of old**

- 1. As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold,  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious God, may we  
Evermore be led to thee.**
- 2. As with joyful steps they sped,  
To that lowly manger-bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Him whom heaven and earth adore,  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.**
- 3. As they offered gifts most rare  
At that manger rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,**

Pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

4. Holy Jesu, every day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And, when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

5. In the heavenly country bright  
Need they no created light;  
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,  
Thou its Sun which goes not down:  
There for ever may we sing  
Alleluyas to our King.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UB8rKNrlpDQ>

**Gloria:**

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest.**

Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, Heav'nly King, Almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.**

Lord, Jesus Christ, only son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us:

You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest.**

For you alone are the Holy one, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father.

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest.** *David Thorne*

**Collect: St. Stephen**

Gracious Father, who gave the first martyr Stephen grace to pray for those who took up stones against him: grant that in all our sufferings for the truth we may learn to love even our enemies and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt, looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us, Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**Collect: The Festival of the Epiphany**

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**First Reading: St. Stephen - 2 Chronicles 24. 20 - 22**

The spirit of God took possession of Zechariah son of the priest Jehoiada; he stood above the people and said to them, 'Thus says God: Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has also forsaken you.' But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the LORD. King Joash did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him, but killed his son. As he was dying, he said, 'May the LORD see and avenge!

**Second Reading: St. Stephen - Acts 7. 51 - 60**

Stephen said to the high priest and the council: 'You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are for ever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet

you have not kept it.' When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. Stephen filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

**First Reading: The Festival of the Epiphany - Isaiah 60. 1 - 6**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

**Second Reading: The Festival of the Epiphany - Ephesians 3. 1 - 12**

I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

**Gradual hymn 29: St. Stephen It came upon the midnight clear**

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,  
From heaven's all gracious King!  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing;  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.
3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring;  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing!

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When, with the ever-circling years,  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendours fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U\\_Dzovu1XA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_Dzovu1XA)

**Gradual hymn 372: The Festival of the Epiphany**  
**He who would valiant be**

1. He who would valiant be  
'Gainst all disaster,  
Let him in constancy  
Follow the Master.  
There's no discouragement  
Shall make him once relent  
His first avowed intent  
To be a pilgrim.
2. Who so beset him round  
With dismal stories,  
Do but themselves confound -  
His strength the more is.  
No foes shall stay his might,  
Though he with giants fight:  
He will make good his right  
To be a pilgrim.
3. Since, Lord, thou does defend  
Us with thy Spirit,  
We know we at the end  
Shall life inherit.  
Then fancies flee away!  
I'll fear not what men say,  
I'll labour night and day  
To be a pilgrim.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kmkac903Nh4>

**Gospel: St. Stephen - Matthew 10. 17 - 22**

Jesus said to the twelve: Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

**Gospel: The Festival of the Epiphany - Matthew 2. 1 - 12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." 'Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had

seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Offertory hymn 42: St. Stephen**

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night**

1. **While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.**
2. **'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind);  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.'**
3. **'To you in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
And this shall be the sign:'**
4. **'The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid.'**
5. **Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song:**
6. **'All glory be to God on high,  
And on the earth be peace;  
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease.'**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvegJ3wRLFE>

**Offertory hymn 52: The Festival of the Epiphany**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness**

1. **O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**
2. **Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
High on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
Comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**
3. **Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:  
Truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
These are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**
4. **These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
He will accept for the name that is dear;  
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
Trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

- 5. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**

YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytBTMr0K\\_I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytBTMr0K_I)

**Sanctus/Benedictus:**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.** *David Thorne*

**Agnus Dei:**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.** *David Thorne*

**Communion hymn 40: St. Stephen What child is this**

- 1. What child is this, who, laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds worship and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring him praise  
The Babe, the son of Mary.**
- 2. Why lies he in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Come, have no fear, God's son is here,  
His love all loves exceeding:  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you:  
Hail, hail, the Saviour comes,  
The Babe, the son of Mary.**
- 3. So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,  
All tongues and peoples own him,  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let every heart enthrone him:  
Raise, raise your song on high  
While Mary sings a lullaby,  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The Babe, the son of Mary.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJTSVfH45qo>

**Communion hymn 295: The Festival of the Epiphany  
Let all mortal flesh keep silence**

- 1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
For with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.**
- 2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood:**

He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heavenly food.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanish  
As the darkness clears away.
4. At his feet the six-winged seraph;  
Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the Presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry.  
Alleluya, Alleluya,  
Alleluya, Lord most high!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynzuVpmrRQM>

**Post Communion Prayer: St. Stephen**

Merciful Lord, we thank you for the signs of your mercy revealed in birth and death: save us by the coming of your Son, and give us joy in honouring Stephen, first martyr of the new Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Post Communion Prayer: The Festival of the Epiphany**

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Final hymn 364: St. Stephen God is Love: let heav'n adore him**

1. God is Love: let heav'n adore him;  
God is Love: let earth rejoice;  
Let creation sing before him,  
And exalt him with one voice,  
He who laid the earth's foundation,  
He who spread the heav'ns above,  
He who breathes through all creation,  
He is Love, eternal Love.
2. God is Love: and he enfoldeth  
All the world in one embrace;  
With unfailing grasp he holdeth  
Every child of every race.  
And when human hearts are breaking  
Under sorrow's iron rod,  
Then they find that selfsame aching  
Deep within the heart of God.
3. God is Love: and though with blindness  
Sin afflicts the souls of men,  
God's eternal loving-kindness  
Holds and guides them even then.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
O'er us final triumph gain;  
God is Love, so Love for ever  
O'er the universe must reign.

YouTube<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffHLZfU90ZM&t=57s>>

(For 2nd January, 2022)

## Farewell and Godspeed

**Simon:** You and I have been partners in the mission of St Mary's for over eight years. It is now time to say goodbye and to give thanks for the life we have shared in Christ. I have found our time together rewarding and memories of what we have shared will always be precious to me. You have taught me so much and I am grateful to God for our time together.

**All:** **The Lord is loving to everyone; God's compassion is over all God's works. All your works praise you, O Lord, and your faithful servants bless you.**  
(Psalm 145:9-10)

**Simon:** Let us thank God for these years of partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**All:** **We give you thanks for your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all people. For our partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for the Spirit that has empowered us to witness, we give you praise. In the name of God the Father we pray. Amen**

**Simon:** Dear friends, you have allowed me to share the responsibilities of the ordained ministry in your midst. At the beginning of our ministry, you presented me with symbols expressing my special role among you. It is time for me to return to you what you have lent me. I was called among you to baptise. Here is water which symbolizes God's gift of belonging in Christ.

*(A vessel of water is given to the Churchwardens)*

**All:** **There is one Lord, one faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all.**

**Simon:** I was called among you to proclaim the Good News. Here is the Bible that expresses this call.

*(A Bible is given to the LLM Reader)*

**All:** **Thanks be to God for the Good News of Christ.**

**Simon:** I was called among you to lead worship and preside at Holy Communion. Receive now this chalice as a symbol of our worship life.

*(A chalice is given to the Associate Priest)*

**All:** **Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

**Simon:** And now, it is time for me to say farewell. I ask that in your love and commitment, you send me forth with a blessing.

**All:** **Simon, we send you forth with our blessing. The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour and give you peace both this day and forever. Amen.**

**Final hymn 333: The Festival of the Epiphany**  
**All my hope on God is founded**

- 1. All my hope on God is founded;  
He doth still my trust renew,  
Me through change and chance he guideth,  
Only good and only true.  
God unknown,  
He alone  
Calls my heart to be his own.**
- 2. Pride of man and earthly glory,  
Sword and crown betray his trust;  
What with care and toil he buildeth,**

**Tower and temple, fall to dust  
But God's power,  
Hour by hour,  
Is my temple and my tower.**

**3. God's great goodness aye endureth,  
Deep his wisdom, passing thought:  
Splendour, light and life attend him,  
Beauty springeth out of naught.  
Evermore  
From his store  
New-born worlds rise and adore.**

**4 Daily doth th'Almighty giver  
Bounteous gifts on us bestow;  
His desire our soul delighteth,  
Pleasure leads us where we go.  
Love doth stand  
At his hand;  
Joy doth wait on his command.**

**5. Still from man to God eternal  
Sacrifice of praise be done,  
High above all praises praising  
For the gift of Christ his Son.  
Christ doth call  
One and all:  
Ye who follow shall not fall.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WH1QINoiCM>

Please refer any pastoral concerns for members of the congregation or members of the local community to any member of the Ministry team including our Co-ordinator for Pastoral Services, Mrs Frances Simms. Please pray for the sick, frail, housebound and those in care. Please let the Vicar know about all cases of sickness and others for whom we should pray.

## **SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH**

Dear Friends,

As you may by now be aware, even before the pandemic we were concerned about the increasing financial deficit we have been facing for several years. The PCC has now, regretfully, decided (in consultation with the Diocese) to reduce our regular Ministry Share contribution by 50%, to £26,895 this year, in order to halt the ongoing drain on our reserves. This will balance the 2021 budget, but without a substantial increase in income we may well face the same decision in future years, or the money will run out. This decision has not been taken lightly, as it has serious implications for the future life of the parish; Ministry Share goes towards the costs of stipendiary ministry, and failure to meet our Share in full, as well as passing an additional financial burden on to the other parishes in the Deanery, will impact on the provision of a full-time vicar in Great Shelford after Simon's retirement. We would welcome any additional Stewardship support to enable us to meet the full Share asked for by the Diocese, in this and future years, in order to maintain a stipendiary vicar. Donations can be made by:

- Parish Giving Scheme (PCC's preferred option)
- Standing Order or Bank transfer
- Donating via the Giving Page on website <https://www.stmarysgreatshelford.org/>
- Traditional envelope donations (posted through the vicarage letterbox, or left in the collection box at the back of church). Please write your PIN on the envelope, if you have one.

To help further, at no cost to yourself, please Gift Aid your donations if you are able. Our Treasurer Pat Brown is happy to assist with any of the above. Contact details: phone 07811 563597 or email: [patbrown2591@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:patbrown2591@yahoo.co.uk) .

Thank you very much for all your support.

## ST. MARY'S GREAT SHELFORD - WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**Covid Precautions:** As you will have seen in the media in recent days, we are now in the grip of a fourth wave of Covid caused by the Omicron variant. The following simple guidance should help to reduce the risks of passing on the variant in the days ahead:-

- **Face masks** - the wearing of face masks in church is again now **compulsory**.
- **Lateral flow testing** - take a simple lateral flow test at home before coming into contact with others.
- **Symptoms** - if you have **any** cold-like symptoms, it would be wise not to attend.

By following these guides we can help ensure that we reduce the risks for others and for ourselves.

**Mrs Audrey Ritchie (RIP)** who lived in Great Shelford for many years, died on 5th December 2021. Her funeral will take place at Cambridge Crematorium East Chapel at 11.30am on 30th December 2021.

**Friends' Christmas Concert:** Many of us thoroughly enjoyed the recent Brass Band Christmas Concert and the Friends would like to thank all who gave the event their support. Once gift aid has been added, proceeds from the Concert will total almost £800. This will be used to launch the Friends' Fund for refurbishing the back of the Church.

**Christmas & New Year Blessings:** On behalf of the whole team at St Mary's, can I wish you every blessing this Christmastide and sincere good wishes for 2022.

**Thank you:** Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way to make the Advent and Christmas services special this year. It would not really be fair to single out individuals, but the choir, bellringers and vergers deserve a special vote of thanks. We are indebted to everyone who stood in for Kim, our parish organist, as he recovers from hand surgery (we wish Kim a speedy recovery). Well done to all!

**Thank you from the Vicarage:** A sincere 'thank you' from Mary and myself for all the cards and good wishes we have received. Far too many to respond to individually – you are all very generous.

**Making contact over the holiday period:** I will be taking time off from Boxing Day until Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> Jan.

I am very grateful to Julie who will be presiding on St Stephen's Day, Sun. 26<sup>th</sup> Dec. Please note - one service only at 10am.

If you need any pastoral support during the period of my absence, please contact Julie in the first instance.

**Cambridge City Foodbank:** Our monthly collection takes place on **Sunday 2nd January, 2022**. Please do all you can to support the work of the Foodbank at this special time of year, which is so difficult for many families. All donations are appreciated and a list of foods and toiletries most urgently needed can be found on the website - <https://cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

**Simon's Farewell services:** My last Sunday at St Mary's will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan. when we will be keeping the feast of Epiphany. I will preside and preach at the 8am Holy Communion and preach at the 10am Parish Communion (Julie will preside). Sincere thanks for all your expressions of appreciation of our time in Great Shelford. We have really enjoyed living in the village.

### **Salve et vale!**

I am aware that some of you will be going away over the holiday break. Please give our good wishes to any church community that you may visit. We shall be welcoming several visitors to St Mary's during the holiday – I do hope that all will feel at home and warmly welcomed here.

**Christmas Services:** All the information relating to services over the Christmas period can be found on our website -

<http://www.stmarysgreatshelford.org/>

Details are also available in the Dec. edition of Village News, on posters around the community and on cards available at the back of church.

**Travelling?:-** There is a national website for locating church services over the Christmas period - 'A Church Near You' :-

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

Handy if you are travelling to visit family or friends!

**The Pilgrim house group:** About 10 people attended the Advent Group at 1 pm in the Community Room. We talked about mending our broken world, hope for the future, and being aware of God's love. We shall restart after Christmas on 11 January 2022.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers



**CONNECTIONS**

updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love', provides a hymn and reflection.

**Daily HOPE:** This is an excellent national Church of England initiative for those who are especially isolated and do not have access to the internet. **Daily HOPE** is a freephone line, available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**. Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop of Canterbury before being able to choose from a range of options, including Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England's weekly national online service. A section called Hymn Line will also offer callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love', provides a hymn and reflection.

**We are delighted to welcome visitors to St Mary's for private prayer and reflection.  
Sunday 26th December, 2021**

10:00 Parish Communion  
One service only today

**Sunday 2nd January, 2022**

08:00 Holy Communion (BCP)  
10:00 Parish Communion  
18.30 Evening Prayer by Zoom

**Vicar:**

**The Rev'd Canon Simon Talbott**

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**Associate Priest**

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**Reader/Licensed Lay Minister:**

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**Churchwardens:**

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**Parish Administrator:**

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**Pastoral Services Co-ordinator**

**Mrs. Frances Simms**

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**Children's work contact:**

**Mrs. Gillian Pett**

[gillian.pett29@gmail.com](mailto:gillian.pett29@gmail.com)

**Pilgrim house group contact:**

**Dr. Anne Roberts**

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07745 562702.

Applications for baptisms, marriages and the calling of Banns of marriage should be made please to the Parish Administrator. **26/12/21 - 02/01/22**