



**We are a community of faith  
that SEEKS God in worship  
SERVES one another  
and SHARES the love of Jesus**

### **Advent Sunday 3rd December**

**9am Holy Communion**

**Theme: The Day Of The Lord**

**Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 and Mark 13:24-37**

**10.30am All Age Service with Baptisms and Prayer Ministry**

**Children's Church join us in church**

**Theme: Bringing Light To Darkness**

**Reading: John 3:1-21**

**12.45pm St. Mary's Walkers leave church**

**5pm Kids On Track Carol Service**

### **Wednesday 6th December**

**Holy Communion Service at 10.30am**

**in St. Mary's Church led by Canon John**

### **Sunday 10th December**

**Theme: The Way Of The Lord**

**Readings: 2 Peter 3:8-15a and Mark 1:1-8**

**9am Holy Communion with Prayer Ministry**

**10.20am Children's Church (3 - 13+)**

**meet in the Church Centre for their activities,**

**before joining their families in church**

**for Communion and Final Blessing**

**10.30am Morning Worship with Communion and Prayer Ministry**

**3.30pm Guides Christingle Service**

*There is an unsupervised crèche available for 0-3 year olds,  
through the doors at the back of church.*

*This area contains toys, books, colouring and comfortable seating,  
in addition to sound and vision, so you can see and hear the service.*

### **St. Mary's Walkers**

After a snack lunch in St. Mary's **from 12.15pm to 12.45pm on Sunday 3rd December**, we will drive to the car park at *St. Mary Bourne Village Centre and Shop* (on the B3048) for a circular walk starting at 1pm of a maximum of 4.5 miles, depending on weather and energy levels. In any event it is hilly and crosses some fields, so waterproof shoes with a good tread are advisable and a walking stick. No need to book unless you need transport, please contact Martin Coppen.

### **Christmas Grapevine**

This will cover the period from **Sunday 10th December to Saturday 6th January 2018**. If anyone would like an item included, please do forward your copy to the Church Office by **Thursday 7th December** at the latest. Thank you.

### **Parish Prayer Meeting**

This will be held in the Church Centre on **Thursday 7th December at 7.30pm**. Please remember in your prayers during this special season, all those who will be coming into church for their School Carol Services, Nativities and Concerts.

### **Salisbury Military Wives Choir**

Enham Trust is delighted to host a festive evening with the Wives Choir on **Friday 8th December at 6.30pm** in St. Mary's Church. Tickets are £10 and can be purchased at [www.enhamtrust.org.uk](http://www.enhamtrust.org.uk) or on the door. Funds raised will help the charity to support over 6,500 disabled people each year, so please do pop along to hear and join in with your favourite festive classics!

### **Test Valley Brass Christmas Concert**

This year the concert will be held in St. Mary's Church on **Saturday 9th December at 7pm**. The concert will have the usual mix of exciting new pieces and traditional Carols and will be relayed through the church using the column displays, so that everyone will have a great view. The entire Test Valley Brass Group will be taking part, from the youngest players, who began playing this year, to the Senior Band. The concert will conclude with all players joining together for the finale.

The Musical Directors will be providing the commentary and the usual corny jokes and there will be refreshments available. Please come and support this community band that plays great music throughout the year and across Andover. Tickets can be purchased online or at the church on the evening. [www.buytickets.at/testvalleybrass](http://www.buytickets.at/testvalleybrass)

### **Harmonium Singers Carol Concert**

The Christmas Concert will be held in St. Mary's Church **on Saturday 16th December at 7.30pm**. The evening will include Christmas music, old, new and familiar as well as carols for all to sing. Tickets in aid of the Andover Crisis and Support Centre cost £10 at the door to include refreshments, or £8 from Newbury Building Society, The Lights or choir members. Under 14's will be admitted free.

### **Mince Pies Appeal!**

Please can you be as generous as you were last year and donate either homemade or purchased mince pies for **Sunday 17th December**. We can then offer them with refreshments to everyone who joins us for the 10am Family Carol Service and the 7pm Carols by Candlelight Service. Please leave your mince pies in the kitchen area at the back of church. Thank you.

### **Church Office**

Kindly note the Church Office will be closed from **Wednesday 20th December** and will reopen on **Wednesday 3rd January 2018**.

### **Christingle Factory**

Would you like to join the fun and fellowship of the Christingle Factory this year? Please do help so we can have plenty of willing volunteers to ensure the work is quickly completed. In addition to making 450 Christingle oranges, we enjoy a great time together and some delightful refreshments! The Factory will be held in the Church Centre on **Saturday 23rd December from 3pm to 5pm** (or whenever they are all finished!) Please sign the list at the back of church. Thank you.

### **Christmas Day Lunch**

There will be a Christmas Day lunch at Lion Oak Court, Salisbury Road, Andover SP10 2JJ which is available for anyone in the Andover area who will be on their own on Christmas Day this year. To book or volunteer, please contact Andover Neighbourcare, telephone 01264 339899 or 01264 404142.

### **Andover Foodbank**

The Foodbank are running short of the following food items: Long-life fruit juice, tinned rice pudding, Long-life milk, tinned potatoes/packet mashed potatoes, small bags of sugar, small jars of coffee, tinned tomatoes and tinned meat. They also **URGENTLY** require small saucepans. Thank you.

### **Winter Drop In**

As the weather turns colder preparations are being made for the Winter Drop In. The Bridge Centre will be open every evening throughout December, January and February to provide a nutritious meal and somewhere to be in warmth and safety. Tents and sleeping bags will also be provided to those who need them. Within hours of letting people know about the Drop In, the volunteer rota was filling well, but if anyone would like to volunteer for a few evenings, more help would be very gratefully received. Please contact the Bridge Office telephone 01264 335522. The 900 or so evening meals take some resourcing so all churches in town are being asked to contribute £30 or whatever they can, that will enable the Drop In to last through the winter. Individual contributions would also be appreciated, please send any money or make cheques to the Valley Church Andover who keep the accounts for us. Many thanks. Peter Kinross.

### **Esther and the Zargonites**

Unity Christian Theatre will be presenting this play on **Friday 19th January at 7.30pm** and **Saturday 20th January at 2.30pm and 7.30pm** at The Lights. The story of Esther is ages old but entirely up to date, accepting diversity and promoting tolerance towards others. Tickets cost £7 and £5 for children and are available from The Lights Box Office.

*For God so loved the world  
that He gave His one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in Him  
shall not perish but have eternal life.*

*John 3:16*