

Welcome to
St. Mary's
Andover



#GOD with US



Christmas Notices

Sunday 10th

December to

Saturday 6th

January 2018

We pray you have
a happy and blessed
Christmas

Crèche Area

There is an unsupervised crèche available for 0-3 year olds at the back of church. This area contains toys, books, colouring and comfortable seating, in addition to sound and vision to see and hear the service.

Harmonium Singers Carol Concert

This 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

Please help so we have plenty of willing volunteers to make 450 Christingle oranges, enjoy a great time together with some delightful refreshments! The Factory will be held in the Church Centre on **Saturday 23rd December from 3pm to 5pm**, so do please sign the list at the back of church.

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

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. Please contact the Bridge Office telephone 01264 335522 if you are able to help for a few evenings.

Parish Prayer Meeting

Our first Prayer Meeting of the New Year will be held on **Thursday 4th January at 7.30pm** in the Church Centre. Be encouraged to make it one of your New Year Resolutions to join us, so we may pray together each month.

The Friends of St. Mary's Coffee Morning

All are welcome to come and join us for our monthly Coffee Morning which will be held on **Saturday 6th January at 10am** in the Church Centre.

The 3R's (Relax, Revive, Refresh) Pop-Up Café at Pilgrims' Cross School

Thank you very much for the ongoing prayer and commitment to this outreach activity at Picket Twenty. We host another Café on **Saturday 6th January from 2pm to 4pm** and would be extremely grateful for any offers of homemade cakes, in addition to help on the day. Thank you.

Alpha Course 2018

The next course commences on Monday evenings from **8th January to 23rd March from 7.30pm to 9.30pm** and also includes a day on **Saturday 3rd March from 10am to 4pm**. Do pray about this course, God is blessing so many people through Alpha so please speak with Tom Etherton if you are interested in joining, or if you have anyone on your heart you could invite to join. We would be grateful for any offers to make soup for those attending, there is a list at the back of church to sign. Thank you.

St. Mary's Women's Group

The next **Women's Group** meeting is on **Friday 19th January at 7.30pm** in the Church Centre. This will include a Fish and Chip Supper, with a fun 'Getting to know you' opportunity, where we are all encouraged to bring a photo of when we were very young, or write a couple of sentences, so that everyone has to guess who that person is! Lists will be available after Christmas to sign for attendance and food. We also need additional women to join the Planning Team, please speak with Eni, Jane or Sue to find out more.

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.

Easyfundraising

If we have your email address you will have received an email telling you about an easy way of raising extra funds for St. Mary's Church at no cost to yourself through the Easyfundraising website. If you have not received an email please email Diane in the office on **stmarysandover@btinternet.com**. Flyers about joining this scheme are available at the back of church.

Spring Term 2018

Next term our focus will be on **Healing and Wholeness**, exploring different aspects of this in our sermons in January, including definitions of healing, and considering why some people are not healed. During Lent we will be running 4 or 5 workshops entitled '**Growing a Healing Ministry**' as an introduction to setting up a healing ministry, so that after Easter we can begin to start holding regular healing services. Please pray for this exciting initiative.

***For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government
will be on His shoulders.
And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.***

Isaiah 9:6

**You are welcome to join us for our
*Christmas and New Year Celebrations***

Sunday 10th December

9am Holy Communion with Prayer Ministry

10.20am Children's Church

10.30am Morning Worship with Communion and Prayer Ministry

Wednesday 13th December Holy Communion at 10.30am

Sunday 17th December

10am Family Carol Service with Prayer Ministry

7pm Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 20th December Holy Communion at 10.30am

Sunday 24th December - Christmas Eve

10am Christmas Eve Morning Communion with Prayer Ministry

4pm Christingle Service

with the Test Valley Brass Band

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Monday 25th December - Christmas Day

10am All Age Christmas Communion

Sunday 31st December

10am United Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry

Wednesday 3rd January Holy Communion at 10.30am

Sunday 7th January

10am United Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry

