

Welcome to St. Mary's

A beating heart for Andover



Hi and welcome to St Mary's Andover - we're so glad you're here!

At St Mary's, we have fun, laugh, share life, serve our community, care for each other and worship God together. We have a vision to be a beating heart for Andover – pumping love, life and hope around our town! In the coming months, we're going on a journey to work out what this looks like afresh. It's a great time to be here; you're so welcome and I invite you to join us!

Revd Chris Bradish, Vicar

****SPARK JOY****

Have you ever heard of the *konmari* tidying method? - it sparks joy! In Lent this year, we are going to take some time to dwell in the words of the Lord's Prayer. Each week we will read the same passage from Matthew's Gospel alongside a reading for Lent. The Lord's Prayer is a prayer we are so close to that its impact can be lost in overfamiliarity. But, it has world-changing power to 'spark joy', transform who we are and how we live. As it is preached afresh, I pray that we might also learn to pray it afresh – perhaps to hear it even as the first disciples heard it prayed by Jesus. Let us allow it to mould us for the future; to comfort and challenge so that by God's grace our hearts desires would become more aligned with the heart of God. This is such an exciting time in the life of St Mary's and beginning in prayer feels so right. As we begin this season of preparation for Easter and look towards all that God is calling us to, I invite you to join with me on this journey. Chris.

From Chris, Nai & Family

Naomi and I would like to thank you all so much for a wonderful service last Sunday. We were so surprised and humbled by everyone who came to support and encourage us on that special day. We are truly grateful to all who participated, helped with hosting, hospitality and other administration. It felt very much like a day as important in the life of St Mary's as it did for our family. We are so glad to be with you and can't wait to get to know everyone over the coming months. You are in our prayers. With much love, Chris & Naomi.

Lent Plastic Challenge Ideas

The Beeswax Wrap Company www.beeswaxwraps.co.uk/shop provides products made from beeswax, organic cloth, tree resin and organic jojoba oil for food wrapping. These products are washable and reusable. Waitrose does stock some of these products. The website contains a map showing where zero-waste and plastic free shops are located across the country.

Electoral Roll

This year sees a complete renewal of the Electoral Roll. Everyone who wishes to be included in the Roll, in order to vote at the APCM on 30th April, will need to complete a simple form. This applies whether or not you have been on the current Electoral Roll. Forms are available by the south door and at the back of church, together with envelopes in which to place completed forms. Alternatively, you may give them to Diane in the office or direct to me. The renewal period will run from 17th February to 31st March 2019, after which the Electoral Roll is frozen until after the APCM. Many thanks, Martin Bazire.

Friends of St. Mary's

Lent Devotional Talk on Saturday 23rd March 2pm in the Church Centre Chapel. Led by Chris.

Parish Prayer Evening

The next prayer evening will be on **Tuesday 19th March, 8pm to 9pm** and the focus for this will be "Everyday Worship, prayer Monday to Saturday". Everyone is invited to come along to the Church Centre Chapel.

Men's Ministry

The next Men's Evening is on **Sunday 17th March** at Nigel's, **6.30 - 8.30 pm**. There will be informal worship, and Simon will then lead on the next chapter of Jeff Lucas' book "Staying in the Boat" with the theme of "Being seen matters".

Parish Administrator: Diane Wilson 01264 366373

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St. Mary's Office, The Church Centre, Marlborough St, Andover SP10 1ER

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 3pm, Friday 9.30am to 4pm

Services Next Week

- ∞ Wednesday 13 Mar 10.30am Holy Communion Service
- ∞ Sunday 17 March 9am Holy Communion
- ∞ Sunday 17 March 10.30am Morning Worship with Baptism