

SERVICES IN THE COMING WEEK

Tuesday	7.45am	Short Daily Prayer
Wednesday	10:00am	Holy Communion
Thursday	7.45am	Long Daily Prayer
Next Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.15am	Sung Eucharist

WHAT'S ON?

Advent Study Group tonight at 5pm here in the church, followed by Evening Prayer. We reflect upon chapter 3 of *Being Christian* by Rowan Williams and discuss Holy Communion.

Sing some of your favourite carols and hymns on Tuesday at 7pm. No need for prior musical experience or the ability to read music.

Carols for All with Roger Williams and Drew Tulloch. One of the City's Lunchbreak Concert series will take place here on 17th December at 12.45pm. If you'd be interested in donating lunch or helping welcome our visitors, speak with the Rector.

St Mary's Gift Day: all Christmas gifts for St Mary's to be received by 31st December. Please designate them as such

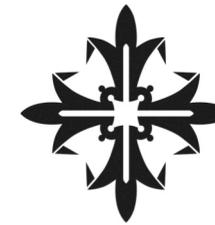
Open4Prayer: We thank Peggy Connell for many years of organising Open4Prayer. As she retires, we are looking for new leaders to come forward and help coordinate Open4Prayer. Please speak with the Rector if you are interested.

Healing and Wholeness Services: We are seeking new leadership for our Healing and Wholeness services. Please speak with the Rector or Margaret McKinnon if you are interested.

Children's Ministries the Rector is hoping to meet on 13th January at 5pm with those interested in helping out with children's ministries, including Storytime Service and Sunday School.

Annual General Meeting will occur on the 2nd of February. Please submit any questions in writing 2 weeks beforehand to the Vestry Secretary.

Pews Papers: Thanks to Morag Kelly for her years of service preparing the Pews Papers. Upon her retirement, all announcements of upcoming events should be submitted to Avril



SAINT MARY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Gaudete Sunday, 13th December 2015

WELCOME TO SAINT MARY'S

Relax and rest in God from the past week.

Rejoice with friends and family.

Be renewed by shared prayer, adoration and thanksgiving.

Children of all ages are welcome. Our children's programme occurs during the 10.15am service.

Communion is open to all who love Jesus Christ. You may drink from the chalice or dip the bread into it. If you prefer not to receive communion, you are welcome to come to the altar for a blessing; indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.

Coffee, tea and biscuits are enjoyed after the 10.15am service.

Connect via our website (stmaryscardenplace.org.uk) or like us on Facebook (facebook.com/stmaryscardenplace).

RECTOR'S REFLECTION: GAUDETE SEMPER!

Today is '*Gaudete* Sunday'. The first word of our second reading – historically the opening chant for worship on the third Sunday of Advent – is 'rejoice' (*gaudete* in the medieval Bible). Thus we light the rose coloured candle. *Gaudete* Sunday might seem premature. Why rejoice now? It's not yet Christmas! Shouldn't we be weighing all those things from which we need salvation – our frustrations, our fears, our sorrows, our sins? Our world is full of strife and stress. And it's easy to criticise, to condemn, to wring our hands, to give up. It may be 'natural'; it may feel relieving. But it closes us off from the real relief God wants to give us. This morning, Paul exhorts us to rejoice *always* because God is *ever* near. Rejoicing opens us to God's presence in all things. We do not evade or avoid difficulty but renew our resolve. *Gaudete* Sunday reminds us that even as we seek relief during Advent, we rejoice always, for only a joyful heart is ready to receive the new life God will give us this new year.

SUNG EUCHARIST (1982 LITURGY) AT 10.15AM

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prayer at the Lighting of the Advent Candles

O Antiphon

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory over the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Opening Hymn 349, New ev'ry morning is the love

The Collect for Purity Booklet p2

The Kyrie Booklet pp2-3

Prayer for the Week: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

First Lesson Zephaniah 3.14-20, OT p784

Canticle Isaiah 12.2-6

Surely, it is God who saves me;

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Saviour.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say,

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name.

Make his deeds known among the peoples;

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, **for he has done great things,
and this is known in all the world.**

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, **for the great
one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.**

Second Lesson

Philippians 4.4-7, NT p177

Gradual Hymn

388, O Praise ye the Lord

The Gospel

Luke 3.7-18, NT p50

The Sermon

Dr Nicola Mills

The Nicene Creed

Booklet p5

Prayers of Intercession

A member of the congregation

Confession and Absolution

Booklet p6

Sharing of the Peace

Booklet p7

LITURGY OF THANKSGIVING

Offertory Hymn

384, O love that wilt not let me go

The Great Thanksgiving

Booklet pp8-12

Post Communion Prayer: Merciful God, may this Eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy and prepare us for the birth of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Booklet p13

Concluding Hymn

354, Now thank we all our God

The Dismissal

Booklet p14

WHO'S WHO?

Rector: The Revd Dr James Merrick
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Curate: The Revd Jason Hobbs

Organist: Mr Christopher Black

Church Administrator: Avril Scott
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