

## SERVICES IN THE COMING WEEK

Tuesday	7.45am	Short Daily Prayer
Wednesday	10:00am	Holy Communion
Thursday	7.45am	Long Daily Prayer
	4.30pm	Christingle
	11pm	Candlelight Eucharist
Friday	9.30am	Christmas
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 4 of *Being Christian* by Rowan Williams and discuss Prayer.

**Carol singing** on Tuesday evening at 7pm, followed by Sherry and Mince pies in the church.

**Christmas Services:** 4.30pm Christingle and 11pm Candlelight Vigil Eucharist on 24<sup>th</sup> December; 9.30am Holy Communion on 25<sup>th</sup> December.

**St Mary's Gift Day:** all Christmas gifts for St Mary's to be received by 31<sup>st</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> January at 5pm with those interested in helping out with children's ministries, including Storytime Service and Sunday School.

**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

Advent 4, 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://stmaryscardenplace.org.uk)) or like us on Facebook ([facebook.com/stmaryscardenplace](https://facebook.com/stmaryscardenplace)).

## RECTOR'S REFLECTION: GENEROSITY

On this final Sunday of Advent, we focus our attention on our patroness, Mary. We have been reading about all those who prepared the way for Christ, and now we come to his blessed mother. Like all those who went before her, Mary herself isn't quite prepared for God's visitation. It's one of the ironies of Advent: we are supposed to be readying ourselves for Christ's coming, all the while reading of the shock felt by those to whom he came before us. Can we really be prepared for God to come among us? God's presence will always be surprising, wonderful, majestic, shocking. But preparation helps us receive God well. Last week we saw that rejoicing in all things is a trait of those ready to receive from God. Mary shows us that those who rejoice are also generous. When God came and asked her to bear his Son, she gave. She gave God her body; she gave God her self. As we get closer to a new year, we should be asking ourselves what God is asking us to give.

## SUNG EUCHARIST (1982 LITURGY) AT 10.15AM

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prayer at the Lighting of the Advent Candles

O Antiphon

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

Opening Hymn 448, Sing we of the blessed Mother

The Collect for Purity Booklet p2

The Kyrie Booklet pp2-3

**Prayer for the Week:** Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find us prepared to receive him; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Lesson Micah 5.2-5, OT p774

Canticle Isaiah 12.2-6

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers,

to Abraham and his children for ever.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

Second Lesson Hebrews 10.5-10, NT p199

Gradual Hymn 287, Just as I am

The Gospel Luke 1.39-45, NT p48

The Sermon The Rector

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 471, The angel Gabriel from heaven came

The Great Thanksgiving Booklet pp8-12

**Post Communion Prayer:** Faithful God, in this sacrament we, like the Virgin Mary, receive into our lives the life of your Son. May we continue to obey your Word, in the name of Christ. Amen.

The Blessing Booklet p13

Concluding Hymn 461, Such love, pure as the whitest snow

The Dismissal Booklet p14

### WHO'S WHO?

**Rector:** The Revd Dr James Merrick

**Curate:** The Revd Jason Hobbs

**Organist:** Mr Christopher Black