

Notices and Forthcoming Events

- St Mary's welcomes back HMS Heron Band and Cheddar Male Choir for a wonderful **concert of Christmas Music** on Friday 5th December at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are £15 (£10 under 16s) and are selling fast from Wedmore Village Stores and Eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-marys-church-wedmore-120025430651>
- Can you be a host for the Travelling Cribs for Wedmore and Theale? Both begin their journeys on Advent Sunday morning and if you would like to host Mary, Joseph and the donkey for a night please contact Laura stmarywedmore@gmail.com for Wedmore and Yvonne yhutchison443@gmail.com for Theale.
- The **St Mary's 100 Club** are very grateful for your generous support this year, and it's almost time to renew your membership for 2026, if you would like to renew or buy a number for this year then please contact Liz Henderson e.j.henderson@outlook.com or Angela Inger angelamaryinger@btinternet.com
- **St Mary's Advent Fair** is on Saturday 29th November 9.30am-12.30pm alongside the Coffee Shop. There will be children's activities, a prayer tent, Christmas goods, tombola's, a raffle and other seasonal stalls. Local musicians will entertain us and look out for the inflatable nativity. If you can help on the day please speak to Lisa Hall or Jo Keen. Bottles for the bottle tombola can be left at Providence House, Grants Lane or in the vestry. Also donations for the cake and produce stall can be left in the vestry or at Damson Cottage, Plud Street. Also any Christmas goods can be left in the vestry or at The Vicarage.
- **The beginning of Advent** is marked with a fifth Sunday benefice communion at Allerton at 10.30am on 30th November and then the lovely service of light at 6pm with Advent hymns, readings and choir anthems.
- This Sunday is Christchurch's name day, the feast of **Christ the King** and we will be joining together to celebrate communion at 10.30am.
- **Gift Services** –St Mary's and Christchurch on Sunday 7th December; Holy Trinity on 14th December; Unwrapped toys and toiletries will be gratefully received and handed to Wade House Highbridge so that families needing emergency housing can give Christmas presents.
- **Christchurch Fellowship Group** meets at Bagley Baptist Church on Wednesday 26th at 11am. All welcome.

The Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore
SUNDAY 23rd November 2025 Christ the King

We thank God for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven;
 We pray that we may ever seek to enthrone Christ as King in our lives;
 for the congregation of Christchurch Theale;
 for the work of the Cheddar Valley Foodbank and Wade House,
 Highbridge;
 for the lonely and isolated in our communities.
 for the work of local social services supporting the vulnerable and needy.
 The Sick: from our community –Michael (Red) Redman, Claire Clement, John
 Horne, Jean Winter, Philip Stott, Thomas Hole, Jane Wright and others for
 whom we have been asked to pray - Jamie Trotham, Anne Dyer, Ruth
 Dyer, Alistair Forster, and Elizabeth Nicholls.
 RIP: Norman Ham (Theale); Richard Hall (Wedmore)

What's On This Week?

Sunday 23rd November: Christ the King

Christchurch, Theale	10.30am	Patronal Festival Communion	Preb R Neill/Revd T Connell
Zoom Online	6.00pm	Evening Service	Preb Richard Neill

Tuesday 25th November

St Mary's	9.00am	Little Lambs Toddler Group
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Wednesday 26th November

St Mary's	9.45am	Midweek Communion
St Mary's	10.30am	St Mary's Walking Group
Bagley Baptist Church	11.00am	Christchurch Fellowship Group

Saturday 29th November

St Mary's	9.30am	St Mary's Advent Fair
Wedmore Cemetery	3.00pm	Burial of Ashes of John Buttler
St Mary's	3.45pm	Wedding Rehearsal

Sunday 30th November: Advent 1

Allerton Church	10.30am	Benefice Communion	Revd J Hawes/Preb R Neill
St Mary's	6.00pm	Service of Light	Preb Richard Neill

COLLECT

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to
the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as
Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the
Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to
worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

OLD TESTAMENT

JEREMIAH 23.1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and
scatter the sheep of my pasture! says
the Lord. Therefore, thus says the
Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the
shepherds who shepherd my people: It
is you who have scattered my flock,
and have driven them away, and you
have not attended to them. So I will
attend to you for your evil doings, says
the Lord. Then I myself will gather the
remnant of my flock out of all the lands
where I have driven them, and I will
bring them back to their fold, and they
shall be fruitful and multiply. I will
raise up shepherds over them who will
shepherd them, and they shall not fear
any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall
any be missing, says the Lord. The
days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will raise up for David a
righteous Branch, and he shall reign as
king and deal wisely, and shall execute
justice and righteousness in the land. In
his days Judah will be saved and Israel
will live in safety. And this is the name
by which he will be called: 'The Lord
is our righteousness.'

PSALM 46

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, •
a very present help in trouble;
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though
the earth be moved, •
and though the mountains tremble in
the heart of the sea;
- 3 Though the waters rage and swell, •
and though the mountains quake at
the towering seas.
- 4 There is a river whose streams make
glad the city of God, •
the holy place of the dwelling of the
Most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of her;
therefore shall she not be removed; •
God shall help her at the break of day.
- 6 The nations are in uproar and the
kingdoms are shaken, •
but God utters his voice and the earth
shall melt away.
- 7 The Lord of hosts is with us; •
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 8 Come and behold the works of the
Lord, •
what destruction he has wrought
upon the earth.
- 9 He makes wars to cease in all the
world; •
he shatters the bow and snaps the
spear
and burns the chariots in the fire.
- 10 'Be still, and know that I am God; •
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.'
- 11 The Lord of hosts is with us; •
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

EPISTLE

COLOSSIANS 1.11-20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

GOSPEL

LUKE 23.33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!’ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, ‘If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!’ There was also an inscription over him, ‘This is the King of the Jews.’ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, ‘Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’ But the other rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.’ Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ He replied, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.’

POST COMMUNION

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the
fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Readings:

Isaiah 2.1-5; Psalm 122; Romans
13.11-end; Matthew 24.36-44

Daily Readings: Matthew 9.18-34;
Matthew 9.35-10.15; Matthew 10.16-
33; Matthew 10.34-11.1; Matthew
11.2-19; Matthew 11.20-end

Psalm 6