

St Mary's Newsletter

14th December 2025



The Vicar Writes...

This is probably the most difficult week in Advent for a Vicar. We are still very much in Advent, a time of waiting and looking forward to the birth of Jesus and I would very much like to keep us there, waiting. Because waiting is good for us, it keeps us in the present and makes us mindful of each moment. Of those who are with us in this moment.

But the pace of the world has picked up, we are busy having Christmas meals, shopping is in full swing and this week I have been planning all the special services so it feels like hard work to keep the pace slow. By the time I write next week we will be nearly there and the spiritual tone changes, we can let the brakes off a bit, speed up so that we are ready, rather like joining a motorway when we need to speed up to match the existing traffic.

But now, this week, please try to keep your gaze on the present. To live in the now and not in the future. Pause, look around you at the world, a world which really needs Jesus to come and make time to pray for those people and places. And for yourself. Pray for yourself as I pray for you, that you will have time and energy to know the peace and joy of waiting.

Sunday Services

Sunday 14th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

10.30 All Age Communion
6.00pm Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 21st December – last Sunday of Advent

8.30 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30 Morning Worship with All Stars
4pm Christingle



Family News and Events

Some of you will have known that Pat and Chris Simons were unwell last week. Sadly Pat died peacefully in Basingstoke Hospital earlier this week.

Chris is still recovering in hospital in Basingstoke, and we hope that he will be home soon. Please get in touch with Gail if you would like to visit so that we co-ordinate visits, making sure that he isn't overwhelmed or lonely. Please keep Chris, Jo and Al in your prayers.

Gail's number is 07454 229074.

A quick reminder that there is Mince Pie Tasting in the church hall on Saturday morning for all the men. Particularly following our sad news this is a chance to care for one another so please do come along and encourage others to come.

Speak to Tony for more information; tony@stmarysgreenham.org

Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.