

The Vicar writes...

This week we are thinking about baptism because on Sunday Hayden will be baptised and we will all rejoice with her and her family. Baptism has so many meanings and we will explore some of them on Sunday so why not come along and celebrate.

What does it mean to you to belong to God's family? And if you have been baptised what does it mean to you? The invitation this week is to spend time thinking about these things in preparation for Sunday. As we worship and then eat together afterwards let's take time to share those meanings with one another.

See you on Sunday!

Sunday services

Sunday 23rd – Last Sunday before Advent

10.30 – Parish Communion with Baptism of Hayden Parsons (Hooray!!!)

Sunday 30th – 1st Sunday of Advent

8.30 – Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30 – Morning Worship

Christmas Services

(invite your friends, colleagues and neighbours)

14th December - 6pm - Carols by Candlelight, followed by mulled wine and mince pies

21st December - 4pm – Christingle, followed by tea and biscuits – with special guest choir

24th December - 4pm – Nativity Service – come dressed as your favourite character from the nativity

24th December – 11.30pm – Holy Communion

25th December – 10.30am – All Age Communion (bring your gifts to show around)

Tree of Hope

Greener Greenham Group members are delighted that their application to receive a sapling from the famous Sycamore Gap Tree was accepted.

There is an official Tree Planting Ceremony at Greenham Common Control Tower on Saturday 22nd November at 2.30pm. It will be a historic celebration, with representatives from environmental groups, and local VIPs and Gail will be blessing the tree – a first for her!

Tea and cake will be available afterwards. It would be lovely to have some St Mary's Church members there.

Please could you RSVP to contact@greenergreenhamgroup.org.uk or ring Katharine on 01635 31533 or email her on kath.prior68@ntlworld.com if you've planning to come along.

A really rather early Christmas Party

Our next social is on 22nd November at 6pm and is a Christmas Party. Chris Smith is organising so please chat to her about it and especially sign up to let her know whether you are coming along and who with.

There is a sheet at the back of church or give her a ring on 07914 765435.

Faith in Action

Christian Aid Flag Day

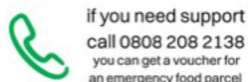
If anyone would like to volunteer to collect for Christian Aid for an hour at the Retail Park on Saturday 29th November Katharine Prior would be delighted to hear from them. Please email kath.prior68@ntlworld.com or phone 01635 31533.



Christians Against Poverty

Please do take a moment to read the attached briefing from our local branch.

Greenham Community Centre



West Berkshire Foodbank begins distributing from Greenham on 27th November (later than planned) and will open every Thursday between and 1 and 3pm.

- Could you help? Then ring the number
- Could you donate? Drop items at church
- Do you need help? Don't be afraid to ask



Family News

A message from Jill.. Thank you from all my family to everyone who helped make Martin's funeral go so smoothly on the day. We are all very grateful for everyone's kindness, support and prayers. It helped make the day calmer and we felt upheld by everyone's love and support. Thankyou everyone.

Family Fun and Faith in Action rolled into one!

There will be a Christmas Fair at Greenham Community Centre on 6th December from 11 till 2. We have a stall as a way of getting involved and having fun with our local community. Vera and Jill would love to receive your gifts of chocolate so they can run a chocolate tomola – yum!

Any money they make will benefit church funds. Any fun they have will be all their own.

Do also come along and support the centre. Try your hand at the games and browse the stalls.



Readings

Matthew 3:13-17

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

¹⁶As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Matthew 28:16-20

The Great Commission

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”