



*O Come
Let Us
Adore Him!*

"Offering a welcoming, God-centred environment to the people of New Mills"

FROM THE VICARAGE

FR. OWAIN MITCHELL | VICAR OF NEW MILLS

As I've said before, thank God for diversity. We are all individuals gifted with unique likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses, tastes and preferences. What one thinks is great, another will find awful. And this is as true of Christmas as anything else in life.

Whilst some enjoy Christmas, others dislike it. Even among the fans of Christmas, different elements appeal. For some, it's the films and music, the shopping or decorating the house. For others it's the time spent with family, the cards received from people we haven't have seen for many years or the break from work. What brings joy to one person may not appeal to another.

Now I'm not saying I'm a baa humbug, but last Christmas my wife, Claire brought me a Christmas jumper. This is the first Christmas jumper I have ever had. It's a plain blue hoodie with the words, 'This is my Christmas Jumper' written in large letters across the front. Even growing up, within my family I was know as the miserable so and so that doesn't do Christmas!

This isn't true. I enjoy Christmas. But for me, Christmas begins on Christmas Eve and ends with the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. During this time, we celebrate the nativity of Our Lord, and trace - admittedly in a truncated and disjointed way - Christ birth and childhood.

I love doing Christmas with Claire on Boxing Day, exchanging gifts and cooking lunch. I especially enjoy the buffet tea with tasty cheeses, cold meats and pickles whilst watching 'proper' Christmas films like The Lemon Drop Kid, Die Hard or Scrouged. But as much as I enjoy the festivities of Christmas Day, it's the journey through the season proper that makes it such a wonderful time for me.

For forty days we make our spiritual journey through Christmastide recalling Jesus' early life. We recall His first visit to the Temple for His naming, Mary's purification and Jesus' circumcision and the visit of the Magi. We hear of the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt and of the teenaged Jesus missing for three days.

As the story of Jesus' birth and childhood unfold, we are reminded that the Holy Family didn't have an easy life. They experienced the same highs and lows that parenting brings which many of us may have experienced. Mary and Joseph felt the same feelings of pride and joy that parent's today feel when people meet the newborn child. They knew the inexpressible fear and hopelessness that many of us have felt when our child wanders off. They experienced the wonder of angelic visitors, shepherds and kings. But they also experienced things that many of us cannot imagine - persecution, homelessness, exile from their homeland and life as refugees, things still prevalent in the world today. Our Lord grew up in a family home just like many of us did, with the same joys and sadness, the same celebrations and desolations.

I love Christmas, but I like it like my Christmas Jumper... plain, simple and to the point. And the point of Christmas is that God humbled Himself and came down to earth from heaven to experience all that it means to be human. And having experienced the highs and lows of life on earth, with its pleasures and its pains, He invites us to share in His divine nature. He became like us so that we can become like Him.

Everybody is different because we are all unique individuals. For some, Christmas is a joyful time. For others, it's a painful time. Some renew old friendships; others regret loves lost. Some spend it with their family whilst others are alone. I pray that whatever Christmas means to you and however you 'do' Christmas, you be filled with His peaceful presence.

God bless you and all whom you love this Christmastide and in the year to come.

Father Owain



Please submit your prayer requests to Fr. Owain by calling the vicarage on: (01663) 743225 or email: vicar@newmillschurch.co.uk

A poster for Christmas Eve at St. George's Parish Church, New Mills. The background is a dark blue night sky with yellow stars and a large yellow star. The text is in yellow and white. The title 'O come let us adore him!' is in a large, stylized font. Below it, 'CHRISTMAS' is in a large, white, serif font. Underneath, 'AT ST. GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH -NEW MILLS-' is in a smaller, white, serif font. The dates and times of the services are listed in white text. At the bottom, there is a warm welcome message and the website address. A faint illustration of a person in a blue robe is visible on the right side of the poster.

*O come let us
adore him!*

CHRISTMAS
AT ST. GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH
-NEW MILLS-

SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER - ADVENT SUNDAY
8.00AM - SAID EUCHARIST
10.00AM - SUNG PARISH EUCHARIST
6.30PM - EVENING PRAYER

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER
6.30PM - CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

WEDNESDAY 24TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE
9.15AM - SAID EUCHARIST
5.30PM - CHILDREN'S CRIB SERVICE
11.30PM - MIDNIGHT MASS

THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY
8.00AM - SAID EUCHARIST
10.00AM - SUNG PARISH EUCHARIST

SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER
8.00AM - SAID EUCHARIST
10.00AM - SUNG PARISH EUCHARIST
6.30PM - EVENING PRAYER

A warm welcome awaits you at St. George's this Christmas.

WWW.NEWMILLSCHURCH.CO.UK

Preparing for Christmas: Inside St. George's Parish Church Choir and our Journey to 'Carols by Candlelight'

As December approaches and Advent candles begin to glow, the choir of St. George's Parish Church in New Mills steps into its busiest and most joyful season of the year. Christmas at St. George's is always something special, but the centrepiece of the celebrations is undoubtedly the 'Carols by Candlelight' Nine Lessons and Carols Service.

For the choir, this service is not just a date in the calendar, it is the culmination of months of preparation, dedication, and a shared love of music.

In the run-up to Christmas, rehearsals intensify. Under the guidance of Tim Hawkins, their Director of Music, the choir meets to polish harmonies, refine diction, and shape the expressive musical storytelling that gives Christmas services their warmth and power.

Music folders thicken with pieces old and new. Traditional hymns like "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," sit beside contemporary carol settings and Christmas anthems chosen especially for this year's service.

Each rehearsal is a blend of focus and fun: moments of close concentration mixed with laughter and camaraderie.

The Carols by Candlelight Nine Lessons and Carols Service is one of the musical high points of Advent at St. George's. The church will be transformed as candles flicker around the church. The gentle light turns St. George's into a place of stillness and wonder.

The service follows the well-loved pattern first established at King's College, Cambridge—nine readings from Scripture telling the story of salvation, each followed by a carol that reflects the message.

As the date approaches. There will be final rehearsals, last-minute polishing, and perhaps a few nerves, but above all, a sense of privilege. For the members of St. George's Choir, sharing the music of Christmas is one of the greatest joys of the year.

Whether you are a regular at St. George's or have never stepped inside the church before, you are warmly invited to join us for **Carols by Candlelight** on **Sunday 21st December** at **6.30pm**.

Come early, bring a friend, and let the glow of candlelight, the beauty of sacred music, and the voices of St. George's Parish Church Choir lead you into the heart of Christmas.

And the joy doesn't end when the final notes fades. After the service, all are invited to stay behind and enjoy mulled wine and mince pies!

St. George's Parish Church
-New Mills-


CAROLS *by* CANDLELIGHT

*Join us for our popular festive service of Nine Lessons and Carols
sung by the Parish Church Choir
followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.*

Sunday 21st December 2025
6.30pm

St. George's Parish Church, Church Lane, New Mills

A warm welcome awaits you at St. George's.

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to the people of New Mills"*

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ST.GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH -NEW MILLS-

CHRISTMAS TREE & CRIB FESTIVAL

Friday 12th December
10.00am - 4.00pm

Saturday 13th December
10.00am - 4.00pm

Sunday 14th December
11.30am - 4.00pm

FREE ENTRY

St. George's Parish Church
Church Lane,
New Mills,
SK22 4NP

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CHRISTMAS VERSES

I Am Sure That I Have Forgotten Something

Once again, the winter season is here with
dark frosty nights of chill.
So homes, gardens and streets are festooned with baubles and
lights to thrill.
The meat and vegetables are ordered there is no time to lose.
Just managed to book that much needed, tropical New Year
cruise.

Cards written with packages ready to post lined up in the hall.
A list has been made of friends and relatives to give a call.
The cake is decorated with almond paste and
brilliant white icing,
But I think that I have forgotten someone or something.

In the kitchen I stand up to elbows in sugar and flour.
When I look up and see the clock and notice the hour.
The phone is ringing, hello, how are you, Auntie Bess?
Yes of course you must come to the party just ignore the mess.

Oh dear one more present to choose to get.
I do hope that not all the stores are closed yet.
Grabbing coat, keys and bag my empty purse falls to the floor.
I find a few coins down the sofa and in the dish by the door.

Dashing out into the cold I head towards town.
My mind racing, my brow deeply creased with a frown.
Oh what shall I get, chocolates, jewellery, or pretty scarf?
The assistant helps with a knowing smile and infectious laugh.

With several purchases in hand, I thankfully leave the shop.
Watching others struggle with heavy bags ready to drop.
Then suddenly, above all the bustle and din.
There is the sound of an inviting clear bell ring.

Not from a busy till, but a nearby small church.
I rush over and enter to hear the choir sing, my heart gives a
lurch.
I had forgotten someone and something, a baby boy child,
Born in a stable, to a mother, so gentle and mild.

Not here amongst the glitter, tinsel and snow,
It was in a distant land, oh so very long ago.
I had sadly forgotten the most important thing.
The birth of Lord Jesus, our Saviour and King.

Katrina Hayward, December 2013

A “20/20” Carol (Tune: Kings Weston)

Holy, lowly Saviour
We celebrate your birth,
Not in regal splendour -
Welcomed here on earth.
Born of blessed Mary
Where the ox was stalled;
Visited by shepherds
Whom choirs of angels called.

Humbly wrapped and cradled -
A manager full of hay-
You came from God’s own glory
To guide us in the Way.
Quietly at Christmas
This miracle took place,
Now with awe and worship
We meet you face to face.

Kings brought gifts in tribute
Guided by a star,
Offered gold and spices -
Riches from afar.
Our gifts are much simpler,
We kneel down as well,
Over-whelmed with wonder
More than words can tell

Philip Kendall, November 2020

Nativity Poem

Beneath the stars in skies so deep,
A child was born while sheep kept sleep.
A humble manger, straw and hay,
Held hope that dawned on Christmas Day.

The angels sang, the night grew bright,
As shepherds ran to greet the light.
And in that stable, calm and mild,
Love came to earth—a tiny child.

Anon.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES

St. George's Parish Church - New Mills

NURTURE GROUP

What we do...

A relaxed and light hearted group which meets to talk about some aspect of our faith and life. The topic varies from week to week.

When we meet...

Wednesdays in the Parish Hall - 12.00noon - 1.30pm

Our Leader...

Fr. Owain

How to contact us...

Tel: 01663 743225

Email: vicar@newmillschurch.co.uk

HANDCRAFTED WITH LOVE

What we do...

Handcrafted With Love is a welcoming group at St. George's Church where creativity meets community. Join us as we gather to craft unique items, share skills, and enjoy warm fellowship. Whether you're an experienced artisan or a curious beginner, everyone is invited to create something special—handcrafted with love!

When we meet...

Wednesdays in the Parish Hall - 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Our Leader...

Gen Tarr

How to contact us...

Tel: 07565 937 318

CHURCH CHOIR



What we do...

We are a four-part adult choir (soprano, female alto, tenor, bass) who sing at Sunday morning services and other holy days throughout the year. It helps if you can read music, and commit to attending regularly, but these requirements are open to discussion! The Parish Church Choir is dedicated to enhancing worship through music, leading the congregation in all musical aspects of the service. The choir is open to anyone who enjoys singing and making music. Being on the choir is a great way to meet new friends, learn how to read music and **learn to sing for free!**

When we meet...

Rehearsals - Wednesdays in Church - 7.30pm during term time.
Weekly services - 10.00am

Our Leader...

Tim Hawkins - Choir Director and Organist
Leon Shufflebotham - Head Chorister

How to contact us...

Tel: 01663 746226 / 0778 951 8313
Email: choir@newmillschurch.co.uk

THE MARTYR'S PLAYERS



What we do...

The Martyr's Players is a dedicated church theatre group who aim to inspire, educate, and entertain audiences through the plays we perform. All are welcome to join the group whether to be on stage, backstage or Front of House.

When we meet...

Rehearsals: Mondays 7.45pm in parish hall
Thursdays 7.30pm in church
Additional rehearsals for productions as needed.

Our Leader...

Leon Shufflebotham

How to contact us...

Tel: 0778 951 8313
Email: martyrsplayers@newmillschurch.co.uk

BELL RINGERS

What we do...

Bellringing is a fantastic hobby where you can socialise and learn a new unique skill. No musical ability is needed. You need to be physically able but not a weight lifter! We are a friendly group and welcome learners who can commit to Friday night practices. Please get in contact if you'd like to come and see what Bellringing is all about.

When we meet...

Practice: Friday evenings - 7.45pm
Ring: 1st Sunday every month - 9.30am

Our Leader...

Bell Tower Captain - Lissie Rawson

How to contact us...

Email: ejrawson@btinternet.com

LITTLE LIGHTS



What we do...

Aimed at Primary School children, we listen to a bible story, think about it's meaning, enjoy an activity and snacks and we say prayers.

When we meet...

Third Sunday of the month in the Parish Hall
11.30am - 1.00pm

Our Leader...

Fr. Owain

How to contact us...

Tel: 01663 743225
Email: vicar@newmillschurch.co.uk

LUNCHEON CLUB



What we do...

This group is aimed at elderly people that are unable to get to church on a Sunday for Communion. The Eucharist service is followed by a hot lunch. If you know anyone that used to take Communion and can no longer attend Church, then please get in touch. Numbers are limited.

We are always looking for volunteers to help run this group. If you feel you could help, then we would love to hear from you. All volunteers can stay for a free lunch.

When we meet...

Fridays in the Parish Hall during School Term Times from 11am

Our Leader...

Stephen Gould - Lunch Club Coordinator

How to contact us...

Tel: 01663 749323
Email: vicar@newmillschurch.co.uk



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CHURCH FLOWERS

The flowers we use in church are important to us as they symbolize the seasons of the Christian year and each season has its own colour.

In Lent and Advent there are no flowers as these seasons are for reflection and fasting and they lead to our most important and holy days. So, on Good Friday we honour Jesus' agony in the garden with white flowers in the Lady chapel and burst forth with joy into gold and white at Easter and Christmas after our few weeks of contemplation.

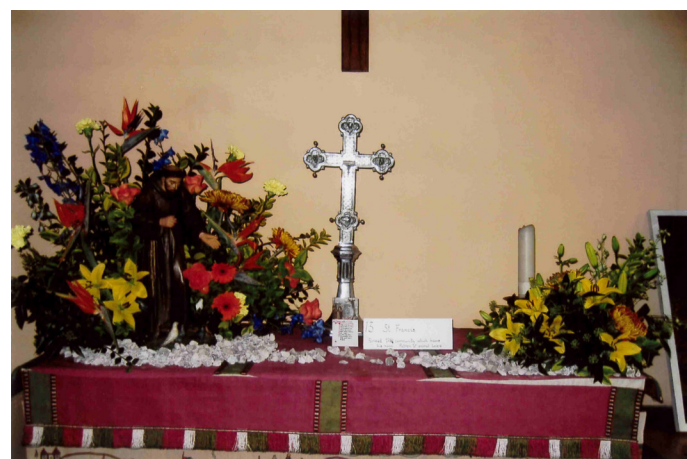
By Pentecost when the fire of the Holy Spirit is upon us, we can break out into red, followed swiftly by the green of Trinity which encompasses our going out into the world to bring back those who are Lost, so all the colours or the rainbow can be used.

We like to think of St George on his day in April with a few red roses by his statue and our fallen are remembered in November with poppies.

If anyone wants a special occasion to be remembered, we can usually remember that too. It seems a while since we did any wedding flowers, but we can be here for that if necessary.

In the past we have had many flower festivals on various themes From weddings, saints and bible stories. Unfortunately, they are very expensive to run, and we have found to our cost that we are not a tourist area.

However, if you think it is worth our while to try again and would like to try again, please Let us know.



St. George's Nurture Group

Saint George's Nurture Group is a relaxed and light hearted group which meets to talk about some aspects of our faith and life.

The group is for anyone, from those beginning to ask questions about God, faith and the Church to life long Christians. It doesn't matter how long you've been going to church, discipleship is a life long journey of growth in faith. We learn new things about God, our faith and ourselves every day. This group is an ideal safe space to grapple with such things in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Nor is there any need to attend every session. You are free to dip in and out for the topics that appeal or as your other commitments allow.

Topics vary from week to week, but we follow this pattern over the course of each month:

Weeks 1 & 2: Faith Questions – addressing the questions people are grappling with about faith & life. The topic tends to be suggested by group members and ranges from Why we go to church to How can we share our faith.

Week 3: Ways of Praying – we explore themes of a spiritual nature, such as prayers of adoration, understanding the Eucharist and writing a rule of life

Week 4: Bible Book Club – we explore a book of the Bible each month using The Bible Society's Bible Book Club resources.

26th Nov 2025	Bible Study
03rd Dec 2025	Faith Questions – Subject to be decided
10th Dec 2025	Faith Questions – Subject to be decided
17th Dec 2025	Ways of Praying – The Eucharist: Concluding thoughts and questions
24th Dec 2025	No Session
31st Dec 2025	No Session

Little Lights Children's Church Activity Group



Aimed at Primary School children, we listen to a bible story, think about it's meaning, enjoy an activity and snacks and we say prayers.

We meet the third Sunday of the month
11.30am to 1.00pm

St. George's Parish Hall
Church Lane, New Mills

Contact Fr.Owain for more information:
01663 743225 or vicar@newmillschurch.co.uk



"Offering a welcoming, God-centred
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St. George's Parish Church in New Mills is delighted to run Little Lights, a fun and welcoming activity group for families and primary school children.

The group meets on the 3rd Sunday of every month from 11.30am to 1.00pm in the Parish Hall. Children can enjoy games, crafts, stories and snacks!

-St. George's Parish Church Choir-

Discover Your Voice!

All are welcome to join the choir!

Being part of the choir is a great way to socialise, make friends and have fun while making music and discovering your voice!

The sings at the weekly Sunday morning service and at special services, events and festivals throughout the year.

Feel free to come along to any of our Choir Practices at 7.30pm in church to see what we do.

For more information you can contact us on:
Tel: 0778 951 8313
Email: choir@newmillschurch.co.uk

www.newmillschurch.co.uk/choir

Children's Crib Service

Christmas Eve | 5.30pm

On Christmas Eve, the church hosts its beloved Children's Crib Service, a highlight for young and old alike. Packed with festive excitement, the service tells the story of the Nativity through carols, readings, and storytelling.

Epiphany Carol Service

Sunday 11th January 2026 | 6.30pm

The festive season continues with the Epiphany Carol Service, celebrating the visit of the Magi. The choir performs a selection of beautiful carols and readings. Offering a reflective and uplifting way to start the New Year.

St. George's Parish Church
-New Mills-

Children's Crib Service

Christmas Eve

5.30pm

A festive family service with fun activities and Christmas Carols. All are welcome.



www.newmillschurch.co.uk

NODA
For every stage

THE MARTYR'S PLAYERS
'Bringing Stories to Life. One Act at a Time.'



BREAKING the CODE

By Hugh Whitmore, based on the book Alan Turing: The Enigma by Andrew Hodges

Wed 13th to Sat 16th May 2026

St. George's Parish Hall, Church Lane, New Mills, SK22 4NP

Tickets: £12.00

Available from: www.ticketsource.co.uk/themartyrsplayers
or from: Juice Graphics, 43 Union Road, New Mills

This amateur production of "Breaking the Code" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

BOOK YOUR TICKETS TODAY...



Epiphany Carol Service



Sunday 11th January 2026 | 6.30pm

St. George's Parish Church, Church Lane, New Mills

WWW.NEWMILLSCHURCH.CO.UK

DONATE TO ST. GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH HERE



St. George's Parish Church relies entirely on the generosity of our regular congregation giving because we do not receive any funding from the government. The money we receive goes towards the community work, pastoral work, missionary and ministry work within the parish of New Mills.

We are also responsible for the upkeep of this beautiful and historic building of St. George's. The money that our regular congregation gives also has to cover the electric, lighting, heating and repairs. This special building is here as a place of prayer, sanctuary as well as being a useable space for the whole community.

For the work and life of St. George's to continue, we need your help.



Visit www.newmillschurch.co.uk for more information.

giftaid it



1. Scan the above code with your smart phone camera.
2. Click on the link.
3. Select your donation amount.
4. Choose the 'Gift Aid' option*.
5. Complete payment using the safe donation site.
6. Your donation is gratefully received... Thank you!

*If you are a UK taxpayer and eligible to Gift Aid your donation, please consider selecting this option. This will increase your gift by 25p for every £1 given (at the current rate), at no extra cost to you or us.





- WEEKLY SERVICES -

Wednesdays

9.15am - Said Holy Communion

Sundays

8.00am - Holy Communion

10.00am - Sung Parish Holy Communion

6.30pm - Evening Prayer

Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for up-to-date information on additional services and events.

A warm welcome always awaits you at St. George's.

PARISH PEOPLE

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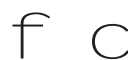


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www.newmillschurch.co.uk

Find us on:



This magazine is free of charge.
If you would like to support us by advertising in our next issue (December 2025), or if you have a story you would like to share with us, then please get in touch:

publicity@newmillschurch.co.uk or call: (01663) 749323

All information in this magazine was correct at the time of going to print.

The Deadline for the next issue of 'A Martyr's Message' is Friday 20th February 2026

This magazine is also available to download and view on our website.