

St Mary's Newsletter

7th December 2025



The Vicar Writes...

Some of you will know that I am having problems with my throat/voice and have needed to empty my diary a bit, missing meetings and events that I would have enjoyed. Zoe has managed to hurt both her foot and her wrist and has missed out on PE and music lessons and I know that many of you are living with long and short term illness which mean you miss out on some aspects of life.

These things can give us a great deal to lament and cause deep distress at times. I pray for many of you daily (and love to do so). They slow us down, and in a busy world obsessed with being productive, being useful, being effective, and in this season being 'ready for Christmas' can result in us feeling 'less than'.

But I was reminded this week that the only thing God asks of us is to 'be'. To be loved. To be saved. Those things require nothing of us, it is God who is the 'doer'. And as we look towards Christmas, when we give and receive gifts, all that God asks of us is receive the gifts of Jesus, of faith and of grace.

So, this week perhaps all that we need to do to prepare for Jesus' coming is to sit, do nothing and just 'be' with our God.

Sunday Services

Sunday 7th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

8.30	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30	Café Church

Sunday 14th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

10.30	All Age Communion
6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight



Family News and Events

Becca, Jutta, Philippa and some others are planning to go to **New Wine Women 'RESET'** day on Saturday 7th February. This will be a day of hearing from God and one another, a time to rest, refresh and perhaps re-energise. There is space in cars for those who need a lift. Tickets are £25 but please don't let that put you off.

Tickets are selling fast so please get in touch with Becca by 7th December.

<https://new-wine.org/reset-book-tickets/>

This month the Men's gathering will be **Mince Pie tasting** but Tony hasn't had much interest. It's a busy time of year so perhaps you haven't found time to let him know you are coming, or perhaps you are busy shopping and can't come.

Do get in touch so he can buy the right number – tony@stmarysgreenham.or

13th December 10 till 11.30 in the church hall.



For anyone who didn't see their invitation, we'd love to have you over to the Vicarage for drinks and nibbles. All the family are welcome.



17th or 18th December 6pm – 8pm

Please let us know which date you plan to come so we don't end up with everyone on the same night!

Faith in Action

Vera hasn't had much chocolate donated for the Chocolate Tombola she's running at the Greenham Community Centre on Saturday 6th December – please do give her some if you are able.



Readings

Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ²and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

⁴John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with [Ⓜ]water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with [Ⓜ]the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”