

St Mary's Thorpe

A House of Prayer for All



We will **Live** by a rule and rhythm of prayer,
Learn from all generations and
Love the diversity of people welcomed.

Church Family News, week of 28th December

Greetings

Merry Christmas to you all, and may you and your families and friends know the joy and peace of Christ as one year draws to a close and the new year beckons. Once again a huge thank you to all those who worked so hard and so cheerfully to help us host all our Advent & Christmas services and events. The Christmas flowers and decorations look wonderful and the change from purple to white on the Christmas tree signifying our hope eternal because Christ has come. As we prepare for 2026 we trust ourselves to God's gracious love and mercy, in all that lies ahead. Thanks be to Him.

Fr. Stephen

This week

Today 8am Said Holy Communion
10am Sung Holy Communion

Monday from 11am Friendship Group at the Red Lion for anyone who would like to meet other people

Wednesday—NEW YEAR'S EVE—NO 11am SERVICE
and no Friendship Club refreshments today
Office open 9am 1pm

Forthcoming Services and Events:

Tuesday 6th January 12 noon Memorial Service in church (Helen's mother)

6pm Compline to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany followed by dinner at the Red Lion (please add your name to the list at the back of church or in the Rutherwyke Room, or let Susi know).

Wednesday 7th January 7.15pm Art Class term starts

Sunday 11th January 10am Service of Thanksgiving for Baptism

Sunday 11th January Family Club 4-5.15pm

Monday 12th January Tea and Talk at St Mary's 2-4pm hosted by Margaret Harnden—a nostalgic trip

along the Thames; and Pete Gruncell—life in a Dartmoor village

Wednesday 15th January 2.30pm Funeral—the late Heather Brittain

Saturday 24th January QUIZ in St Mary's

Monday 26th January 2pm in the Rutherwyke Room, Daniel Sykes will giving a talk on Cyber Security.

Notices

Sad news of the death of Heather Brittain, RiP who died on 21st December. Our love and prayers go out to John, who will need our help and support at this time. The funeral will be on Wednesday, 15th January at 2.30pm at St Mary's

God's Blessing Upon our Homes in 2026

On Sunday, when we shall be celebrating the Feast of Epiphany and Fr Stephen will bless chalk with which we can signify our prayer for God's blessing upon our homes and all who visit during the year. Beside our front door we are invited to scribe: 20+C+M+B+26. Bookended by the year, C, M, B signify the 3 Magi, Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar visitors to the Holy Family and they signify the Latin for "May Christ Bless this House." As we are writing, we are invited to pray the following:

*May all who come to our home this year
rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may
we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that
same Jesus who is Lord, forever and ever. Amen.*

CHRISTMAS GRAND DRAW RAFFLE TICKETS

Raffle will be drawn after the 10am service on Sunday, 4th January. **Still time to buy tickets.**

Contemplative Prayer Group held on Mondays at Susi's House, Ivy Cottage, apart from Tea and Talk Mondays when it's held in church. an open conversation about death and dying. If you're interested, please let me know on vicar@stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk

TEA AND TALK—Second Mondays of each month

If anyone would like to come and share an interesting topic, please contact Susi or the parish office —stmaryschurchthorpe@outlook.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP 28th December

Christmas 1 Holy Innocents

Year A

We welcome Father Gerard, who will be taking our services today

We gather for worship, welcoming everyone as Christ would, learning from him through the Bible and being spiritually nourished by him through Holy Communion.

Those serving us today are:

8am Holy Communion

Server: Katerina Ridge Welcomer/Reader: Bev Germany

10am Sung Holy Communion

Server: Susi Thornton Warden: Pete

Welcome: Joan Reader: Jane Lowe Chalice: Susi/Jane

Collect (prayer for the week)

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMNS GREEN HYMN BOOK

Introit: The first Nowell (omit 3,4) 36

Gospel: What child is this 40

Offertory: Unto us is born a son 39

Communion: Silent night 35

Recessional: Hark the herald angels sing (omit 4) 26

ORGANIST: *Welcome to Camilla* who is deputising for David today

The readings and prayers for this week are below.

Readings:

Psalm: 148

Response to the psalm:

Praise, O praise the name of the Lord

NT Reading: Hebrews 2: 10 - end

Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-18

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

We pray to the Lord for

- ◆ Peace to settle overall warring lands
- ◆ those who are homeless and without hope
- ◆ Children in care and those struggling with mental illness
- ◆ Crisis for Christmas, St Mungo's, Besom, and all who have given up their Christmas to provide food and shelter for others
- ◆ Bishops, Synods, and all who lead the Church
- ◆ From the Guildford Diocesan Calendar of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Canada, and in our own Diocese: St Stephen's, Shottermill

For those named on our December prayer list : James, Heather and John, Geoffrey, Jacqueline, Nicholas, Norman.

For the recently departed: Margaret Bradshaw, Lesley, Heather Brittain RiP

For those whose anniversary of death falls at this time:

Olive Dawes, Roger Grayer, David Wallace, Dorothy Cramphorn, Doreen Dean.

All are welcome to stay for refreshments in the Rutherwyke Room after the service.

Copies of Fr Stephen's sermon are available Email: vicar@stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk

Fr Stephen and others are available to talk or pray with anyone; please just ask.
God bless you this week.

Safeguarding: See it. Hear it. Report it'

On 26th January 2pm in the Rutherwyke Room, Daniel Sykes will giving a talk on Cyber Security

We continue to make Safeguarding Awareness a priority in the churches and communities in which we serve. Raising awareness for safeguarding is crucial for preventing abuse and neglect

safeguarding@stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk

Contact Us:

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