

Notices for Sunday 21st December

Advent 4:

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Pop Up Nativity – Sunday 21st at 10am

Join us this Sunday morning as we explore The Greatest Journey and see how it links to our Advent theme of Love. This service is an intergenerational "Pop-Up" nativity, so come along, either with a nod to your favourite nativity character, or fully decked out!

Carols by Candlelight – Sunday 21st at 6pm

Please come along to be part of what promises to be a beautiful evening in our newly decorated church. The service lasts around an hour, with traditional readings and carols led by our home-grown choir and will be followed by seasonal refreshments. Please invite family and friends.

All-Together Communion – Sunday 28th at 10am

After all the busy-ness of Christmas, please join us for a more 'normal' service, continuing to explore stories of the infant Christ. Readings are Isaiah 63:7-9 and Luke 2:22-40. There will be refreshments after the service.

Please note: there will be no 6pm service on this day.

OTHER SERVICES & EVENTS

Nativity in the Outwoods, Saturday 20th December, 2-4pm

Everyone is welcome to join us at the outdoor space near Olivia's café, where there will be a trail, a short telling of the nativity story and some simple crafts. Please pray for everyone involved and come along with family and friends if you are able to. Warm clothing advised, and money for the lovely hot drinks served at Olivia's!

Christmas Choir – Rehearsals continue on Sunday 21st December

This will be the final rehearsal before the evening Carols by Candlelight – we'll sort seating and have a final run through, as well as enjoying the usual laughter and chocolates!

Crib Service, Wednesday 24th December at 3pm

Everyone is welcome to join us for a fun and interactive service for all ages, telling the Christmas story through songs, readings and drama. Help us spot our advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love as we travel back in time to build up the nativity scene. Refreshments will be served after.

First Communion of Christmas, Wednesday 24th December at 8pm

Welcome in Christmas together at this traditional, reflective service – like midnight only earlier!

Christmas Day Altogether Communion, Thursday 25th December at 10am

Join us on Christmas Day as together we celebrate the gift of Jesus' birth.

Woodland Working Group, Saturday 3rd January, 1.30 – 4pm

Please come and help out with the maintenance of our lovely woodland site, if you are able. We are a friendly group and always open to new members as we seek to keep on top of the brambles and keep the church site in good order. No particular skills are needed, but enthusiasm and a good pair of strong gloves come in useful! Come anytime between 1.30-4pm.

Woodland Worship, Saturday 3rd January at 4pm

Come and engage in the beauty of God's creation! Woodland worship is a relaxed, liturgy-based service which takes place every 1st Saturday of the month. Centred around the fire pit, the service focuses on God, creation and reflects on our impact on the world. Now it will be dark you might wish to bring a torch. Everyone is welcome.

Messy Church Goes Wild – Saturday 10th January, 4 - 5.30pm, Nanpantan Scout Hut

Please do join us for the launch of Messy Church Goes Wild on Saturday 10th January to encounter Jesus differently, through crafts, activities, conversations and a shared meal. We will have a range of inside and outside activities and everyone of all ages is welcome - talk to Hazel or Helena if you have any questions or suggestions. You can give to our Start Up fundraiser online: [Messy Church Goes Wild · ChurchSuite Donate](#), and there's a cash collection next to the fundraising display in the Chapter House.

Godly Play Introductory Day – Saturday 17th January, 10am-4pm

Godly Play is an approach to deepening our connection with God through creative storytelling, with space for questions, wondering and imagination. Based on childhood spirituality with an open and natural sense of awe and wonder, Godly Play can also be enjoyed by people of all ages. You can find out more here: www.godlyplay.uk We are pleased to be able to offer an Introductory Day, free of charge, on Saturday 17th January, 10am-4pm to anyone who may be interested in exploring this approach. There will be the opportunity to experience a Godly Play Session, followed by two sessions exploring different story genres and time to explore how/if this approach might be relevant to your context. Please bring a packed lunch, tea/coffee and light refreshments will be provided. Please sign up here if you would like to attend or speak to Adele for more information. [Godly Play Introductory Day - ChurchSuite Events](#).

Baptism and Confirmation Services– Sundays 11th and 18th January

I'm delighted to say we'll be starting the year with a baptism service for Kerrie Love who has been worshipping with us for some time now. Kerrie will then be confirmed the following week at a confirmation service at Oaks in Charnwood on Sunday January 18th at 8.30am. Please pray for Kerrie and come along to support her if you can. Also, please speak to Adele or Dave if you would be interested in being baptized and/or confirmed yourself, or simply want to know more about it.

Minster community Launch Service, Sunday 18th January, 4pm St Botolph's Shephed

The JAMC (diocesan committee overseeing the formation of Minster Communities) have recently reviewed our proposal and recommended that we are ready to formally 'launch' the 'Beacon in the Forest Minster Community.' A launch service, to mark the start of this Community is being planned for Sunday 18th January, 4pm at St Botolph's Shephed, followed by refreshments. Please put the date in your diary and come along if you are able. [There will be no 6pm service at St Mary's that day]

OTHER NOTICES

A Christmas Present for St Mary's?

Please could you consider whether you are able to give a Christmas present to St Mary's to help us balance the books for the end of the year? Thank you to all who give regular or one-off donations throughout the year, this is so very appreciated and enables us to run the church well and serve the community as we currently do. There is still a deficit between our giving and expenditure which we will have to cover from the Development Fund, intended for bigger projects like the building and staff costs. We would be very grateful for any financial gifts you might feel able to offer this festive season.

Christmas Day Meal

If you, or anyone you know, would enjoy some company over Christmas dinner, you are very welcome to join us at the vicarage 2-5pm on Christmas Day. Please let Adele know by Sunday 21st if you would like to come. revadele@stmaryincharnwood.org.uk

Request for Mince Pies and Shortbread

Please continue to bring donations of shop-bought mince pies and shortbread to serve at the services this Sunday and the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. It's amazing how many we get through each year! Please leave them by the microwave in the kitchen.

Christmas tin collection for Project 5000 – and decoration!

Can we fill the Christmas tree of cans to over-flowing for Christmas? It would be great to have a car-load to deliver once again! Cans, tins, boxes of cereal and other long life items are welcome. Please bring donations to help us make this the biggest display ever! After Christmas these items will all be donated to Project 5000.

Advent Reflections from the Bible Project

The Bible Project have a series of short videos and other Advent Resources exploring the biblical meanings of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. You can find them on their website here: <https://bibleproject.com/advent/>

Easy Fundraising – free donations for St Mary's! Please sign up!

Please sign up for this if you haven't already. It is such an easy way to raise money for our church funds. You can sign up using your computer or by downloading the app on your phone. Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk to create an account and support us by selecting 'St Mary's Church, Nanpantan' as your cause, or download the Easy Fundraising app on your phone from the app store.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Loughborough Baptist Church Christmas Witness and Tree of Love, Loughborough market and Baxtergate Thursday 18th December at 9am.

Loughborough Baptist Church invite you to join them for their Christmas witness which involves wishing passers-by a Merry Christmas and handing out mince pies and Christian literature. You can help them in 3 ways- firstly you can donate shop bought mince pies to the Baptist church from Sunday 14th December; you can help prepare on Wednesday 17th December at 10am at the Baptist church; or you can help on the day. To volunteer, please contact Gill Morris on 07811860640.

You can also join them in the Baptist church forecourt at 11:30am for a short service reading the names on the Tree of Love. If you are sad, lonely or missing someone special to you, you can attach their name to the tree throughout December until this time. You are welcome in the church for refreshments afterwards.

Emmanuel Lunchtime Concert, Thursday 18th December at 12:45

Christmas Celebration Concert with THE8 and organist Kerry Beaumont. Come and enjoy their inimitable mix of sacred & humorous, thoughtful & entertaining Christmas music. Admission is free but donations are appreciated. Soup and roll lunch served from 11:30. For further information phone 01509 261773 or see www.facebook.com/emmanuelconcerts

Youth Alpha, St David's Church, Coalville, Sunday 11th January, 6-8pm

A conversation on life, faith and purpose. Ten Sundays, 6-8pm, starting 11th January at St David's Church, Meadow Lane, Coalville. Food, videos & chat for yrs 7-13. Free to join. [Click here for the poster](#)

Sign up to Youth Alpha here: office@stdavidschurchbroomleys.org.uk

If you'd like to know any more about Alpha, Youth Alpha or you need help getting to St David's then speak to Dave dave@stmaryincharnwood.org.uk

Friends of Launde Abbey Updates

Information about the Launde Abbey Programme of retreats, quiet days and concerts for 2025 can be found here: <https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/events/>

ADVOCATE SLOT

In December, we have a break from supporting a tithe charity. However, we will be making 2 collections for worthwhile causes at our Christmas services. On December 14th, we will be supporting The Children's Society at our Christingle service; and at our Carols by Candlelight services on the 21st December, we will be having a collection for local refugee charity BACA.

You can find more about these charities and make a donation if you wish here:

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>

<https://bacacharity.org.uk/>

This will be our last notices for December 2025.

***Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,
from Everyone at St. Mary's Nanpantan.***