

The Quarterly

St Mary's Church, Ware Community News & Views

Ephphatha – be open!

I don't often start this page with a word in Aramaic, but I was looking at the word OPEN and found that this word, as spoken by Jesus (in Mark 7³⁴ as he healed a deaf man), needed to be translated for the earliest readers and hearers of the Bible. Was it the power of Jesus' speech that impressed the writer so much that the old language became a kind of incantation? Was Christ's heart language regarded as sacred, almost untouchable?

It's hard for us to know – after all, our generation has read the Bible only in English, despite some ambivalence about the versions we use, as even our native tongue has evolved over the nearly 500 years of the Bible in English. But that word “ephphatha” appears in most of the translations I checked, so, yes, it is important.

I'd like to look at the concepts covered by the word “open”. From physical to figurative it has a breadth across our lives and hearts.



OPEN – your eyes when you wake up! Or metaphorically, your eyes when you aren't paying attention.

From first thing in the morning, we spend our time opening things (eyes, curtains, toothpaste tubes, wardrobes, drawers – followed by kettle lids, cereal packets, fridges, then front doors and car doors as we go off to work) and usually we close them again at some point. If we're lucky there might be post to open. Even in the internet age we “open” our laptops and open messages or files. Don't forget Christmas parcels.....*pictured below*

So, by extension, this simple word embraces a host of situations: the generous are open-handed (and those who receive, do so with open hands too!); likeable people may have an open countenance, implying their natural friendliness and honesty. We welcome people, and good ideas, with open arms. Yes, be open about your actions and motives, if it's out in the open it can't be hidden; how we wish for this quality in our politicians and leaders worldwide. Awkward or stressed situations often need both sides to be open, in order to move away from stifling demarcation or aggressive stances. Blessed be the peacemakers....and the open-minded!



In ourselves we can cultivate openness: an ability to accept - new ideas, or people. We need to be open to change, especially in such a fast-developing world.

Open hearts and minds are receptive to the still small voice, the call or understanding of God's will for us.....we can pray to be opened – maybe not in Aramaic, though!

Ysmena's letter

My letter this month is really a business round-up! It is also, if we're being honest here, a note of some things we need help with, to further the life of the church here.

You will read in this edition about some of our plans and hopes:

- There is an article (p.3) from Stephen Crookes outlining some of the developments we'd like to see in our church music life. Stephen has been working away, building relationships with our schools and we're looking forward to welcoming young singers once again. To support this there will be a call for volunteers, particularly to make sure we have sufficient adult support.
- Several of our number are currently engaged in diocesan study/training to support aspects of our worship. We can look forward to hearing from them about that study and also seeing the fruits of it.
- You will also read an article (p.8-9) from Roger Hawkins who, on behalf of the PCC, is spearheading a significant fundraising campaign to enable necessary improvements in the South Porch and a desperately needed refurbishment of the Hall. You don't need me to tell you what the opportunities are there for your imagination, action and generosity!
- In addition to these two fabric projects, which are largely maintenance, the PCC is also continuing the work began at the APCM towards developing the Central Altar area. That is still very much at the reflection phase; we will be asking for contributions to that reflection and the development of plans over the coming months.

And then there are some vacancies in key roles:

- As I write we are just receiving applications for the role of Parish Administrator; by the next edition of Quarterly you will know how this round of interviews has gone.
- The PCC Treasurer role remains a question. Graham continues to do the work of Treasurer despite having retired from the role back in May. For which huge thanks to him, but we do now need to fill that role for the future.
- We do not know whether we will be matched with a curate from summer 2026. As we wait to hear, please do pray for all involved in that process, and for all ordinands in their final year of study.

As we come to the end of what has been another very full and busy year, a big thank you to all of you for your participation in and support of the life, work, worship and witness of St Mary's. And thank you to those who take on particular roles and responsibilities, without which much of what we are and do simply would not happen.



Ysmena

Advent Book

For reflection during Advent, you are invited to read the book
Advent in Bethlehem: Reflections on Scripture and Bethlehem Today
by Nicholas Taylor

Published in October 2025 by Sacristy Press



This series of Advent studies takes readers to the Bethlehem of Scripture, and also to Bethlehem today, exploring the connections between people of antiquity and the challenges confronting Christians in the reality of Bethlehem today. The chapters focus on biblical characters connected with Bethlehem: Rachel, Ruth, David, Elijah, Jesus. Biblical, and later Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions concerning these figures, and the sites associated with them, are linked with the lived experience of the people of Bethlehem today.

This book may be used to accompany private Advent devotions, but can also provide a basis for reflection, exploration, and prayer in church and other Christian fellowship groups. Readers are invited to delve beneath the sentimentality and commercialism of secular festivities, which frequently overwhelm Advent as well as Christmas. As they discover and appreciate something of the lives and struggles of real people, living and historical, Scripture may be opened to them in new ways. The occupation, ever-threatening dispossession, and arbitrary violence of today illuminate the Nativity story and the lives of people of biblical antiquity. They call Christians to share in the prophetic vocation of the Church and to bear witness to Christ's Incarnation in the world today.

Nicholas Taylor is an Anglican priest and a biblical scholar. He has taught in universities and ministerial training institutions in Britain and in Central and Southern Africa. He has been Scholar in Residence at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute overlooking Bethlehem, and is an Honorary Fellow of New College, Edinburgh.

The book is £12.99 or is available for Kindle or e-Reader for £4.99. (Available to order from the Book Nook, or supplier of your choice.)

The suggestion is we each read in our own time and at our own pace. There will be one group gathering to discuss and reflect on the book on Thursday 18th December at 7:30pm. Please check pew notices for final details.

Choir Update

The new choir year has begun with great energy. Alongside our regular Sunday Eucharist services, we have held two Evensongs and an All Souls commemoration. It was wonderful to welcome back former choristers and new friends for our reunion Evensong, sharing memories and looking ahead to future plans. Our Sunday evening services, now at 5pm, have attracted larger congregations - a positive change! If you haven't joined us yet, come to our next Evensong for All Saints on 2 November 2025. Evensong is a reflective and uplifting close to the weekend, and this time it is followed by our annual Sausage Sizzle. *Please turn the page*



Looking ahead, the choir is preparing for the Service of Readings and Music for Advent on Sunday, 30 November at 5pm, followed by our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Tuesday, 23 December at 7.30pm; Midnight Mass on Wednesday, 24 December at 11pm; and Christmas Day Eucharist the following morning. After a short (and well-earned) break, we will continue celebrating through Epiphany, concluding with an Evensong for Candlemas on Sunday, 1 February 2026.

We are delighted to have welcomed several new singers this term and are keen to recruit more adults of all voice parts — please contact Stephen Crookes, Director of Music (music@stmarysware.co.uk), for details.

Stephen has also been engaging with local schools to launch a new Chorister scheme for children aged 8 and up, offering weekday rehearsals and opportunities to sing at services. The programme will help children grow in musical ability, confidence, discipline, and teamwork within a supportive choir community. Parents and guardians interested in learning more are warmly invited to get in touch for more information.

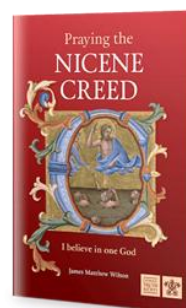
Praying the Nicene Creed - *I believe in one God*

by James Matthew Wilson, published by The Catholic Truth Society. £5.95

I left a recent visit to Quarr Abbey on the Isle of Wight with a gem of a book. Pocket size, and at only 74 pages, it is beautifully produced with reproductions of wonderful illuminations from various medieval Books of Hours and Missals.

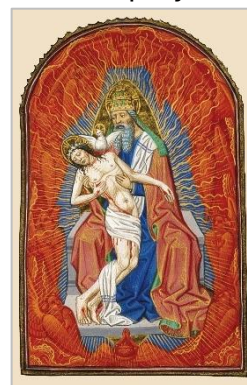


The Nicene Creed is a vital part of Roman Catholic and Anglican liturgy. We say it every week, but it is to be regarded as more than a statement of belief. The author, in an elegant and clear style, shows how each section of the Creed can be used to enhance our prayer life and understanding of our Faith. Statements within the text are ably supported by reference to the Scriptures.



The book is produced by the Roman Catholic Truth Society; however, despite odd quotes from the Catechism of the Catholic Church there is nothing in this book an Anglican should take exception to.

This is very timely, especially as the worldwide church celebrates the 1700th year since the creed was formulated, at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. Thanks to Ian Little for this review.



Bike 'n Hike 2025

The Bikers and Hikers raised £400 (+ some gift aid), £200 of which will come back to St Mary's.

The Hikers visited 11 interesting churches in Ware and Hertford, enjoyed the refreshments generously offered in each, explored the environment exhibition at All Saints Hertford. Along the way we met many others taking part.

St Mary's welcomers greeted 29 visitors offering them hot and cold drinks, biscuits and home-made savoury snacks.

Well done, hikers! and bikers too! And thanks to the stewards.

Lunchtime Concerts



These take place every month -
on the first Monday of the month
and on the third Thursday of the month.

They start at 12.30 and last about forty minutes.

There is a retiring collection in aid of church funds. Coffee, tea and cakes are available in St. Mary's Hall from 11.30. No tickets required, just turn up!

We have concerts planned for the rest of this year and into next:



- Monday 3 November: Haileybury students
- Thursday 20 November : Neil Chippington, organ recital
- Monday 1 December: David Silkoff, piano recital
- In January 2026, there will be a concert on 15 January but the details have not yet been confirmed

What to look forward to in 2026!

- The "Anything Goes" String Quartet will be performing Brahms Clarinet Quintet in B minor Op 115 with *Colin Eldred* clarinet. Provisional date: 2 February
- *Catherine Wild* will be bringing her recorder consort to perform for us. Come and see the different recorders, from the tiny *sopranino* to the gigantic *bass*. 19 February
- In March we will be welcoming *Herman Carisha* to perform a recital of classical piano music.
- We are looking forward to the return of *Jonathan Prag*, who will entertain us with a programme of classical guitar favourites.



Look out for details in the pew leaflets, on the posters in and around church, and throughout the town. If you would like to receive regular monthly updates about the concert series, please speak to Mark.

Finally, do check out our website – arts@stmarysware.co.uk.

I look forward to meeting you again at these events. Best wishes, Mark.

Summer to Autumn, round-up of some of the performances



Summer and holidays were the theme for both August lunchtime recitals, writes *Linn*.

On Monday 4 August, pianist **Barbara Manning**, left, played a series of pieces 'created or completed while the composer was on holiday'. These included *In Smyrna* by Elgar, written while on a Mediterranean cruise, followed by *Ballade No. 2* by Chopin, which included a depiction of a stormy sea.

Please turn the page

Intermezzo in Eb Op. 117 by Brahms introduced a calmer tone, and a suite of four pieces by Benjamin Britten, called *Holiday Diary* gave a flavour of a day spent at the seaside: *Early Morning Bathing, Sailing, Funfair and Night*. Barbara finished the recital with the *August* section from Tchaikovsky's *The Seasons*.

For the Thursday concert we welcomed **Arwen Newband (violin)** and **Anna Le Hair (piano)**. They began their program with two numbers from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, arranged by Jascha Heifitz; *Summertime* and *A Woman is a Sometime Thing*. They followed this with 'Midsummer Moon', which was written by British composer Rebecca Clarke and first premiered in 1924, in which the violin represents a full moon shining brightly against a dark summer night sky. Arwen and Anna finished their programme with Elgar's *Sonata for Violin and Piano, Op 82*, which, although not especially summery in theme, was written during August and September 1918, and was described by the composer as being full of 'golden sounds'. Both recitals brought a sense of summers past and present, perfectly matched with the hot August weather we were all enjoying.

Celia: September 1st: Mezzacapo Mandolin Trio

Stuart, Rob and Steven are all extremely accomplished plucked string players who played a repertoire ranging from early 18th to mid 20th centuries and from Russia to many parts of Europe. There were lovely tunes, beautifully accompanied, some very complicated rhythms in 5/8 from the NW Spanish Basque area and contrasting movements from *Romance* by Cécile Chaminade who was highly thought of but forbidden by her father from pursuing her musical studies. She travelled the world performing, and was the first woman to receive the Légion D'Honneur. We also heard a very reflective *Meditation* by Modeste Mussorgsky - whose name means Musicmaker!

September 18: Lin Xu-Zhang, piano (reviewed by Mark)

Lin Xu-Zhang is a London based Australian pianist currently following postgraduate studies at The Royal Academy, having recently graduated with first class honours. His programme clearly showed his skill and dexterity, making the most of our piano here in church.



The music he chose was played straight through without any pause for applause, very refreshing. The composers were all French. The early music was represented by pieces composed by Francois Couperin (1668-1733), and in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries by Erik Satie (1866-1925) and Paul Dukas (1865-1935). The Couperin pieces were descriptive of rural thoughts and sounds, bird song and harvesting, whereas the first Satie pieces were more meditative. The second set was entitled "Desiccated Embryos"! They were interesting and exciting to listen to, but I couldn't work out how they fitted into the title!

Finally, the Dukas (better known for *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*) was a theme and variations based on a tune by another early French composer, Rameau. It again was very vivid, but I don't think Rameau would have recognised much of his theme, so energetic were the notes!

Lin was very pleased to have been with us, and was delighted with the super appreciative audience. He said he would be very happy to return to Ware to perform once again for us. So look out for him again in the future. A treat not to be missed!



Celia: The Galliard Trio

Andrew Morris (flute), Martin White (oboe and cor anglais), Alec Forshaw (piano and bassoon) *pictured left*, gave an evening concert in aid of Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust on 4th October. They presented an amazing variety of music ranging from Beethoven's *Variations on La Ci darem*, the melody coming in many different guises, through to Madeleine Dring's *Trio* of three contrasting movements ranging from energetically jazzy, to classical and tuneful, finishing with a furious tempo using big chords and

dialogue between flute and oboe. Madeleine flourished after WW2 as pianist, composer and dancer. We also heard Antonin Dvorak's *Slavonic Dance* which used his own folk-like melodies, lively and melodious. He was discovered by Brahms who introduced him to his publisher. R Vaughan Williams's student *Studies on English Folk-song* and *Elgar's Sea Pictures*, based on Elgar's summers spent in Cornwall, were among other delightful pieces.

It was apparent that these musicians, who have played together for more than 40 years, really love performing together. Their seamless coordination and delightful musicality made this a concert to remember.

On Thursday 16 October, **Hugh Legg** (tenor), **Rebecca Watts** (harp) and **Michael Smith** (piano) treated us to a wide variety of stage and film music from the latter half of 20th century, Hugh having chosen from amongst his boyhood favourites; Rebecca's solos were from the film of *Sense and Sensibility* and from *Les Misérables*, and Michael chose his solo from *Chess*.

Local schools St Catherine's, and the Robert Barclay Academy from Hoddesdon, brought groups of students to this concert, and we have received these glowing reactions from St Catherine's:

Ahna: My favourite song was *Empty Chairs and Empty Tables* because it was very dramatic, deep and loud with lots of crescendos and the singer brought a lot of emotion to his music.

Tommy: We were very lucky to see all these incredibly talented people perform. The amount of skill needed to play the harp is unbelievable.

Isabelle: The harp player was so talented because she moved her fingers so elegantly and the music sounded so relaxing.

Varsha: I loved how such a HUGE instrument could make such a delicate sound.

Teddy: I fell in love with the harp because of how her fingers flowed like waves across the strings. I loved the *Chess* song because of it.

Mia: The piano was incredible because it sounded like multiple people playing.

Nia: I loved the piano and seeing the harp being played was such a nice experience.

Luke: The singer was very powerful and I was amazed at how well he sung.

Olivia: It's hard to imagine how long it took you to be so good. Thank you so much; it was so inspiring.

Lovely to hear such enthusiastic comments from concert audiences of the future!

Raising the roof – an appeal for funds will be launched.



St Mary's Hall (*left*) is some 45 years old and is fast needing urgent repairs and refurbishment in different areas of the building. Many of you will be aware that the roof is not watertight in the new era of torrential downpours, leaving dampness and damage to the plaster, cupboards, wood and paintwork. Expert views are being sought as to whether a new roof is necessary or whether repairs will be sufficient and long lasting. Additional needs include the

replacement of windows, the redecoration of the interior, replacement of coverings and the renewal of the fixtures and fittings in the men's toilet. The installation of sound baffles will improve access, for many of the congregation, to words and music in the hall. Several of these actions will reduce heat loss and reduce energy consumption.

Unfortunately, that's not all. The flagstones in the south porch of the church are very uneven and there is serious risk of tripping and falling. The plaster and interior paintwork are in need of refurbishment too. Discussion with appropriate contractors and the preparation of cost estimates are underway for these too.

Lots of needs, and a lot of expense to meet them. We ask ourselves the question: can we afford the works to put our buildings in good order? And not just for us, but for the next generation to follow.

So what are we doing about it all? First, schedules of works and cost estimates are being prepared to try and identify the likely costs. The current financial position of the PCC, and firm forecasts of its financial position for next year are being analysed and determined. The PCC's funds have received quite a hit by the recent repairs to the church heating system which amounted to some £14,000 including VAT. (A grant application to cover the VAT is being made, but that is not certain money. The scheme is limited to listed places of worship- not their church halls! - and may not be continued beyond the end of the current tax year.)

And so, how can we pay for these essential repairs? Can we afford to go ahead? But can we afford not to? If we delay, further deterioration will occur and costs to put matters right, will become even higher.

First, we are determining how much it will all cost. Estimates and quotations are being put together. If the roof has to be replaced completely, it is unlikely that there will be change out of £150,000 for this and all the other works, some of which will be completed by volunteers.

And so where will this come from? In addition to a small legacy held by the PCC, and the accumulated funds from the St Mary's 100 club (which the PCC set aside for building works as necessary), the Friends of St Mary's and the trustees of the Parish Clerks' Land Charity have already indicated that they will make grants from their funds towards these costs. Further applications are being prepared to grant awarding bodies, but the opportunities for these are more limited with respect to the Hall.

Sadly, that funding will not be enough and will leave quite a shortfall. And so we have to turn to Fundraising which is likely to include an appeal for donations, both personal and corporate, and fundraising activities - both great and small. All will make a difference. The programme for repairs and renovations will be divided as a series of sub-projects with each going ahead as the funds become available. In this way the financial commitments can be managed and the risk of not being able to meet the bills is minimised.

We are seeking your support and involvement, as with the refurbishment of the Nave. Ideas and suggestions are already coming in. But more will be most welcome. The appeal, and its fundraising activities and events, will require steering and co-ordination. We will need to continue our current fundraising eg Christmas Fayre, Plant Market for the day-to day expenditure of St Mary's and avoid undermining that. We cannot rob Peter to pay Paul.

A Fundraising Group is being established to collect and test ideas, and to co-ordinate and implement the fundraising campaign. There is a big task ahead, but we can do it together. If you would be willing to participate in this group with your time, skills and imagination, please speak to or contact Roger Hawkins (07736 773899, r.hawkins474@btinternet.com)

To get us started - there will be a New Year's Fundraising Lunch on Sunday 11th January 2026 in the Hall. It will be open to all (bring your friends) - tickets at £25.00 (for 3 courses and a drink) will be on sale shortly. I am seeking some sponsors for the food costs. Do contact Roger if you would like to help in this way.

Please take some time to think and pray about what together we have to do, and how you can best support achieving the goals.

And finally, 'thank you' for all you give so generously in different ways to further our mission at St Mary's Ware.

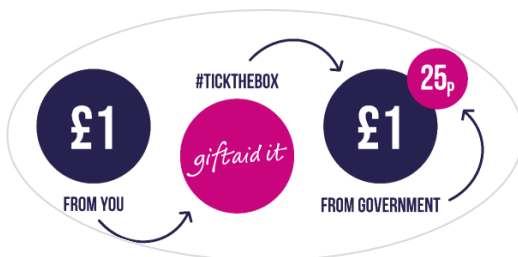
Roger Hawkins

(Chair of St Mary's Giving Committee)

Getting the most from donations to St Mary's – Gift Aid

First, to say 'Thank You' for the great generosity shown in the financial support from the St Mary's Community to support the mission of our church. Without such generosity our work would be seriously impeded.

At St Mary's we do the most we can to maximise our income, and we continue to work at increasing our income from the donations we already receive. We claim back from HMRC (the tax authority) the tax that has been paid by the donor on their income. Many of you will know this is referred to as Gift Aid, and many of you complete the necessary declaration on our gift aid envelopes or on your PGS statements to enable this to happen, for which our thanks.



For every £1 which is accompanied by a gift aid envelope declaration, St Mary's claims back 25p. This means that each gift is worth 25% more, without the donor having to do anything except putting their donation, cash or cheque into an envelope and completing the details on the outside. Then the envelope goes into the collection plate.

For donations made through the card reader, there is a declaration form by the card reader, which when completed can be inserted into the donations wall safe by the south

door, or on Sundays, put it into the collection plate.

Please turn the page

If you pay any form of income tax, we would appreciate your using a Gift Aid envelope or a Gift Aid declaration at every opportunity when you make a cash, cheque, bank transfer or card reader donation. It will make such a difference – a quarter more!

Thank you for supporting St Mary's in this way.

Roger Hawkins

(Chair of the PCC's Giving Committee.)

Note: If you're a higher-rate taxpayer, you can claim back the difference between the tax you've paid on the donation and what St Mary's gets back, when you complete your Self-Assessment tax return.

Christmas is Coming

During Advent, we try to deliver a Christmas greeting to **every house** in St Mary's parish, with details of services over the festive period.

Over the years, our trusty team of deliverers has diminished – by age, impairment and travelling abroad. With more people we could deliver more efficiently and be sure no address is missed.



Celia Higson is the co-ordinator for this and would welcome your help! The more people involved, the smaller the bundle of cards will be, and we can accomplish this task in a much shorter time.

Please consider it. Her email is celia.higson@talk21.com

Christmas Flowers



Christmas will soon be here, and the flower group will be decorating the church as usual.

We would welcome donations for the flowers, perhaps to remember a loved one or for a special occasion.

Please hand your donation to Margaret Meldrum or one of the flower group. Also, if anyone would like to join the flower group, please contact Margaret to find out more. Many thanks!

Dates and times to note!

November

Sat 8 7.00pm Friends of St Mary's Quiz
Sun 30 5.00pm Service of music and readings for Advent

December

Sun 7 4.00pm "make and pray" Christingle service
TUESDAY 23 7.30pm. Nine Lessons and Carols (*note the day*)
Wed 24 4.00pm Crib Service; **11pm** Midnight Mass (*note earlier start time*)
Thu 25 Christmas Day - 10am Eucharist

January 2026 Sunday 11th – fundraising lunch for the Hall



What's on (not an exhaustive list – do keep looking out for any additional events).

November

Sun 2 **All Saints**
8.00 & 10.00am Eucharist with Children's church
5.00pm Choral Evensong, with sausage sizzle

Mon 3
11.30am churchyard café
12.30pm Lunchtime concert: Students from Haileybury School
2.00pm Board Games café
7.30pm PCC

Wed 5 11.00am Eucharist
Thu 6 8.00pm "Space"
Sat 8 7.00pm Friends of St Mary's Quiz Night 

Sun 9 **Remembrance Sunday**
8.00am Eucharist
10.00 Eucharist with Remembrance theme – all welcome
2.30pm Town Remembrance Service, led by local churches in the Priory grounds

Mon 10 11.00am Hertfordshire Welcomes Refugees

Tue 11 **Armistice Day**
11.00am Wreath laying at the War Memorial

Wed 12 11.00am Eucharist
Thu 13 8.00pm "Space"
Sun 16 8.00 Eucharist
10.00am Eucharist with children's church

Mon 17 3.45pm Rota planning meeting
7.30pm Pub Theology – check for venue

Thu 20 11.30am churchyard café
12.30pm Lunchtime concert: Neil Chippington, organ recital

Sat 22 10.00am **Christmas Fayre**
Sun 23 **Christ the King**
8.00 Eucharist

Sun 23 10.00am Eucharist with guest, Bishop Christine Hardman

Mon 24 5.45pm PCC Standing committee

Wed 26 11.00am Eucharist
Tue 25 7.30pm Deanery Synod, open meeting

Wed 26 11.00am Eucharist
Thu 27 8.00pm "Space"
Sun 30 **Advent Sunday**
8.00 Eucharist
10.00am Eucharist
5.00pm Advent readings and music

December

Mon 1 11.30 churchyard café
12.30pm Lunchtime concert: David Silkoff, piano
2.00pm Board Games café
7.30pm PCC

Wed 3 11.00am Eucharist
Thu 4 8.00pm "Space"
Fri 5 **Dickensian Evening**
Sun 7 8.00am & 10.00am Eucharist
4.00pm Christingle service
Mon 8 11.00am Hertfordshire Welcomes Refugees
7.30pm Study group, 15 Warner Road

Wed 10 11.00am Eucharist
Thu 11 8.00pm "Space"
Sun 14 8.00 Eucharist; 10.00am Eucharist

Mon 15 10.00am St Catherine's school Christmas service
7.30pm Pub Theology – check for venue

Tue 16 10.00am St Mary's school Christmas service
Evening: Presdales School carol service

Wed 17 11.00am Eucharist
Thu 18 7.30pm Discussion of the Advent book (see p.3)

Sun 21 8.00 & 10.00am Eucharist
Mon 22 11.00am Herts Welcomes Refugees

Tue 23	7.30pm Carol Service
Wed 24	Christmas Eve 11.00am Eucharist 4.00pm Crib Service 11.00pm "Midnight" Eucharist
Thu 25	Christmas Day 10.00 Eucharist
Sun 28	8.00am Eucharist 10.00am Eucharist
Wed 31	11.00am Eucharist

HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 2026

Sun 4	Epiphany 8.00am and 10.00am Eucharist
Mon 5	No lunchtime concert 2.00pm Board Games café 7.30 PCC
Wed 7	11.00am Eucharist
Thu 8	8.00pm "Space"
Sun 11	Baptism of Christ 8.00am Eucharist 10.00am Eucharist with baptism Lunch, fundraising for the Hall Appeal
Mon 12	11.00am Herts Welcomes Refugees 7.30pm Study group 15 Warner Road
Wed 14	11.00am Eucharist
Thu 15	11.30am churchyard café 12.30pm Lunchtime concert: not yet announced 8.00pm "Space"
Sun 18	8.00 am Eucharist; 10.00am Eucharist with children's church Start of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Mon 19	Pub Theology – check for details
Wed 21	11.00am Eucharist <i>*Deadline for February's Quarterly*</i>
Thu 22	8.00pm "Space"
Sun 25	8.00 & 10.00am Eucharist
Mon 26	11.00am Herts Welcomes Refugees
Wed 28	11.00am Eucharist
Thu 29	8.00pm "Space"

Get in touch...

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07423 812238

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Sue Austin: 07411 220008

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Jackie Turner: 01920 460406

Parish safeguarding officer:

Bonnie West: 07977 140580

Director of Music: Stephen Crookes:

music@stmarysware.co.uk

Bell Ringing, Tower Captain:

Mike Franklin Tel: 01920 466622

Friends of St Marys: Mike West

Tel: 07565 356775 e-mail:

wests52trinity@btinternet.com &

mikewest52@hotmail.com

Usual services at St Mary's

Sunday: 8.00am Eucharist (live on facebook)

10.00am Eucharist, also on Zoom, with

children's church offered on 1st
and 3rd Sundays

5.00pm Choral evensong once a month

Wednesday: 11.00am Eucharist

Monday – Thursday:

9.15am Morning Prayer (also on facebook)

5.00pm Evening Prayer

Regular services in care homes:

Hillview 2.30pm, first Monday in the month

Ashwood 3.00pm, last Monday in the month

Snowdrop 11.00am every Thursday (all are welcome to this eucharist)

