

Pews News for December

from the Vicar,



As we journey through the season of Advent, it feels like the free-fall into the Christmas season is relentlessly powerful. The unstoppable tsunami of Christmas adverts on the television and the constant background playlist of Christmas music assaults us constantly. We can't avoid the 'are you ready for Christmas' enquiries that come from the most unexpected places.

Many people approach the greatest moment in the history of our existence with a mixture of dread, panic and weariness mixed with hope that this year will be better than the last.. that no one will fall out and everyone will like their presents.

It's also a time when what is absent in our lives (for whatever reason) is laid most bare, whether that is energy, resources, friends or family. In a celebration that seems to be so firmly fixated with social events, the underlying loneliness that shapes the lives of so many becomes more acute and in some cases unbearable.

Yet in many ways this is what Advent is all about; the season of watching and waiting as the miracle that is to come takes shape, grows, quickens and imperceptibly takes over our lives. It is the season when we know that very soon nothing will ever be the same again; that it is possible to dread and to long for something at the same time; that the wonder of God choosing to come among us in a very particular way is so utterly bonkers that all we can do is stand and wonder as the rest of the world rushes on.

In this season before us, find the time to be nourished and rested, strengthened and encouraged as we await the One who comes as the Light of the World.. scattering the darkness.. and longing to meet us.

Church isn't just for Christmas so don't worry if you don't make it to the services we are holding this Christmas.. we are here every Sunday and the story gets better as you go along.. so come when and as you can.

Christmas Blessings





Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival is in full swing.. until Sunday 14th. Do come along and get into the Festive Spirit. Once again we have welcomed trees from groups and individuals. This year there is a tree in the Lady Chapel where you are invited to write your own prayers and decorate it throughout the week. There is also a place to stop and reflect on Advent and how we get ready to welcome Christ in to our lives.

This year all funds raised at the Christmas Tree Festival will go towards creating an accessible main



entrance. Plans are ready and required permissions are being applied for. If you have fundraising/grant applying experience and would like to get involved please speak to Alan Burgess (right).

We are hoping to begin work in the late summer 2026



Christ Church Windows

The polycarbonate sheeting is being removed on 22 and 23 of this month. This begins the project to restore and replace our windows coverings so that Christ Church no longer looks derelict and abandoned. It will cost approximately £4k per window and donations are most welcome.



From the Registers

Funerals:

21st November Suzanne Bailey at St. Mary's

24th November Raymond Payne at St. Mary's

Baptisms:




16th November Freddie Farnell at St. Mary's

20th November Ruby Savage (also confirmed) at St John's

Christmas Services at Christ Church and St. Marys



There are cards in church with these details on. Please take some and deliver them to the houses in your street and beyond.

Christ Church		St. Mary's
Nine Lessons and Carols A traditional service with readings and choir	Friday 19th	
	Sunday 21st	Carol Service Come and sing carols with readings 3pm
Crib Service A service for the young at heart 2pm Midnight Mass <i>The way to beging Christmas</i> 11pm	Christmas Eve	Crib Service Gather in the stable 4pm 
Holy Communion (BCP) A reflective way to celebrate Chrstimas 8am	Christmas Day	Family Christmas Communion Celebrate beside the manger suitable for all ages 10am

Marys House Community

The art of thinking together

Questioning our assumptions and pattern of thought through dialogue with others led by Simon Keyes on Saturday January 10th 10am-4pm in St. Mary's hall.

The day will comprise a presentation and dialogue, a contemplative practice and some practical outdoor work (weather permitting).
A simple soup lunch will be provided

Marys House Community is a community for the spiritually curious - a gathering of seekers exploring together what Christian wisdom can teach us about how to live more fully in an uncertain world. All are welcome.

Ruby's Baptism and Confirmation

On a cold Thursday night we gathered in St John's to join Bishop Michael as he baptised and confirmed Ruby and four others. It was a really moving service and many there remembered their own confirmations. The choir was a blend of St. John's, St. Mary's and Christ Church voices.

The service was followed by delicious food and a joyful mingling of congregations.



As a church we gave Ruby gifts of a Bible, an icon, a holding cross, a book about prayer and two bars of chocolate (essential).. and we all promised to keep encouraging her at this exciting time.

Prayer and Carols

In our community, more and more people are living with memory loss, whether their own or that of someone they love. As churches we often forget how good people can still be at singing, reading, praying and enjoying company, even if our accepted pattern and ways of worship are no longer helpful.



On Friday 12th December at midday, there is a gathering at St. Mary's which will begin with a dementia-friendly service and then lunch of soup and mince pies. This is especially intended for people with memory loss and their carers.

Morning Praise at St. Mary's

Starting in January, the fourth Sunday (starts at 9am) of the each month will be a Morning Praise Service rather than a Eucharist. The PCC have agreed to try this pattern out for six months as we explore new ways of worshipping and welcoming new people. The service will have music and readings and prayers but will be a little shorter maybe lasting 45 minutes. Come and see ..

Fundraising Round-up

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to these events in recent months - your generosity and enthusiasm is much appreciated. Aside from raising much needed funds, it has been great working together and having fun.

Wedding
Festival
£720

St. Mary's
Fair
£700

Christ
Church
Fair
£1170





The Bible Course

During October and November twelve people from both congregations met each week in Christ Church for supper and a session of the Bible Course. Using films and discussion we journeyed from the very beginning of the story to the Book of Revelation. It was challenging at times but we encouraged each other via WhatsApp to read the daily passages and together we stepped further into our story as well as enjoying some pretty amazing food. Interested?



The Paddock at St. Mary's

Work has begun to clear the Paddock at St. Mary's. Revd Liz managed to gather the last bag of fallen apples before the Frome Town Rangers moved in with their diggers to clear years of rubbish away. This is in preparation for Frome Loop to install their composting bins and to help us develop it further. Exciting times!



A Church Near You

All church information can be found on the achurchnearyou website. Our existing website will shortly cease to be



Hall Bookings

If you are interested in booking either of the halls. Please visit hallbookingonline.com/frome where you will be able to check availability, make a provisional booking and access all the booking information and forms that you need.



Watch Night Service

On New Years Eve there is a tradition in some churches to hold a Watchnight service at midnight to 'watch the old year out and the new year in'.

Midnight is definitely too late for lots of us (Revd Liz included) so this year there will be a short contemplative service with music, words and silence at 7pm in the Lady Chapel at Christ Church. (Wed 31 Dec). All are welcome and dress warmly. The service will last approx 40 mins

Epiphany Lunch

Looking beyond Christmas to Epiphany which is celebrated on Jan 4 there will be a lunch after the 10.30 service in the hall at St. Mary's.

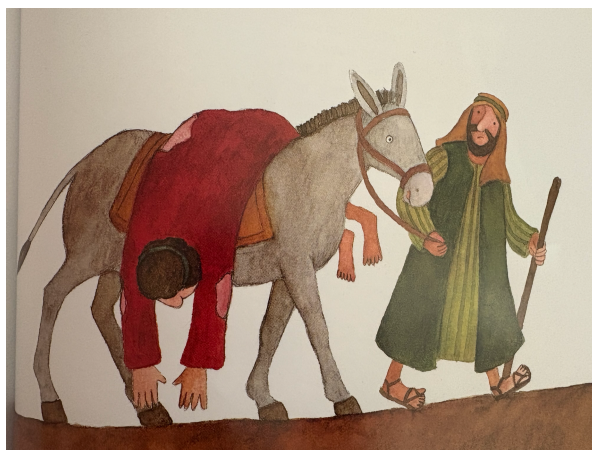
All are welcome to come along and enjoy a delicious meal (veggie option available) and amazing puddings. A great way to start the year.

Breakfast Club

Due to an administrative oversight (by the Vicar) breakfast club is taking a break for the first three months of 2026. Do come along to the coffee mornings on the third Saturday of the month at St. Marys instead and enjoy the hospitality!

Open the Book

Open the Book is always so much fun that we forget to take pictures! The team have visited Christ Church school this term three times and we have been able to find stories that fit with the theme that the school is using in its collective worship. We have had a great time sharing the story of Moses and the 10 Commandments (keeping rules!), The Good Samaritan (compassion) and The Annunciation (Christmas). It is a fantastic way to tell Bible stories with children and have fun along the way. There is always room on the team for one more... talk to Revd. Liz if you are interested in getting involved.



Sunday Services in December



	Christ Church	St. Marys
Sudnay 7th	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 6pm Choral Evensong	10.30am Parish Eucharist
Sunday 14th	10. 30am Sung Eucharist 5.00pm Carols amongst the Christmas trees	9am Parish Eucharist
Sunday 21st	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	10.30am Parish Eucharist 3.00pm Carol Service
Sunday 28th	10.30am Benefice Sung Eucharist	No service
Sunday 4th Epiphany	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 6pm Choral Evensong	10.30am Parish Eucharist

Each Wednesday 10.00am Eucharist at St. Mary's (said)
 Belmont Villa Holy Communion Thursday 15th January at 2pm
 Greenhill Grange Carol Service Wednesday 17th December at 3.00pm
 Frome Hospital Carol Service Friday 19th December at 2pm

Contact Details

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 Hall Bookings <https://hallbookingonline.com/frome>