

Christmas Day Services

St Mary's Saffron Walden
10.30am Family Communion

St James' Swards End
10.30am Holy Communion

St John's Little Walden
10.30am Holy Communion

St Mary's Wendens Ambo
10.30am Family Communion

Holy Trinity Littlebury joint with Littlebury Green
10.30am Holy Communion

All Saints Great Chesterford
10.30am Family Communion

St Mary's Little Chesterford
9.00am Holy Communion

All Saints Ashdon joint with Hadstock
9.00am Holy Communion

St Mary's Debden joint with Wimbish
9.00am Family Communion

Midweek Holy Communion Service

Wednesday 27th December **9.30am** St Mary's, SW

Team Service

Holy Communion, St Mary's, Saffron Walden
Sunday 31st December at **10.30am**
(livestreamed)

Midweek Holy Communion Service

Including prayers for wholeness & healing
Wednesday 3rd January **9.30am** St Mary's, SW

Services on Sunday 7th January

St Mary's, SW

8.00am 1662 Holy Communion
9.15am for 9.30am start Wiggle Church
10.30am Holy Communion (livestreamed)
6.30pm H2H (Parish Rooms)

All Saints Wimbish

9.30am Village Worship

St James' Swards Ends

10.30am Holy Communion

St Botolph's Hadstock

9.00am Holy Communion

St Peter's Littlebury Green

10.30am Holy Communion

St Mary's Wendens Ambo

9.00am Morning Prayer

All Saints Great Chesterford

10.30am Holy Communion

St Mary's Little Chesterford

9.00am Morning Worship

Evening Prayer, on Zoom, from Saffron Walden will take place as usual on **Tuesday 26th December at 5pm**. Details of how to join on the Bulletin.

*Please take this sheet home with you.
We hope you will find the enclosed information useful.*

The Grapevine

Christmas Edition 2023

There are a growing number of Marxists today. By which I mean followers of Groucho, not Karl. "Whatever it is, I'm against it," Marx sang in his 1932 film, "Horse Feathers." He goes on; "I don't know what they have to say, it makes no difference anyway." A surprisingly prescient take on the modern world, I think. Such cynicism (suspicion regarding another's intent) makes it very difficult for stories of Good News to get a hearing and, I suspect, makes us miserable in the long term.

The original Cynics were a school of Greek philosophy. They were certainly cynical, but they were cynical that the values of their age; the pursuit of possessions, pleasure, power and prestige, could ever lead to lasting satisfaction. They set a higher standard for human fulfillment.

At Christmas we hear the story of God becoming one of us, disarming the arguments of God not knowing what life is like, of God being far off, of God not showing vulnerability. God becomes present in the midst of all the crazy, dangerous, funny and beautiful stuff that makes for human life. And nothing is ever the same again.

Happy Christmas
Jeremy

MINISTRY TEAM

Rector: Rev'd Jeremy Trew rector@stmaryssaffronwalden.org	01799 500947
Rev'd Ella Harris revellaharris@gmail.com	01799 571023
Rev'd Dr Hilary Walker hcwalker55@gmail.com	
Youth & Children: Matt Williamson youth@stmaryssaffronwalden.org	07794 518907
Team Administrator: Anthea Slater office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org	01799 506024
Pastoral Assistant: Judith Hasler judithhasler@btopenworld.com	01799 525041
Associate Administrator: Claire Dunn admin@stmaryssaffronwalden.org	01799 506024

NOTICES

OASIS Our first Men's get together of the New Year will be on **Wednesday 3rd January at 12noon** at The Old English Gentleman in Gold Street. All are welcome. If you are intending to come please confirm with me by Tuesday 2nd January. Bill Rose wjr2163@gmail.com 01799 516609

Welcome to Saffron Walden and Villages Team

On these pages you will find details of the regular activities that take place in the churches across the team. If you would like any more information please contact the person indicated or the Parish Office on 506024 or office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

The Parish Office will reopen Tuesday 2nd January at 9am.

Other Activities

Sewing Circle: meets every Monday from 9.30am at The Priory, Saffron Walden making kneelers and banners.

Contact Tessa Hawkes on 523888

Mothers' Union: Next meeting is in St Mary's Parish Rooms on Thursday 8th February at 2pm. This will be the AGM followed by a talk on Christening Robes. Visitors Welcome
Contact Brenda Sheath on 513204

Julian Group: meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 7pm - 9.00pm for a short meditation and discussion.

Contact Tessa Hawkes on 523888

St Mary's Music Association: supports the Director of Music in Saffron Walden with practical, administrative and financial support. We have three strong choirs (Joyful Noise, Juniors and Adults and Choral Scholars) and a brass group. Contact Hannah Razzell on 07779 005842 or music@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

Friends of St Mary's: If you would like to help us maintain and preserve this beautiful building, you can join the Friends - forms at the back of St Mary's church, Saffron Walden, or Contact Pamela Mugliston on 521697

RIPPLES meets on the second Tuesday of the month. For women based on prayer, practicality and out reach in Gt Chesterford. Contact Pam Maskell for more details on 530098

Worship & Word meets for prayer and reflection on first and third Wednesdays at 6.00pm at St Paul's Mission Hall, Wimbish. Next meeting 7th January.

Coffee Mornings

Wimbish monthly coffee mornings at St Paul's Mission Hall. Refreshments, delicious homemade cakes, produce and preserves.

Next date Saturday 13th January 10am-11.30am.

Littlebury Pop-up coffee mornings at Littlebury Church. Coffee is freshly brewed with a choice of homemade cakes. Next date Friday 12th January 10am-11.30am.

Meeting Point meets on the fourth Monday of the month from 10.30am - 12noon at 3 Haggars Close, Gt Chesterford. Contact Elizabeth Marshall on 530265

Tea at Two on the second Wednesday of the month at Gt Chesterford Church at 2pm. Come and have tea & cake.

Sewards End 10am-noon on the first Friday of the month at the Village Hall- All welcome for coffee and a chat. Next meeting 5th January.

LIVING STONES

A contemporary worship service for all in the team. Next service 18th February at 4pm in the Parish Rooms, Saffron Walden

TEAM HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

hosted by

St Mary's, Saffron Walden
On **Sunday 31st December**
at **10.30am** (livestreamed)



Information about all of the churches in the team can be found at
www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org

Children's & Youth Activities

Wiggle Church is a lively and engaging 30 minute service for 0-7 year olds and their families on the first Sunday of the month in the Parish Rooms, Saffron Walden. It starts at 9.30am, with coffee and croissant from 9.15am. Next date 7th January

Aftershock Youth Club: is our youth group which meets on Sunday evenings in the Parish Rooms, Saffron Walden from 7-8.30pm. It is a great chance to socialise, learn & enjoy each other's company. Plus there's normally food involved!. Starting 14th January (H2H service on 7th January)

Sewards End Youth Club meets at the Village Hall monthly on Fridays at 7pm for school years 5-7.

Youth Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays at 4.30pm - 6pm in the Parish Rooms, Saffron Walden. Here we dive deeper into the Bible and attempt to answer life's big questions. Starting 10th January

St Mary's Tinies: is our baby and toddler group which meets on a Tuesday morning from 9.30am in St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden. Join us for some tea and toast followed by some songs, instruments, bible story and a craft. Starting 9th January

For all the above activities contact:
Matt Williamson on 07794 518907

Building Blocks is our baby and toddler group that meets in Great Chesterford church on Wednesdays at 9.30am starting on 10th January. Contact Anna Martin annaarmstrongmartin@live.co.uk

Church Mice is our baby and toddler group that meets at Debden church on the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 1.45pm-3pm starting on 8th January.
Contact Abi Magness 07841 112525

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS...

to you, from all the clergy.
Our grateful thanks for the beautiful cards and gifts you have given us. We trust you will know God's peace at Christmas and God's blessing in the New Year.