

PARISH DIARY

TODAY

18th December

Saffron Walden	8.00am	HOLY COMMUNION 1662
	President:	Michael Swindlehurst
	10.00am	FAMILY SERVICE
	Leader:	Anne Howson
	Talk:	David Tomlinson
	11.45am	HOLY COMMUNION
	President:	David Tomlinson
	6.30pm	SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS
	Leader:	David Tomlinson
Wendens Ambo	6.30pm	CAROL SERVICE
Leader:	Chris Warren	
Littlebury	4.00pm	CAROL SERVICE
Leader:	John Risby	
Littlebury Green	4.30pm	CAROL SERVICE
Leader:	Chris Warren	
Ashdon	9.30am	HOLY COMMUNION
	President:	Wendy Moore
	6.30pm	CAROL SERVICE
Leader:	Wendy Moore	
Hadstock	11.00am	HOLY COMMUNION
	President:	Wendy Moore

THIS WEEK (All at St Mary's Saffron Walden, unless stated)

Monday, 19th December	
8.30am	Morning Prayer
11.30am	Funeral of Mr Harry Green
Tuesday, 20th December	
8.30am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday, 21st December	
8.30am	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday, 22nd December	
8.30am	Morning Prayer
Friday, 23rd December	
8.30am	Morning Prayer
Saturday, 24th December - Christmas Eve	
9.00am	Morning Prayer
4.00pm & 6pm	Christmas Tree Service, Saffron Walden
4.00pm	Crib & Tree Service, Wendens Ambo
4.00pm	Crib Service, Littlebury
4.00pm	Christingle & Carols, Ashdon
6.00pm	Light of the World Service, Hadstock
11.30pm	Midnight Holy Communion, to be held at: Saffron Walden, Swards End, Wendens Ambo, Great Chesterford and Ashdon.

NEXT SUNDAY

Christmas Day

Saffron Walden	8.00am	HOLY COMMUNION 1662
	10.00am	FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION
Swards End	9.30am	HOLY COMMUNION
Little Walden	11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION
Wendens Ambo	9.30pm	HOLY COMMUNION
Littlebury	11.00am	HOLY COMMUNION
Littlebury Green	9.30pm	HOLY COMMUNION
Ashdon	9.30am	HOLY COMMUNION
Hadstock	8.00am	HOLY COMMUNION 1662

Visit www.christmasnearyou.com for details of many of the local Anglican Christmas Services.

The Grapevine

**Welcome to our services today
4th Sunday of Advent**

Collect for the day

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading *2 Samuel 7:1-11,16*

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.' But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Gospel *Luke 1.26-38*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Those whose wedding banns are to be called:

David Reed and Katharine Oram
Nathan Ratcliffe and Kayleigh Buckle (Widdington)

The family and friends of those who have died:

Kenneth Westnedge, Harry Green, Roger Kirkpatrick,
Betty Debnam and Jonathan Betser.

Those who are ill: Ken Caswell, Doris Willment, Cliff Elsom,
Pat Bailey, and Richard Hordern.

Churches Together Prayer Cycle: In December we are
praying for the people of the New Life Pentecostal Church and
their minister, Revd Rajiv Ellalasingham.

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS FAIR 2011

Through the tremendous efforts of everyone involved from stall-holders, makers, bakers and brewers, cooks and caterers, bellringers and booklovers, costume creators and needle-workers, donors and collectors, painters, planters and sowers, readers, musicians and singers, flower arrangers and welcomers to the unsung heroes of backstage - helpers including Parish Office staff, accountants, card folders and deliverers, designers and constructors, erectors, dismantlers and furniture movers, transporters, cleaners and tidiers and with the generous support of so many who came through our doors, the Fair was a wonderful display of friendship and God's love. Through this we raised the magnificent record sum of £5309.24 for the vital support of our church ministry. Well done everyone and a thank you to you all for your dedication, industry and ingenuity.

** See News page of church website for photos. **

2012 CALENDARS - ONLY A FEW LEFT! There are only a few photo wall calendars left. If you would like one, please phone Steve Hasler on 525041.

PARISH DIRECTORY - Please ensure that all forms with your details are returned to the Parish Office by the end of the year, to be included in the Parish Directory. If you haven't yet had a form, please contact the Parish Office for one.

DID YOU KNOW? You can pay for a whole year's **Church News** and get a discount. It would be very helpful to the group preparing the magazine if you did. You could either collect it from Church, or have it delivered to your door. The person in charge of distribution is Ruth Lucy - please contact her on 523310.

SIDESMEN: Please contact me as soon as possible regarding duties for Advent and Christmas services. Roy Maddams Tel: 525084.

COFFEE LADIES: Please collect your half-year 2012 rota from the back of church. Thank you.

DOOR KEY FOUND IN CHURCH 27TH NOV—Contact the Parish Office if you have lost one.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHRISTINGLE SERVICE on the 11th December raised £481.11. On behalf of the Society: grateful thanks to all involved in preparation and planning the service. Wonderful support, much appreciated. *Eunice Harris.*

FOUND in the church following the Christmas Fair: A black M & Co bag containing 3 pairs of trousers and a polo shirt, also a box containing children's toys. Please contact Bill Rose on 516609 to be reunited with your missing belongings.

THE LADIES WHO HAVE LIFTS wish to give a very BIG THANK YOU to the kind gentlemen who take them to and from church each week, and wish them a very Happy Christmas.

Thank you for all your Christmas cards and gifts. We trust that you will know the joy and peace of Christ this Christmas time. *With our love, David, Jenny, Anne, Paula, Tim, Wendy, Hilary and Chris.*

EVENTS

ST MARY'S CHOIR & BRASS GROUP are singing Carols outside Tesco's on **Tuesday, 20th December** 6-8pm. Do come and support them.

Care Homes' Ecumenical Carol Services:

Saffron Walden Churches Together are holding Carol Services in the town's Care Homes and invite you to come along and join the celebrations:

Tuesday, 20th - 2pm at Highfields

Wednesday, 21st - 3.30pm at Stanley Wilson Lodge.

Beer & Carols at The Crown, Little Walden @ 8pm on Christmas Eve. All welcome.

Diary Dates:

Sunday 22nd January 2pm at St Mary's.

During 2012, our Sunday gospel readings at the 10am service focus particularly on Mark. Come and listen to a full reading of Mark's Gospel (approx 2 hours) followed by evensong and a cup of tea. If you would like to read one of the chapters, please add your name to the list at the back of church.

Saturday 11th February 9.30-3.30

@ St John's Church, Colchester - "Let us Pray"

The Colchester Area Conference 2012 marks the 350th Anniversary of the Book of Common Prayer and explores the way we pray together. More details at the back of church. Please let the Parish Office know if you wish to attend by 31st January.

Saturday, 2nd to Sunday, 10th June - St Mary's will be holding a Music & Flower Festival to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. As this event will replace our Summer Fair, your help to make it a great success is needed. To find out more, please see the fliers available in church today.

ASSISTANT ORGANIST needed in the New Year, following Stephen Penton's move to Swindon.

For more details, see our website

www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org

or contact David Tomlinson on 01799 500947.

Closing date for applications 23 January 2012.

On 7th December, the DCC agreed to proceed with a Feasibility Study in 2012 to assess how the needs identified with our church and Parish Rooms can be addressed. We will be interviewing prospective architects in January 2012.

CLERGY TEAM

Rector: Revd David Tomlinson 01799 500947

Email: rector@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

Rector's Secretary: Debbie Sandom 01799 500947

Email: secretary@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

Revd Hilary Davey 01799 522616

Revd Paula Griffiths 01799 599141

Revd Tim Hardingham 01799 542874

Revd Anne Howson 01799 500563

Revd Wendy Moore 01799 584171

Revd Jenny Tomlinson 01799 500757

Revd Christopher Warren 01799 530317

Parish Office 01799 506024

Email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

for more information, visit:

www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org