

## PARISH DIARY

**TODAY**

**4th December**

<b>Saffron Walden</b>	8.00am President: David Tomlinson 10.00am President: Anne Howson Preacher: Tim Hardingham 3.00pm  Leader: David Tomlinson 6.30pm Leader: Andy Finn	<b>HOLY COMMUNION 1662</b> <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> <b>BRITISH LEGION CAROL SERVICE</b> <b>H2H</b>
<b>Wendens Ambo</b>	4.00pm Preacher: Jenny Tomlinson	<b>CHRISTINGLE SERVICE</b>
<b>Littlebury</b>	5.15pm Preacher: David Tomlinson	<b>CHRISTINGLE SERVICE</b>
<b>Ashdon</b>	8.00am President: Wendy Moore 9.30am President: Wendy Moore	<b>HOLY COMMUNION 1662</b> <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>
<b>Hadstock</b>	11.00am Leader: Wendy Moore	<b>FAMILY SERVICE</b>

David Tomlinson is preaching at Debden and Wimbish this morning.

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

#### Monday, 5th December

8.30am Morning Prayer

#### Tuesday, 6th December

8.30am Morning Prayer  
2.00pm St Mary's Tinies

#### Wednesday, 7th December

8.00am Morning Prayer  
9.30am Holy Communion

#### Thursday, 8th December

8.30am Morning Prayer

#### Friday, 9th December

8.30am Morning Prayer  
11.00am St Mary's Pre-School Nativity

#### Saturday, 10th December

**9.00am to 1.00pm Christmas Fair**

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

**11th December**

<b>Saffron Walden</b>	8.00am 10.00am 12 noon  4.00pm	<b>HOLY COMMUNION 1662</b> <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> <b>BAPTISM SERVICE</b> for Samuel Edgar <b>CHRISTINGLE SERVICE</b>
<b>Sewards End</b>	9.30am	<b>HOLY COMMUNION 1662</b>
<b>Little Walden</b>	11.15am	<b>FAMILY SERVICE</b>
<b>Wendens Ambo</b>	9.30am	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>
<b>Littlebury</b>	11.00am	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>
<b>Ashdon</b>	9.30am	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>
<b>Hadstock</b>	11.00am	<b>HOLY COMMUNION 1662</b>

Visit [www.christmasnearyou.com](http://www.christmasnearyou.com) for details of many of the local Anglican Christmas Services.

# The Grapevine

**Welcome to our services today**  
**2nd Sunday of Advent**

### **Collect for the day**

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

### **First Reading** Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

### **Gospel** Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; 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:

Tom Gepp (Thanksgiving service will be held on Thursday, 19th January at 11.30am at St Mary's)

**Those who are ill:** Ken Caswell, Doris Willment, Cliff Elsom, Jonathan Betser, Mary Prosser, Pat Bailey, Pamela Mugliston 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

**CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICE CARDS:** Please collect a pack of cards for one or more roads from the back of church to deliver before Saturday, 10th December if possible! There are spare cards for those who do not live in the town - please do take one home. *Thank you.*

A very big **THANK YOU** to everyone who came along on Wednesday and helped fold all these cards and fliers!

**HEALING FELLOWSHIP:** Members of the Healing Fellowship are available at today's 10.00am service to pray for you. If you wish for prayer for healing for yourself or someone else, please go to the area by the bookstall after taking Communion.

**MESSAGES OF HOPE:** After the 10am service **TODAY** there is an opportunity to send a card to a prisoner of conscience - please come to the table near the South door.

**STEPHEN PENTON**, our Assistant Organist, is moving to Swindon in the new year. If you would like to contribute to his leaving present, hand your donation, clearly marked to Debbie Sandom at the parish office by 11th December. *David*

**2012 CALENDAR.** A photo wall calendar is now on sale in recognition of the start of the Saffron Walden and Villages Team Ministry from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2012. With 12 churches in the team, a different church is featured each month. The calendar will be on sale at every church in the team with funds raised going to the church where each calendar is sold. More details from your churchwardens or sign the order form at the back of St Mary's.

**ST MARY'S BOOK GROUP** will hold their next meeting at 8pm on Friday 9th December 2011, at 4 Castle Street, to discuss Kathryn Stockett's novel about the Civil Rights movement, *The Help*. New members are very welcome. If you have difficulty in getting hold of a copy, please telephone SW 520291.

**PARISH DIRECTORY** - You are invited to be included on a new Parish Directory being compiled for the three churches in the new Saffron Walden Parish (St Mary's, St John's Little Walden and St James, Swards End). Please pick up your envelope from the back of church - if your name is not there, please take one labelled "Parish Directory".

**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.

## EVENTS

### St Mary's Saffron Walden

### Christmas Fair

**Saturday 10th December, 9:00am - 1:00pm**

Please look at the notice board at the back of church for details of where help is needed. All offers of assistance to stallholders or in helping to set up and clear away afterwards will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.  
Contact Bill Rose on 516609.

**BRITISH LEGION CAROL SERVICE** is this afternoon at 3pm in St Mary's, Saffron Walden. *All welcome.*

**MOTHERS' UNION** are having their Christmas party at Audley Court on Tuesday, 6th December at 8.00pm. Everybody welcome to join us.

### Late Night Shopping 9th December 6 - 9 p.m.:

Churches Together are manning a stall outside the Library, giving out information on Christmas Services and wrapped chocolates. It would be good to have some volunteers from St Mary's. Can you help? If so please just turn up.

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

**SAFFRON WALDEN ASSEMBLIES TEAM:** We conduct Assemblies with a Christian theme in RAB, Katherine Semar, Dame Bradbury's, Debden, Wimbish, Radwinter, Chrishall and Ashdon Primary Schools on a regular basis. We are always delighted to add to our team of helpers, and if you think you might feel called to join in this work or would like to know more, please speak to your Minister or Val Bowtle (Tel 01799 526271) Training available.

**Diary Date: Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2pm at St Mary's.** Full public 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.

## 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](http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org)

## THE TRANSITION PROJECT

Looking for a job? Self-help and support, CV writing and improving, Interview practice, job search, discussion.  
Tuesdays 10am to 12 noon in the Parish Rooms, beside St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden  
[www.transitionproject.co.uk](http://www.transitionproject.co.uk)