

**THIS WEEK'S SERVICES
AROUND THE TEAM**

St Mary's Saffron Walden

8.00am Holy Communion 1662
10.25am Sunday Club (Parish Rooms)
10.30am Holy Communion (livestreamed)
12.15pm Baptism
4.00pm Christingle

St Mary's Debden

9.00am Holy Communion

All Saints Ashdon

9.00am Holy Communion

St Mary's Wendens Ambo

4.00pm Christingle

All Saints Great Chesterford

6.00pm Carol Service

St Mary's Little Chesterford

3.30pm Carol Service

TUESDAY

8.30am Morning Prayer, Hadstock
5.00pm Evening Prayer - Zoom only, SW

WEDNESDAY

8.00am Morning Prayer, SW (Parish Rooms)
9.30am Building Blocks, Gt Chesterford
9.30am Holy Communion, SW (Parish Rooms)
5.00pm Evening Prayer - Zoom only, Cam Villages

THURSDAY

7.30pm Blue Christmas service, Saffron Walden

SATURDAY

5.00pm Carol Service, Swards End

NEXT SUNDAY 21st December

St Mary's Saffron Walden

8.00am Holy Communion 1662
10.25am Sunday Club (Parish Rooms)
10.30am Holy Communion (livestreamed)
6.30pm Carol Service (livestreamed)

St Mary's Debden

6.30pm Carol Service

All Saints Wimbish

3.00pm Carol Service

All Saints Ashdon

6.30pm Carol Service

St Botolph's Hadstock

9.00am Sunday Worship

Holy Trinity Littlebury

10.30am Carol Service & mulled wine

St Peter's Littlebury Green

6.00pm Carols & Christingle

St Mary's Wendens Ambo

6.30pm Carol Service

All Saints Great Chesterford

4.00pm Christingle

St Mary's Little Chesterford

10.30am Holy Communion

**Links for livestreamed services are available on
the weekly bulletin.**

Please contact the Parish Administrator

Please send items for the Grapevine to Claire Dunn at
admin@stmaryssaffronwalden.org
by 9.00am on Wednesday.

The Grapevine

**Welcome to our services today
14th December 2025
3rd Sunday of Advent**

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way
of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading: Isaiah 35 v 1-10

Psalm: 146 v 4-10

Second Reading: James 5 v 7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11 v 2-11

When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

In December please pray for New Life Church, St Peter's Littlebury Green, Holy Trinity Littlebury and Gt Chesterford Primary School

The family and friends of those who have died recently: Linda Moore, John Badcock

Those who are being baptised:

Saffron Walden: Alicia Battley, Ben Wright, Ivyana Wright and Vinnie Wright.

EVENTS

AFTERSHOCK CHRISTMAS PARTY

TODAY, 7– 8.30pm in the Parish Rooms for all aged 11 –18 years. Contact Julie Lester for more details.

stmaryschildrenandyouth@gmail.com

Aftershock restarts on Sunday 11th January.

NOT YOUTH, NOT RETIRED

I would like to meet with you to discuss how I can best support you on your journey and encourage you in your faith at St Mary's, SW on **Tuesday 16th December at 7.30pm** in the Parish Rooms next to the church (downstairs in the youth room) *Jeremy*

BUILDING BLOCKS are having their Christmas Party on **Wednesday 17th December at 9.30am**. They will restart after the Christmas break on 14th January.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE on Thursday 18th December at 7.30pm at St Mary's, SW is a quiet service for those who wish to mark Christmas, but find it too difficult to celebrate. All welcome.

CAROL SERVICE Saturday 20th December at 5pm at St James' Swards End

CRIB SERVICE Tuesday 23rd December at 4pm at St Mary's Wendens Ambo

TINIES has finished for the Christmas break. Thank you to all who have helped this term. Tinies will restart on **Tuesday 6th January at 10am**.

8am HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE at St Mary's, SW in January. The lighting installation restarts on Friday, 2nd January, and there will be scaffolding on the south side of the chancel. Due to this, our 8am service will be in the south aisle using the south altar starting on **Sunday, 4th January** until the end of January.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY hosted by the Community Church, restarts after Christmas on **Wednesday 7th January from 4.30pm - 6pm**. Contact Julie Lester for more details. stmaryschildrenandyouth@gmail.com

ALPHA COURSE

Thursday evenings, 8th January-26th March
at the Vicarage, Gt Chesterford, CB10 1NP

An open space to unpack life's big questions. For anyone who's curious about the Christian faith.

For more details contact revellaharris@gmail.com

NOTICES

CHRISTMAS CARD for St Mary's, SW.

There will be a large Christmas card at the back of church for all to sign for each other. Any donations given in lieu of the cost of individual cards will be donated to Uttlesford Foodbank. The card will be available from **TODAY**.

CHURCH LIGHTING St Mary's SW. We have 40 -50% of the new lighting handed over, the rest will be completed at the end of February. Please let us have any comments as you experience the new lights, particularly during this period when we are learning how to adjust the lighting levels and program which lights are on and off.

Many thanks. *Steve Hasler & Vivian Falk*

9 LESSONS & CAROLS service from St Mary's, SW on Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm will be livestreamed. The YouTube link is available on the church website or next week's Bulletin.

PHOTOS. Prints of the Christmas Fair are on the website and also on display at the back of St Mary's Church, SW. A selection of photos from the Advent Carol service rehearsal can also be found on the News section of the website. *Martin*

THANK YOU from the residents of Jacob's Place for the carol singing on Tuesday.

BBC Radio 3 . A recording of **CHORAL EVENSONG** on 10th December at St Mary's with the choir of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge can be listened to on BBC sounds - link on the Latest News page of our website. Many thanks to all who helped with this recording.

MINISTRY TEAM

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