



St Mary's News  
"One Church Worshipping in  
Different ways"

**Christmas 2024**

Join us for one of our special  
or regular services



### *The Advent Journey*

In one sense Advent is about waiting for the coming of the King, waiting for Jesus to come again. But Advent is also a time that resonates with journeys, each part of the Advent/Christmas story involves journeys, everyone travels, most of them geographically but some take a journey of understanding.

It always amazes me how quick the journey through Advent can seem. I often feel I have missed some aspects of preparation before reaching the end of Advent and the beginning of Christmas. I've become very conscious this year of how important it is to try and slow down at this time, to find space and time in our lives to ponder on how we are preparing the way for God to come and dwell with us, to dwell in us, by His Spirit.

In many ways Advent is a companion to Lent as a focus time that leads up to a big celebration, but Advent is only four weeks instead of six. So, I would encourage you to try and mark this journey by finding ways to stop and reflect on the way, find those moments where you can pause and cultivate a joy in your heart amidst all that is going on around us both locally and in the world. Jesus says to his disciples 'Watch and pray' and we do well to put those words into practice this Advent.

This December I am going to try to read a new book by Paula Gooder – 'The Women of the Nativity' – a companion to her excellent 'Women of Holy Week', it has short chapters and just one for each week so I hope it will be manageable for me! Other great Advent books and reflections are available. You are welcome to join in our Advent/Christmas services, and invite friends, neighbours and family to join the Advent journey too. Hopefully this will all help us to prepare the way, and to watch and pray together. **Stephen**

## Christmas Services

### Sunday 1st December

8am BCP Holy Communion  
9:30am Advent Holy Communion  
4pm Christingle Service

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December

8am BCP Holy Communion  
10:30am Community Carols & Story  
@Village Hall

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December

8am BCP Holy Communion  
10am United Worship  
6pm Traditional Advent Evensong

### Sunday 22nd December

8am BCP Holy Communion  
9:30am Holy Communion  
@11 Informal Worship for all-ages  
6pm Traditional Carol Service

### Tuesday Christmas Eve

4pm Nativity Service: come dressed as your favourite nativity character  
11pm Midnight Communion

### Wednesday Christmas Day

10am All-age Christmas Communion

### Sunday 29th December

8am BCP Holy Communion  
10am All age Christmas Communion

Welcome to the St Mary's Church family. We are a diverse Church community meeting in and for our village.

All morning services also available online: [www.smlm.co.uk/livestream](http://www.smlm.co.uk/livestream)

## Contacts

### Vicar

Stephen Partridge

01929 459444

[vicar@smlm.co.uk](mailto:vicar@smlm.co.uk)

### PCC Vice Chairman

Bill Carter

01202 625296

[churchbuilding@smlm.co.uk](mailto:churchbuilding@smlm.co.uk)

### Church Wardens

[wardens@smlm.co.uk](mailto:wardens@smlm.co.uk)

Karen Hesketh

01202 020462

(or 07568 327030 for emergency or sending texts)

### Assistant Warden

Ann Manning

01202 623635

### Church Administrator

Riette Hodson

07724 543499

### Safeguarding Officer

Charles Hodson

01202 632103

### Bellringing

Kris Knudson

07952 228995

[bellringing@smlm.co.uk](mailto:bellringing@smlm.co.uk)

### Website

Debbie Phipps

01202 632858

### News sheet

Frances Tomlinson-Mynors

[newssheet@smlm.co.uk](mailto:newssheet@smlm.co.uk)

### Prayers

[prayer@smlm.co.uk](mailto:prayer@smlm.co.uk)

## Food Bank

We have received the following message from the co-ordinator of the Wareham Food bank based at Purbeck Gateway Church. "A big thank you to all who give generously to Wareham foodbank. Times are extremely difficult and to give people this food is a joy. They really appreciate the donations. With Christmas coming, it would be lovely to put extra crackers and maybe toiletries in their bags." Naomi

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the food bank whether through donations at Mursells Estate Agents, through WI or to the box at St Mary's (under the Welcome desk!) This message will also be circulated on the local Facebook page as there is a tremendous support from the wider community and sent to Lytchett Matravers (afternoon) WI group.

If you would like to support this Christmas appeal –please be aware that these will need to be collected in time to be delivered to Wareham on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

## The Welcome Project

Our project to install a kitchen and refurbish the toilet in the extension at St Mary's Church continues to progress. We have now got provisional DAC approval, which means the Diocese are happy with our plans. We are now at the stage of firming up various details, and establishing which bits of the paperwork we can complete ourselves and which bits we will need the architect to do for us.

We are very focussed on making the most of the generous donation we received for this work, and hope there will be a surplus that can help to create a more usable space in the upper room of the extension too. Thank you to all those who have contributed energy and expertise to this project, we hope that 2025 will finally see the opening of our new kitchen. I am looking forward with excitement to see how this project will help us grow in our welcome and our hospitality for the future, and to continue to make Jesus known to more people locally and further afield.

## Stephen and the PCC

## Community café

Always looking out for a good cuppa...the WI went to investigate the community cafe, yes...where community lunches are held! The cafe was very welcoming, and Lytchett Matravers WI enjoyed the delicious hot drinks on offer and the warm welcoming space the cafe provides. Board games can be played, and for the more energetic table tennis, now there's a challenge! The cafe is open Wednesdays 11am-2pm for hot drinks and a light lunch if you want, all very reasonably priced.



## Prayers

Lord Jesus, light of the world, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people in trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmas and show all the world God's love. Amen.