

Welcome to St. Mary's

**Thank you for joining us today.
Your presence is a joy to us and to God**

We're so sorry that under Tier 2 Covid 19 restrictions we are unable to offer you refreshments after the service, as mingling is not permitted.

Please wear a face covering throughout your visit and maintain social distancing. Please use the NHS Test and Trace app on your smartphone to scan the poster, if you have this facility. Spare disposable masks are available in the church porch, together with hand gel. Please place offerings in the red buckets upon arrival. Toilet facilities are open as usual in the Church Centre.

Readings for next week – Advent 4

2 Samuel 7:1-11. 16 • Psalm 89:1-4. 19-26
Romans 16:25-27 • Luke 1:26-38

Forthcoming Services

Sunday 20th December

9.30am: Parish Communion (CW)

Sunday 27th December

11.15am: Benefice Holy Communion at the Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury, Cothelstone (BCP)

Sunday 3rd January

9.30am: Parish Communion (CW)

This is the Record of John

*Music: Orlando Gibbons; Words: John 1 vv. 19–23
Performed by Fretwork; His Majesty's Sagbutts & Cornetts; Magdalena Consort*

"This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ.

And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou that Prophet? And he answered, No.

Then said they unto him, What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What say'st thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord."

Christmas at St. Mary's

**Sunday 20th December, 4.00pm
Carols in the Churchyard**

Join us for carols and readings around the Christmas tree and collect your Christingle to take home!
(Weather permitting)

Christmas Eve 24th December, 11.30pm
Midnight Eucharist in the church.

Christmas Day 25th December, 9.30am
Parish Communion in the church.

Regrettably, due to Covid 19 restrictions, the two services in church cannot include singing by the congregation and numbers attending will be limited to maintain social distancing.

Please wear a face covering to all events!



Free will envelopes

Margaret has left 2021 envelopes at the back of the church, to be collected by those who kindly contribute regularly in this way.

Thought for the Week

"Materialism is not simply a matter of possessing or owning things - all of us, after all, own things and need to do so. Materialism is that condition of the mind or spirit whereby the person becomes attached to things, even good and necessary things, in order to be assured of identity. It is a condition which will not be cured by discarding possessions, by having or owning less. It will not be cured by giving things up if there is nothing to replace the void that will be left."

From "Both Alike to Thee." by Melvyn Matthews

Rector: Revd. Mark Hurley 01823 432222 (*Mark's day off is Friday*)

Associate Priest: Revd. Maureen Young 01984 667472 (*Maureen's day off is Thursday*)

Reader: Katharine Smith 01823 325425 Churchwarden: David Smart 01823 432531

Churchwarden: Adrian Smith 07787 281215 Church Centre bookings: Jo Wainwright 01823 433738

Benefice website: bishopslydeardbenefice.org

Please email items for the notice sheet and website to Adrian: adrianandkatharine@gmail.com by 12.00 noon on Thursday.