

Churches Together

Our Advent series of ecumenical early morning services continue this week on **Tuesday 19th and Friday 22nd December** in the Catholic Church, starting at **8am** followed by breakfast for those who wish to stay. Everyone is warmly invited to attend. (Please note there will be no early morning prayer in St Marys on Tuesdays or Fridays during Advent).

Food Bank

We wish all our donors, volunteers and clients every blessing this Christmas. It has been a very busy week, and we are so grateful that we have been able to give our Christmas “treats” as well as the usual food items to our clients. Next **Wednesday (20th)** is our last opening before Christmas and we re-open on **Wednesday 3rd January**. It is not too late to give us names of individuals or families who are struggling this Christmas. Many thanks Shelagh and Helen.

P.S. I have 5 bars of beeswax (good for helping wooden drawers to run smoothly) & 5 small jam jars (1/4 lb?) if anyone would like them!

FLOWERS AT CHRISTMASTIDE

The flower guild will be decorating the Church for the Christmas season on **Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd December** from **9am**. Donations and gifts of flowers and foliage would be welcome on both days. We wish friends and fellow worshippers a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Tina and the ladies of the flower guild

PEW SHEETS

If you have anything you would like included in next week’s pew sheet please e-mail pewsheets@stmarysbattle.org.uk **deadline date for pew sheets 9pm Wednesday evenings please.**

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE & CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, TELHAM

Third Sunday of Advent – 17th December 2017

Welcome to all – especially visitors and newcomers

Please take this pew sheet home with you!

Parish Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, please grow Your kingdom here in our parish. Fill our worship with Your living presence and help us to experience You touching and transforming our lives. Help us to know You better and give us the confidence to trust You more. Help us to work with You in drawing people into this church, and to welcome them when they come. Especially we pray that new families and children may find the love of Jesus here, and the joy of knowing Him as their Saviour and Lord. Amen

Collects of the Day

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Or

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. Amen

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 forever. Amen

READINGS, HYMNS AND PRAYERS FOR TODAY

8.00am Holy Communion – St Mary's The Dean

9.30am Parish Communion - St Mary's The Dean

Readings: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-9 (p.748)

John 1: 6-8; 19-23 (p.1063)

Hymns: 410, 51, 155, 120 & 108 (*Songs of Fellowship*)

(Between these services all are warmly invited for refreshments)

11.00am Nativity Service St Mary's The Dean

Join us for this relaxed and less formal time of worship for all ages.

All words for the service, including both Bible readings and songs, will be displayed on the screen.

6.00pm 9 Lessons & Carols The Dean

Please see separate order of service.

Please join us for refreshments after the service in the Benedicta Whistler Centre

Church of the Ascension, Telham Revd Simon Earl

10.00am Carol Service

Midweek Holy Communion – Thursday 21st December at 10.30am

Everyone is warmly invited to share communion with this small friendly congregation in the Lady Chapel followed by Coffee and Fellowship in the Benedicta Whistler Centre

(There is no midweek Communion service on 28th December, next one will be Thursday 4th January 2018 at 10.30am)

Christmas Home Communions

The Pastoral Team are always happy to arrange Home Communion for Church members who are sick, elderly or housebound and unable to attend Church services. If you, or someone you know wishes to receive Holy Communion at home this coming Christmas, please speak to Ron Cook or Alison Hassell asap, so that it can be arranged.

CHRISTMAS EVE 24TH DECEMBER

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

4.00pm Christingle

11.30pm First Communion of Christmas

St. Mary's

St. Mary's

Telham

St. Mary's

St. Mary's

CHRISTMAS DAY 25TH DECEMBER

10.00am Family Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

St Mary's

Telham

SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER

10.00am Family Communion

(Please note there will be no service at Church of the Ascension, Telham)

St. Mary's

Prayer List

Please pray for: All on our list, together with those in nursing homes who are no longer able to attend church, those known to us personally and those known only to our Lord Jesus Christ.

If you would like to add a name to the weekly prayer list, please contact Alison Hassell.

The Year of Prayer

As a part of the Global 24/7 Prayer initiative during 2017/2018 members of St Mary's Church will be praying for the people, businesses and community throughout the town. The aim is to cover the whole town in Prayer between the start of Advent in 2017 to the start of Advent in 2018.

You are invited to join us as we pray for this week (17th December) for **Asten Fields Pre School Playgroup & Vale Road.**