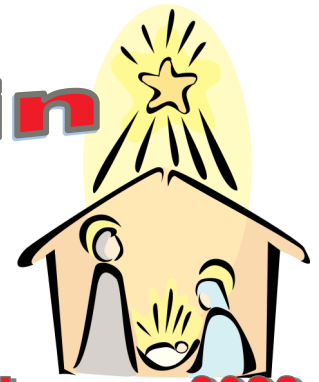




Keeping in Touch



December 2021-January 2022

St Mary's North Mymms is an outward looking church, catering for all age groups and helping the local community to experience God's love and grow in faith

Rev Penny writes ...

"All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth!" so goes the well-known song written in the 1940's by schoolteacher Donald Gardner. But what do people really want for Christmas? Last year, a popular consumer magazine listed among their top 10 most requested Christmas gifts: a collapsible, re-usable straw, a moon lamp and a back massager. Of course, no Christmas gift list would be complete without a request for novelty fluffy slippers and matching pyjamas - for all the family! Food plays a major role at Christmas. Is it to be turkey or goose, Christmas pudding or trifle, prosecco or champagne? And the television – there must be films, lots of them: new releases as well as old favourites. And the Queen's speech – when should we listen to Her Majesty's message to us - before or after Christmas lunch?



Just over 2000 years ago a baby was gifted to our world by his Father. This baby was carried by the young girl Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph, a carpenter. As the time for the baby's birth approached, Mary and Joseph found themselves travelling to a strange city, and without anywhere to stay. And so the baby's birth took place in a humble animal barn and was announced to simple peasant shepherds guarding their sheep in the fields around Bethlehem by angels who joyfully sang: *"Peace to God's people on Earth."*

Later, Wise Men would visit this special baby and Mary his mother bringing presents: gold, frankincense and myrrh. And Mary would thank them and treasure
Cont'd.....

these moments, as would any new mother. These were precious first memories of time with her baby. Named by an angel before his birth, he was called Jesus.

Jesus – God’s gift to his world, given to help us understand better God and his ways. The baby grew up and as a young man, he taught that we should love God and love those around us, forgiving those who wrong us and extending the hand of friendship to all. And that care should be shown, not just to all people regardless, but to the whole of God’s Creation – the whole living world we live in.

So, what do you want for Christmas? What gift would excite you and fill you with joy, what present would bring you satisfaction and contentment?

In John’s Gospel, Jesus promises all his followers: *“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete”* (John 15:9-12)

And later in the same passage he assures us saying: *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”* (John 14:27) This is the real gift given to us at Christmas – the gift of Jesus – whose birth we remember at this time. Jesus promises to be with us always and to bring us joy and peace and contentment when we trust him to care for us.

Happy Christmas!

News

Harvest 2021

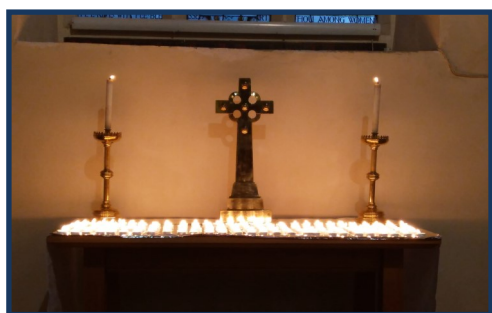


On Friday 1st October it was lovely to see the pupils, staff and parents back in the church after so long. They had come to celebrate Harvest. The children showed us what they had learning all about the importance of water as part of the Bishop of St Albans Harvest Appeal. Their gifts along with those of the congregation were gratefully received by the Hatfield Food Bank

Community Singing—a joyous group reconvened after so many months away and spent a wonderful afternoon singing their favourite songs accompanied by Jill Pratt on the piano. In true St Mary's tradition it was followed by tea, cake and a chat. The next Community Singing is booked for 20 March 2022.



Angels and Light Party an excited group of children and their parents came together in St Michael's Room to take part in craft activities, hear stories about angels, partake of hot chocolate and hot dogs and meet round the fire pit for toasted marshmallows. Our thanks to everyone who helped make this such a successful event.



All Souls Service—this photo is a glowing tribute to all those we have loved and lost over the years. These are the candles lit and placed on the high altar at the All Souls Service on 31st October. A quiet service of reflection much appreciated by those grieving and missing their loved ones.



Remembrance Sunday. The Hope Railings were decorated in tribute to those lost in war. After a short service at the War Memorial to lay wreaths a packed church took part in a moving Service of Remembrance.



KINGS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

On 21st November we welcomed the Kings Chamber Orchestra to St Mary's Church. A joyful Teddy Bear's Concert in the afternoon was followed by a wonderfully uplifting concert in the evening. Many thanks to Rev Ruth for introducing us to this amazing orchestra. Hopefully we can welcome them back at some point in the future.



Mission
Action
Planning

An Update

So delighted to report that due to the dedication and commitment of many people all three of our planned outreach activities are now up and running.

Oasis Cafe



The Café opened its doors for the first time on September 8th and meets on the second Wednesday each month from 2pm-4pm. It is a open hearted space offering a chance to chat over a cup of coffee or tea. All are welcome so please come and join us and bring someone with you who maybe would not think of coming otherwise.

Coffee Pots and Tiny Tots



Our toddler group had it first meeting on 17th November and we are now meeting fortnightly in St Michael's Room on Wednesday mornings from 10.00-11.30am with dates set to the end of March 2022. There are refreshments and time for a chat whilst the children have fun with crafts and play. Spread the word to families with children to join us



Wild Worship—Christingle

The Angels and Light Party was our first, very successful, invitation for families to join us in Wild Worship. Our next planned event is on **Sunday 16th January at 3.00pm** when we will be making Christingles to remember Jesus as the Light of the World. Christ needs us to spread His light in the world so please spread the word to families and friends to join us in celebration.

St Mary's Church North Mymms invites you to come on a Walk to Bethlehem

A route around the grounds of St Mary's Church telling the story of the First Christmas ending up at the stable.
The walk will open daily from Sunday 28th November until Sunday 2nd January from 10.00am -4.00pm

Please bring a torch and, if possible, your smart phone to hear carols accessed via the QR code on each story page



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Christmas Services 2021

Saturday 18th December

3.00pm Crib service

Sunday 19th December

6.00pm Carols by Candlelight

Friday 24th Dec

11.30pm Midnight Mass.

Saturday 25th Dec

9.30am Christmas Day Parish Communion

Sunday 26th December

9.30am Parish Communion

For more information please visit the church website: www.stmarysnorthmymms.org.uk or Facebook @stmarysnorthmymms



The Memory Tree

In the Church Porch is the **Memory Tree** which has been thriving in the Vicarage Garden since last year! You are invited to remember a loved one at Christmas by writing a note on a star and hanging it on the tree. The stars will be collected up on Christmas Eve and placed upon the altar at the Midnight Service



Baptisms

10th October	Tilly Voyce
16th October	Max Ktenidis
17th October	Kat Moralee
21st November	Lily Boothby

Weddings

6th November	Lucy Byrne and Craig Read
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Funerals

20th October	Philip Watts
27th October	Delsa Cooper
8th November	Ute Barnard
10th November	Maureen Vango

Burial of Ashes

2nd October	Craig Michael
10th October	Peggy Ann Prescott
20th October	Philip Watts
20th November	Edna Boothby
27th November	Ronald and Daisy Manley

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