

BULLETIN

Issued: 1 December 2023



The Vacancy: The good news is that an appointment has been made. The bad news is that we're not allowed to know who it is yet. Please respect Richard and Janet's need to keep the information confidential. We'll announce the name of our new Rector as soon as we can! Please continue to pray for our new incumbent, for the unsuccessful candidates and for the team at St Mary's shouldering the responsibility of keeping everything going in the vacancy.

Homemade Stall – Sun 3 Dec, 10.40-11.30am: The Homemade Stall and Second-hand Book Stall will have lots of lovely goodies to eat and also presents for Christmas. Do come along and take a look. We would be very grateful for donations of home-baking, Christmas planters, Christmas crafts, cards and other gifts. Remember in January the stall will be having a well earned rest.



Christingle – Sun 3 Dec, 4pm: Everyone is welcome to join us. The service is followed by teatime treats in the church hall, led by the Families Team. This is a joyful celebration bringing families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope. We look forward to seeing you and joining together in worship.

Donations for Tea after the Christingle Service – Sun 3 Dec, 4pm: We would be extremely grateful for any food donations for the social after the Christingle service. Could you please help with sandwiches, sausage rolls, crisps, vegetable sticks, cakes, etc. Please jot down what you can donate on the clipboard in church or complete this [online form](#)

Resources Preparation for Christmas – Thurs 7 Dec, 10-11am: A big thank you to all who came on Thursday morning to help with preparations for Christingle. We have more stars to prepare and would really appreciate some help and support. All resources will be provided as well as some refreshments. Please come to the Community Coffee Shop at Fetcham Village Hall.

Messy Church - Fri 8 Dec, 3:30-5:30pm: Join the Families team for their Christmas Messy Church, a form of church for children and adults involving creativity, celebration and hospitality. Everyone is welcome!



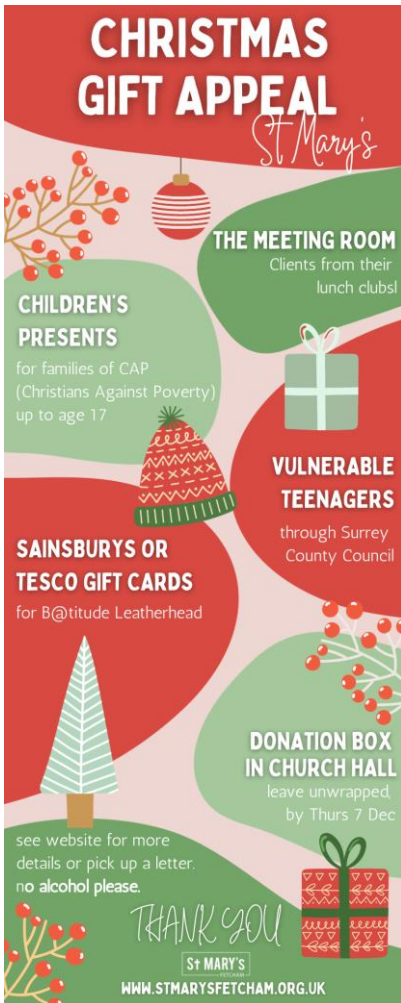
Candlelit Carol Service - Sun 10 Dec, 6:30pm: Do come and invite all your friends and neighbours! After the service we offer mulled wine and mince pies. Please could you pop an extra box of mince pies in your shopping trolley! If you would like to help serve refreshments in the hall after the service please get in touch with Corinne, 800885 or 07710 260882. Thanks in anticipation!

Charity Carol Service – Thurs 14 Dec, 6:30pm – This year we are delighted to be supporting our local charity, Sight for Surrey. The Bishop of Dorking, The Right Reverend Paul Davies, has kindly agreed to join us and will be giving the address. Fetcham Park House warmly welcomes you to join them for refreshments afterwards.

Home Groups: St Mary's currently has 12 active home groups that connect around 80 people in fellowship, friendship and discipleship. Groups are studying a range of online and written material. They meet on different days and at different times of the day, to suit the needs of their members. One group, a 6-week pilot study on the gospel of Mark at Fetcham Park House using Community Bible Study material, is on the point of ending, but a new group, with a focus on people new to St Mary's, will start in January. If you are new to St Mary's and would like to join a group, or if you are a long-term member and would like to join a group, please e-mail the Parish Office on office@stmarysfetcham.org.uk for more information.

Thursday Community Coffee Shop – 9-10:30am Village Hall: We look forward to our final Thurs before our Christmas break on the 7 Dec. The Community Coffee Shop and Toy Library will return on Thurs 11 Jan 2024. We would love to see more customers at this community coffee shop. The Village Hall has plenty of parking and the coffee shop has everything you would expect from the Monday Community Coffee shop. Bring friends and neighbours for a cuppa and chat! The **Toy Library** is located here too, taking memberships which enables you to borrow toys and return.

Repair Café: It's not too late to join the Repair Cafe team. You can complete this [form](#) or speak to Julie Partridge or Richard Furze about how to get involved. The project plans to open its doors to the public in early 2024.



2023 Christmas Gift Appeal: Last year we provided presents for 14 children whose parents were clients of [CAP Mole Valley](#). This year we have said that we would be delighted to provide presents again for the children whose parents are currently in contact with CAP Mole Valley. The numbers are rising rapidly, currently standing at 42! We are also supporting [B@titude](#), [The Meeting Room](#) and *vulnerable teenagers* through Surrey County Council.

Could you please check the back of your cupboards for any presents that might be going spare? Did you buy something for one of your children or grandchildren which they are now too big to wear or play with?

We would be delighted to accept any new presents that you might wish to give for some of Surrey's most needy individuals. Sorry but we are not able to accept nearly-new gifts. More details can be picked up in the church hall where you'll find the donation box, or on our [mission and charitable links page](#) on the website.

Church Christmas Card: Why worry about which of your St Mary's friends you should send a card to? Why not sign the St Mary's Church Family Christmas Card? Featured is Byron, an apprentice mechanic from Nairobi's slums. St Mary's is the main contributor to the Apprenticeship Scheme run by Centre for Urban Mission. We want everyone at St Mary's to sign the card. Purely voluntary is that you can put in a few pounds to help fund more apprentices and the Homework Clubs in Kibera and other Nairobi slums. Thank you.



A Connection with God makes all the Difference

Time set aside each day to pray and read the Bible helps us to maintain and strengthen our connection with our Heavenly Father. It is good to read the entire Bible, so that you know what it says; and you can appreciate how the 66 books penned by many authors over hundreds of years combine to consistently convey God's rescue plan for mankind.

Anita Hunt has prepared a Bible Reading Plan which encourages reading of the entire Bible, a chapter a day, over a four-year period. In 2024, we shall be in year B, which covers the narrative of the Old Testament.

You might like to request a Study Bible for Christmas, in order to have access to helpful information on the background to the various books.

The Bible Reading Plan is available as a booklet, which covers the entire year; or can be provided monthly on an A4 sheet, alongside a church prayer diary.



Alternatively, please contact the Parish Office, if you would like to receive the monthly plan with Prayer diary, either by email or on paper.

If you prefer listening rather than reading, you might like to explore the NIV dramatized Bible, which can be found here:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/audio/>

**May the LORD open our eyes that we might see
all the wonderful things in His Word.**

Anita Hunt

Christmas Craft evening Success: Last Friday the hall was full of eager crafters, all enjoying each other's company whilst working on the many lovely crafts on offer. After expenses a tremendous £381 was donated to boost the Christmas gift appeal fund. Liz would like to thank all the crafters who helped her with the Christmas Craft Evening. Everyone enjoyed the evening and the crafts that were created.

Rectory Garden Working Party: Thank you to everyone who came along and helped clear The Rectory garden and also give the house a once over in preparations for the interviews that took place earlier this week.

Prayers

We welcome you to join us at St Mary's for:

Monday Morning Prayers : 8:00-8:30am

Private Prayer in Church : Monday to Saturday 9am -3pm

We pray for our new Rector, the unsuccessful candidates and our Church Family as we continue in our time of vacancy.

We continue to pray for those who are unwell: Gillian Mills. Deirdre Medland, Matthew Aldrich, Dean Hammond, Fay Burroughs, Vera Cameron, John Cooper, Anais Featherstone, Barbara Grant and Elaine Mead.

And those in residential care: Sheila Bramwell, Jill Gray and June Williams.

Sunday Services

8am Communion Service : said Book of Common Prayer

9:30am Communion Service : sung Common Worship

11:15am Worship Service : informal with worship band

Also, 10am Thursday : Communion Service (monthly 3rd Thursday)



Foodbank would like to give all their clients who visit us in December a bag filled with Christmas goodies. Details below, please help if you can.

Tinned ham, packet stuffing, Yorkshire pudding mix, Christmas cake, Christmas selection boxes, savoury Christmas snacks, Yule logs, Christmas sweets, chocolate tubs, Christmas biscuits, custard, mince pies (not containing alcohol).



If you would prefer to donate money you can give [here](#) or directly into their bank account (CAF Bank - Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, sort code 40 52 40, account number 00034980. Please reference your donation 'for Christmas').

St Mary's has collected food donations for the local Foodbank for many years. This week they are also grateful for donations of:

Washing up liquid, Household cleaning products, Adult Toothbrushes, Vegetarian Tinned Food, Mayonnaise Chocolate spread, Toilet rolls, Dog food

Donations are taken directly to the Leatherhead hub regularly.
<https://stmarysfetcham.org.uk/connect-us/mission-charitable-links/>

Other news

Quiz Night – 24 Feb 2024, 7:30pm: Christians Against Poverty are hosting a quiz night at Bookham Baptist Church.

Dorking URC Church Community Worker (10 hours per week): Dorking United Reformed Church seeks to appoint an energetic and committed Christian to work alongside our current community worker. The role would involve assisting with church community groups and developing meaningful relationships with those attending. A passion to share the good news of the Christian faith is essential. For more information please contact David Langford (Dorking URC Church Elder) email hellodurc@outlook.com or phone 01306 889644

Diary Dates

Sun 3 Dec – Homemade Stall and Second-hand Books morning
Sun 3 Dec – Christingle, 4pm with tea afterwards
Wed 6 Dec – Bereavement Café, 10:00 – 11.30am
Fri 8 Dec – Messy Church, 3:30-5:30pm
Mon 18 Dec – Youth Christmas Party
Thurs 21 Dec – Thursday 10am Communion & Christmas lunch (prebook)
Wed 3 Jan – Bereavement Café, 10:00 – 11.30am
Sun 6 Jan – no homemade stall
Fri 11 Dec – Messy Church, 3:30-5:30pm
18-25 Jan 2024 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sat 20 Jan – Who Let The Dads Out?, 9-11:30am
Sat 27 Jan – Afternoon Tea, 3-4:30pm
Thurs 18 Jan – Thursday 10am Communion & Christmas lunch (prebook)
Thurs 25 July 2024, 2pm – St Mary's Golf Day – contact Brian Egles

Weekly Regulars

Monday – Community Fridge 10-11am (not open on Bank Holidays)
Monday – Community Coffee Shop 10-11.30am (not open on Bank Holidays)

Running in Term Time

Monday - The Drop-In (School Yrs 7-13) 4-5.30pm
Tuesday – Youth Night (School Yrs 7-13) 7.30-9pm
Thursday – Community Coffee Stop @ Fetcham Village Hall 9-11am
Friday - Footprints Baby & Toddlers 10-11.30am
Friday – Messy Church (all the family) 2nd of the month 3.30-5.30pm
Sunday – Activ8 for under 11s and Sunday Youth for 11+ during 11.15 service

Keep up to date with St Marys:

Website: www.stmarysfetcham.org.uk
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stmaryschurchfetcham/>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stmarysfetcham/>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/StMarysFetcham>
My ChurchSuite: [Log in](#)

Hearing Aid Supplies: contact Jacky on 01372 602092 or family.breadmore@gmail.com

Recycling – Milk Bottle Tops only - Please do not leave plastic bags or crisp packets to be recycled. The people who used to collect them stopped taking at the start of Covid.

Parish Office : office@stmarysfetcham.org.uk 01372 375000 (Mon-Fri 9-12)



Editor – office@stmarysfetcham.org.uk



Christmas Services

Sun 3 Dec	Christingle 4pm
Fri 8 Dec	Messy Church 3.30pm
Sun 10 Dec	Candlelit Carol Service 6.30pm
Thurs 14 Dec	Charity Carol Service 6.30pm
Sun 17 Dec	Carols in The Bell Pub 6pm
Sun 24 Dec	Crib Service 4pm Midnight Service 11.15pm
Mon 25 Dec	Christmas Celebration 10am
Sun 31 Dec	Communion Service Unsung 9.30am



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