



Weekly Newsletter

3rd December 2023

WELCOME TO OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER.

Whether you are a regular worshipper or visiting St Mary's for the first time, we welcome you and hope that you enjoy worshipping with us today. Please do introduce yourself to one of the sidespeople or the clergy.



St Mary's seeks to be an inclusive church and welcoming to people of all ages and backgrounds. We have a carpeted area for the younger members of the congregation, if they wish to use it.

Communicant members of any Christian church are welcome to make their communion with us. If you do not wish to receive communion, but would like to receive God's blessing, simply hold the service booklet when you come to the altar rail.

We thank you for your donations. If you are a UK tax payer the money you place in the collection can be increased by around 25% if you fill out an envelope available by the main entrance. This allows us to retrieve the tax you have already paid and put it towards the work of St Mary's. You can also donate using the contactless payment points at the West end of the church.

Further information about St Mary's, our life and ministry can be found on: our website www.stmaryswarwick.org.uk

St Mary's Campaign 2023 <https://www.stmaryscampaign2023.org.uk/> and <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stmaryswarwickcampaign2023>

Twitter @StMarysWarwick and @ChoirsofWarwick

Facebook @StMarysWarwick and St Mary's Warwick Community

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/c/CollegiateChurchofStMaryWarwick>

Please note that for legal and copyright reasons the taking of videos, photographs and recordings is not permitted during services.

LIVESTREAMING - help us to connect with our online congregation

We provide a live-stream of our 10.30am Sunday service on Facebook and YouTube, and the 10.30am order of service, weekly newsletter, monthly prayer diary and parish magazine can also be viewed and downloaded from our website. Please note that for our 10.30am service the South side of St Mary's (by the font) remains a zone just for those wearing masks and maintaining social distance.



Under GDPR, St Mary's must have consent of anyone whose image might be included in our broadcast. Every attempt is made not to show faces but this can happen if people turn around during the service. The congregation is not filmed whilst receiving communion, and side aisles and the back third of the centre of the church are not covered by our cameras. The full policy can be read on the noticeboards or from the "Featured" section of the front page of our website. Please indicate your consent by using the link to the online form on our website.

INTERREGNUM PRAYER

Loving Father

Your love for us is unchangeable.

*You have welcomed each of us into the family of your church;
in Jesus, you called us to be His Body in this place.*

*Send down your Holy Spirit upon us in this time of uncertainty and change
to fill us with vision and energy and faithfulness in prayer*

that we may be true to our Baptism

and bring new life to our parish community.

*Guide with your heavenly wisdom those appointed to discern the way
ahead and a new Rector for this parish*

*that we may receive the priest you have prepared for your people;
ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith,*

and lead us by example in loving obedience to your Son

Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERVICES

3rd December 2023
First Sunday of Advent

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP Said)
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Celebrant & Preacher: Jonathan Hearn
Service begins in the Book of Common Prayer on page 294 and readings on 87

10.30am	Choral Eucharist Boys', Girls' and Men's Voices also on Facebook & YouTube
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Celebrant: Robert Langton
Reading: 1 Cor. 1. 3-9 - Godfrey Hill
Intercessions: Ian Barnicoat
Organ Voluntary: *Choral Prelude on "St Thomas" Parry*

Everyone is warmly invited to stay for refreshments after the service.

5.30pm	Advent Carol Service Boys', Girls' and Men's Voices
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See special order of service

Director of Music: Oliver Hancock
Assistant Director of Music: Mark Swinton
Organ Scholar: Colin Millington

NOTICES

ST MARY'S CRIB SERVICE - CALLING ALL CHILDREN!

It's time to polish your haloes and round up your sheep for our annual Crib Service, which will be at 4.00pm on Sunday 24th December. Children are invited to come dressed as characters from the Christmas Story (especially angels, shepherds, sheep, stable animals and kings). There will be some simple dress-up props (animal masks, angel wings, etc) available in church on the day too. If your child would like a speaking part (of whatever size), please speak to Kirsteen Robson as soon as possible (07799 682872 / kirsteenr@gmail.com).

THE END AND THE BEGINNING

To conclude the recital series for this term (and for 2023), Colin Millington will be at the organ on Friday 15th December at 1.15pm. He'll be offering a programme including Leighton and Litaize, as well as extracts from Naji Hakim's symphonic suite *Le Bien-Aimé*. Meditating upon verses from Scripture and referring to the 'O' antiphons for Advent, this music is especially suitable for what is the last month of the calendar year, but the first month of the liturgical year! As always, admission is free with a retiring collection.

CAROL SERVICES

All are warmly invited to our various Carol Services in December:

Sunday 3rd December, 5.30pm: Advent Carol Service

Sunday 17th December, **6.30pm**: Candlelit Christmas Carol Service I

Wednesday 20th December, **6.30pm**: Candlelit Christmas Carol Service II

All three services will include the carol commissioned by St Mary's for 2023 from Cecilia McDowall, in memory of Gentleman of the Choir, Peter Stubbs: *Tota pulchra es*.

CHRISTMAS ITEMS

Christmas cards and other items are now available in the St Mary's shop.

ANNUAL CLOSURE OF THE COLLEGE GARDEN

The College Garden will be closed to the public on Sunday 10th December and will reopen on the morning of Tuesday 12th December.

BUYING A CHRISTMAS TREE

At the end of the St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival, Sunday 3rd December, the trees are available for purchase, with proceeds benefiting St Mary's. The trees will be regularly watered, and the cost for a five-foot real tree will be just £27. They can be collected on Monday 4th December between 9.30am and 2.00pm, and you can let us know ahead of time which tree is of interest and we will reserve it for you. Please visit the Festival when it is open to make your choice! Thanks again for your interest and support.



A Ceremony of Carols

by Benjamin Britten

Friday 22nd December
5.30pm

*Sung by the Girl Choristers
of the Collegiate Church of
St Mary, Warwick
with harpist, Cecily Beer*



St. Mary's
Warwick's Musical Treasures

**Tickets: adults £10, under-18s free
available on the door**

THE SNOWMAN

Ticket sales for The Snowman on 23rd December have surpassed all expectations, with all 900 online tickets selling out in just 8 days. The Shop tickets have also sold out. If you have any questions, email eventmaster@stmaryswarwick.org.uk but please note that the waiting list is full.

CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to girl chorister Hannah Maxwell on gaining places in the Millenium Youth Choir and as a violist in the CBSO Youth Orchestra. We look forward to hearing more glorious music from her over the coming months and years!

ST MARY'S PRAYER DIARY

The Prayer Diary produced by Coventry Diocese can be found here: <https://www.coventry.anglican.org/prayer-diary.php> November's theme is *Advent and Christmas*. Below is this month's Prayer:

*"The one who had much did not have too much,
and the one who had little did not have too little"* 2 Corinthians 8.15

da capo
a cappella chamber choir

Sleigh Ride

Start your Christmas with carols old and new
and festive fare in a relaxed atmosphere

Supporting St Mary's

St Mary's Church

Remaining tickets £12, under 16 £6

7.30pm, Tuesday 19th December

available from: Mary Adams

dacapo.warwick@gmail.com

LEAM MUSIC CONCERT 'SING WE YULE' AT ST MARY'S

On Tuesday 5th December at 7.30pm, celebrate Yule effervescently with Joglearesa (Katharine Hawnt voice, Victoria Couper voice & harp, May Robertson fidel, Jordan Murray percussion & dulcimer, Jonny Akerman percussion), at St Mary's and chase out the chill from the Celtic fringes of Europe, with traditional carols and wassails from Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales on fidel, harp, bells and voices.

The Season of monthly concerts continues with Stile Antico, Valencia Baryton Trio and Ensemble Molière.

Tickets and full details on www.leamingtonmusic.org or Visit Warwick in the Court House or call 01926 334418.

FLOURISH CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING EVENTS AND RAFFLE

Please see below details below of forthcoming events at Flourish:

- We have a fabulous raffle this year with lots of great prizes you can view on the brilliant raffle platform we're trialling.
Raffle tickets - [on sale here](http://www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/flourish-christmas-raffle-2023) (www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/flourish-christmas-raffle-2023)
- Tarantara performance at St. Mark's - 9th December.
Tickets are £12.50 and can also be found on [Ticket Tailor](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/youcanflourish/1034229) (www.tickettailor.com/events/youcanflourish/1034229)
- [Leamington Tree Fest](http://www.allsaintschurchleamington.org.uk/christmastreefestival.html) - please visit and vote for the Flourish tree 9th - 17th December, All Saint's Parish Church, Leamington.
(www.allsaintschurchleamington.org.uk/christmastreefestival.html)
- Warwick Castle Light Trail is supporting various charities. To ensure your discounted ticket price goes towards Flourish funds, please book the 6:15pm slot on 20th December using this [link](http://www.warwick-castle.com/?keyword=T315&PromocodeT315A) (www.warwick-castle.com/?keyword=T315&PromocodeT315A)

CLEANING UP

Holy Dusters meet on the last Thursday of each month to help keep St Mary's clean and sparkling. The next date for 2023 is Thursday 14th December, 11.00am-1.00pm (to fit in with church opening times).

Anyone wishing to join us for coffee, cake and cleaning would be very welcome.



WINTER OPENING HOURS

St Mary's is now operating Winter Opening Hours: Sunday 12.00-4.00pm; Monday & Tuesday Closed; Wednesday 11.00am-4.00pm; Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10.00am-4.00pm.

THRIVING



The Warwick Team of Churches is working with local group *Thrive* and national charity *The Message* on youth programmes across our town, including the Message Bus supported by the Project Pool. St Mary's needs a volunteer to be on the Operations Group. Please let a churchwarden know if you can help.

FOODBANK

There is a container at the back of church for those wishing to donate items to help those in our community suffering hardship at this critical time. More information to follow on which items are most in need.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Ellie Booth, Charles Brown, Christopher Browne, Clifford Browne, Chris Hodgetts, Elizabeth Holroyde, Mandeep Madar, Chris Shilton.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED:

Jill Hilyer, Brian Hobley, Suzanne O'Callaghan.

SERVICES WEEK Beginning 3rd December

Wednesday 6 th December	10.00am 5.30pm	Holy Communion Choral Evensong
Friday 8 th December	5.30pm	Choral Evensong

FORTHCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday 10th December - Second Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion	10.00am Choral Eucharist	5.30pm Choral Evensong
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Sunday 17th December - Third Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion	10.30am Choral Eucharist	6.30pm Candlelit Christmas Carol Service I
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Sunday 24th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion	10.30am Choral Eucharist	4.00pm Crib Service	11.15pm Midnight Mass First Eucharist of Christmas
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Sunday 31st December - First Sunday of Christmas

8.00am No Service	10.30am Parish Eucharist	5.30pm No Service
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