



November 2018

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

The Season of Advent will shortly be upon us, marking the start of the New Year for the Church. The themes of Advent are very much to do with reflecting on the meaning of life - in this world and the next. We hope you might come to join us as we begin the Church's New Year so we might make the Advent Journey together.

As the days of Advent journey on we, like everyone else, turn ourselves towards the Season of Christmas, when we shall celebrate the birth of Jesus once again, Immanuel - God-with-us. Advent and Christmas are two sides of the same coin - deep reflection and deep rejoicing. This newsletter gives details of the activities and services that are have planned for this period, and we warmly invite you to join us at St Mary's to share in any or all of them. There really is something for every age!



Many people drop into St Mary's during the week, and the Christmas Tree of Prayer welcomes all those who visit the church. You are invited to add the names of any for whom you are praying, or a situation in the world which is on your mind. When Christmas arrives, come to visit the Crib - which provides a perfect place for quiet reflection and remains in place until 2 February.

Wherever you spend Christmas and the New Year, may it be a time of happiness, joy and peace.

The Reverend Deborah Snowball
Vicar of Rickmansworth

Advent Carol Service

6pm, Sunday 2 December



Welcome the Season of Advent with the Advent Carol Service - with hymns, songs and readings for the Season. The readings span the ages, and include poetry, prose and passages of Scripture .

Christingle Service

2.30pm, Sunday 9 December

Come and join us as we make and light Christingles at this lovely Service. All are welcome to the Service - and the cakes and drinks we enjoy afterwards.



All money collected at this Service is given to The Children's Society. We have special Christingle candle collecting boxes you can use to collect their money in. If you'd like a box, call the Church Office and we'll let you know where you can collect one: 721002.

You can find out more about The Children's Society by visiting: childrenssociety.org.uk.

Christmas Experience

Monday 10 December - Sun 6 January 2019

Come and 'walk through' the Christmas Story and enjoy the opportunity to discover something more of the meaning of Christmas for you.

There are activities for all ages, with prompts for thought and prayer. Come on your own for time to contemplate, or bring others with you so that you can explore together.

The church will be open each day between 9am and 3.30pm for you to drop in, look, read, experience, explore and reflect.



Contact Details for St Mary's

St Mary's Church, Church Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1JB

Church Office: 01923 721002

www.stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk

@StMarysRickyLEP

Christmas Carol Service

6pm, Sunday 23 December

Following the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols format, with readers from across the local community taking part, we also hear the Christmas Story and sing Carols too. The congregation is invited to share seasonal refreshments after the Service. We'd love to see you there!



Christmas Eve 4pm, Crib Service

Children are encouraged to come dressed as a shepherd, sheep or angel for this simple, 'child-friendly' Service. We tell the Christmas Story and sing our favourite Christmas Carols. The Service ends with all the children gathered at the front of the Church to create a Christmas tableau.



Christmas Eve

11.15pm, **Midnight Communion Service**
Christmas starts here!

The moment of the year when we focus on the amazing gift of Jesus - God in human form. Emmanuel - 'God-with-us', the Saviour is born to change the world. People of all ages come to join with us for this traditional beginning to Christmas celebrations - come and join us!

START

**Christmas starts with Christ...
... and faith starts with a single step...**

Interested in discovering more about the man whose birthday we remember with all the Carols, tinsel and turkey?

Then come and join us for our six **START** sessions where we'll explore together (in a non-heavy way!) what Christianity is all about.

The sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings, starting on 7th February. Anyone and everyone is welcome to join us... and you can let us know you're interested by emailing, calling or texting the Vicar - Deborah:
vicar@stmarysrickmansworth.org.uk - 07804292367.

*There'll be decent tea, coffee and homemade cakes.
If you've questions you'd like to ask, come along and ask them.*

We'll be really glad to meet you.

Christmas Day Services

8am, **Christmas Day Holy Communion**

10am, **Christmas Day All-age Communion Service**

We celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ with much laughter and joy - and Carols! The Church remains open throughout the day, so please drop in if you'd like some space for quiet and contemplation.



The Feast of the Epiphany

10am, Sunday 6 January

We celebrate the visit of the Wise Men to Christ. The three Kings are placed into the Crib, and incense is used at this Service to recall the gift of Frankincense - given alongside the gifts of gold and myrrh.



Christmas Giving

At Christmas we support three Charities:

Crisis supports those without home or shelter across the UK.

Action for Children supports children and young people in need across the UK.

Christian Aid supports people across the world in need - particularly in disaster zones.

All the money given at our Christmas Services is passed straight on to them all.



Look out for...

The **star on the tower** - encouraging us to follow the star to find Jesus.



The Travelling Crib

During Advent, Mary & Joseph make their way from house to house. Look out for 'notices' on houses revealing where

Does Christmas start with the nativity?



Yes, actually!

Christmas starts with Christ

christmasstarts.com

