



Dear all,

Welcome to the Christmas News from St Mary's.

What does Christmas 2020 look like to you? For all of us Christmas will look and feel different in various ways this year due to the restrictions we continue to live with. What shouldn't change though is what we celebrate – the reason for the season - that, of course, is Jesus.

Some 2000 years ago, God, in his immense love for the world, sent his Son into the world to experience and understand humanity. Born into squalor and poverty, there was no silver spoon treatment. Instead of being surrounded by family, Jesus had shepherds and animals to keep him company. By the age of two, Jesus would become a refugee, fleeing from the murderous Herod, before eventually returning to Nazareth, an insignificant Town.

Yet, we know this was only the beginning...God had so much more in store for his Son Jesus to do. As we approach the new year, may we all continue our journey of hope following Jesus, discovering more and more of who He truly is and His amazing love for us all.

Due to Christmas and staff holidays, our Weekly News and Paper Deliveries will take a break now and resume on Friday 15 January. From everyone at St Mary's, we wish you a very blessed Christmas and look forward to all that 2021 will hold for us together.

Church News:

- **The Weekly Challenge**

Thanks to all who have taken part in the Advent & Christmas Weekly Challenge. For more details and to see all the challenges coming up, [click here](#).

- **Christmas 2020 @ St Mary's**

[Click here](#) to view both the Christmas Services taken place at St Mary's and some Christmas videos to feed the soul – do enjoy these!

NB: There is a special **Carols & Communion Christmas Service on Wednesday 23rd December at 10am**. This is NOT on the Christmas leaflet, so don't miss this special service.

Family Christmas Videos can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

- **Christmas Eve Get Together**

Grab a Mince Pie and a Drink and join us on Zoom to wish each other Happy Christmas on Christmas Eve. Join us at 11am – wear a Christmas jumper or hat or not...! Sign up for this event by [clicking here](#).

- **Bringing Hope into lives through prayer**

This week we launched a new online initiative for St Mary's – a virtual Prayer Wall. Here you can leave prayers for people to pray. Thanks to all those who have helped make it possible. Do visit this page by [clicking here](#).

- **Used Stamps**

St Mary's World Mission Team collects used stamps to send to the Leprosy Mission a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy. Working across 28 countries through partnering with governments, churches and other organisations to defeat leprosy and transform lives, the money raised from the stamps supports their work.

Please keep all your Christmas cards and Letters stamps. We will let you know about collection arrangements early in the New Year.

- **Sunday's Services**

To attend Sunday Services, please [click here to book your ticket each week](#). Communion will be included in services on 25 Dec, 27 Dec and 3 Jan. Do get ready for these.

- **Wednesday's Services**

Wednesday 23 December's service is a Christmas & Carol special at 10am. Wednesday Services then resume on 6 January at 9am. Please [click here to book your ticket each week](#).

- **Catch up Services**

Remember you can catch up on any streamed services on the Church's Website. [Click here](#) to discover this.

Under Aslan's paw,
Tim - Vicar, St Mary's Eaton Socon