

## WELCOME

All Christians who would normally do so are invited to receive communion. If you wish not to receive, please come forward for a blessing. You are warmly invited to coffee afterwards.



## CHILDREN

Children are very welcome at St Mary's. Junior Church takes place in the Parish Room during the Sung Eucharist. There is a children's corner in Church for supervised pre-school children.

**17th December 2017**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Hymns:**  
**527, 406, 68, 70, 123, 684**

## TODAY

**Join us for Carols with our friends at Oakfields:** all welcome to join us for a short Communion service at 11.15 followed by carols from 11.45 with mince pies (with musicians too). *Rosemary*

**Service of Lessons & Carols** at 5 pm this evening.

**Our December Charity is The Children's Society.** Gift aid envelopes are available and our Children's Society Christingle Service is 10am on 14<sup>th</sup> January.

**Peter May Miller** – I am sorry to have to tell all our lovely friends at St. Mary's that Peter died on Tuesday, quickly and peacefully.

There will be a Thanksgiving Service to celebrate his life at 11.30 am on Saturday 20th January at St. Mary's, at which everyone will be very welcome. *Hilary* (Peter has been such a wonderful friend to many at St Mary's over the years and a warm and welcoming presence to very many more, offering his many gifts to the richness of our life here. A small family funeral will take place at the Crematorium this week)

## THIS WEEK

**Join us for Carols with our friends at Basingfield Court:**  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec, 2.30 pm

**St Mary's Advent Shed-Yule - the week ahead, all at St Mary's:**  
**Today** - Out at the Methodist Chapel Carol service and here at 5pm.  
**Monday** – The Bolton U 5s meets the Memory Cafe for a joint event.  
**Tuesday** – at the Topiary Hair Salon for a children's book exchange. Bring yours at 3:15!  
**Wednesday** – in residence at Basingfield Court all day.

**Thursday** – Carols at Basingfield Court at 2:30 - all welcome to join! Then back at St Mary's for the Rock Nativity Activity at 3:15.

**Friday** – Open for the Blue Christmas Service from 5pm

**Saturday** - Katakala Nativity all day.

### Contemplative Advent

**service:** Tomorrow 8pm in the Bolton Chapel with a focus on Handel's Messiah led by Gill, Jo and Oliver. All welcome to come and find time to pause in peace in this short, gentle reflective time.

**Ploughmen's Lunches** This Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 12.30 pm. All welcome.

### Carol Singing Around the Village

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec:** in aid of homeless charity *First Point*. Please come along and invite all your friends for short walk with refreshments around the village bringing the joyful sound of Christmas to peoples' homes. Join (or leave) at any of the gathering points this year: 5pm St Mary's church; 5.45/6pm at Co-op; 6.30pm at The Crown; 7pm at Bolton Arms with refreshments.

**Blue Christmas Service** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6pm (refreshments from 5pm). A gentle service of comfort and hope for those feeling a sense of loss at Christmas.

## BITS & PIECES

**Christmas Tree Festival:** We would like to say a big thank you to all those who helped or contributed in some way to last week's festival. It was a huge success, many visitors were drawn to our church to receive hospitality and enjoy the wonderful sight of the Church lit up by beautiful trees so thank you everyone.

**Raffle prizes:** Please check the table in the Parish Room where there are uncollected prizes. *Team Joy to the World*

### Big Turkey Community

**Christmas lunch Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Dec:** It is not too late to book a place! Please sign up in the next few days or get in touch with Rev'd Sarah directly.. Big screen film showing of *It's a Wonderful Life* (come just for the film if you wish too at c.2.30pm).

**Christmas Services:** Details of all services are available on leaflet on the table by door.



Thank you to all who attended and took part in our uplifting and wonderfully lively morning with Festival All Age Worship and Messy Church craft sessions and Messy lunch last Sunday. The Messy tree is now fully decorated and there are colourful murals that depict the key parts of the Nativity story that will be displayed over the Christmas period. A huge thanks to all the helper elves that provided a plentiful supply of gingerbread and shortbread stars for pudding. Thank you again for your continuing commitment and enthusiasm in an supporting Messy Church at St Mary's. Wishing you all a wonderful time this Christmas time and that it is all you hope it could be: busy, quite, thankful. See you all soon in 2018. God bless. *The Messy Church team*

### From Fr Alec

In our Gospel John comes calling 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!' Have we prepared a way for God in our hearts? Have we set ourselves to receive him when he comes? Now is a time of preparation and expectation.

### Please pray for

- Christ's light and love to break in to our lives and the lives of others
- Thankfulness for times of being reunited with family or friends.
- People experiencing poverty, hunger, loneliness and homelessness, particularly in this festive season
- The Children's Society, and all the vulnerable children they offer hope and safety to
- Those staying and volunteering at the Basingstoke Winter Night Shelter
- Residents of Basingfield Court & Oakfields, and our friends in Katakala, Uganda
- Regions of conflict and disasters: Myanmar, East Africa, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Congo, Yemen
- Those who are sick or suffering, among them: Lisa Allen; Jackie Deadman; Jean Schluter; Betty & Peter Thorn; Esther Wong; Inge Bowman; Dudley Clark; Lindsay; and all in sorrow or pain.
- All those who have died recently: Peter May Miller; Joan Geary; Alec McIver; and those whose anniversaries fall at this time, and those who grieve for them.

**During the service a collection will be taken during the Offertory Hymn. If you miss this collection, gifts can be placed in the wall pillar. Gift Aid envelopes are available in the pews. Deo Gratias.** Registered Charity No. 1136606

**PARISH CONTACTS: Vicar** - The Rev'd Alexander Battey 354707 [vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk)

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**Churchwardens** - Mrs Tricia Renwick 326155, Mr Ian Kershaw 355500

**Home Communion Enquiries** – please contact Rev'd Sarah in the first instance

**Parish Administrator & Parish Room Bookings** - Mrs Debbie Filer 07541 698235 [admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk)