

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF KELVEDON AND FEERING
NEWSLETTER
[Benefice Website](#)

SUNDAY 10th – SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER: The 2nd Sunday of Advent

- 9.30 a.m. SUNG HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE at All Saints'
11.00 a.m. SUNG PARISH EUCHARIST (Holy Communion) at St Mary's
4.00 p.m. CHRISTINGLE SERVICE at All Saints'

OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY 17 TH DECEMBER	3.30 pm	Children's Crib Service	at All Saints'
SUNDAY 17 TH DECEMBER	6.00 pm	Traditional Carol Service	at St Mary's
CHRISTMAS EVE	4.00 pm	Children's Crib Service	at St Mary's
CHRISTMAS EVE	6.00 pm	"Carols by Candlelight" (All-age Carol Service)	
CHRISTMAS EVE	6.00 pm	Carol Service	at All Saints' at St Mary's
CHRISTMAS EVE	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass	at St Mary's
CHRISTMAS DAY	10.00 am	Christmas Communion Service	at St Mary's

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO BUY CHRISTMAS GOODIES FOR THE FOODBANK –
PLEASE LEAVE THEM AT EITHER CHURCH. THANK YOU**



ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The church looked beautiful with so many sparkling trees last weekend. Thanks to everyone who made it happen and everyone who came to see the trees. Particular thanks to Geraldine who masterminded the whole event, to Robert and his team in the kitchen who worked tirelessly serving

refreshments and to those who made cakes and other goodies, and to Cherry, Gill and their knitters for making the angels for the children to find. Thanks to the stewards, not just on the day, but before and after the event – and, of course, thanks to everyone who decorated a tree.



ST MARY'S ALL AGE ADVENT WORSHIP, SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER

The Chancel was full of rubbish for Natasha's Advent Sunday talk. We thought about preparing for a special visitor as the children cleared up the rubbish (much to their parents' amazement). The children had Advent Calendars to decorate that we used for the prayers, and Geraldine prepared some beautiful tiny cribs in the Craft Bags for the children to make at home. It was lovely to worship amongst so many Christmas trees and good to welcome lots of families, who then stayed on to enjoy the trees and find the angels.



WREATH-MAKING COURSES AT ST MARY'S

No sooner had Geraldine removed the last bauble from the trees in the Christmas Tree Festival, then she appeared to move seamlessly onto the two fundraising Wreath-making Courses she had organised this week. There seems no end to her energy and enthusiasm. Many thanks to her and to George Bell for his amazingly patient instruction and horticultural expertise. Look out for some very pretty wreaths on Kelvedon doors this Christmas. What's more, these two courses raised no less than £600 for the church!

SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER, 4.00 pm ALL SAINTS' CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

All Saints' will be joined by Feering Primary School Choir for our annual Christingle Service in church. We're raising funds for the excellent work of the [Children's Society](#), who help all young people from toddlers to teens. Do come and support them at this lovely service. No need to bring a child, everyone of any age is very welcome.



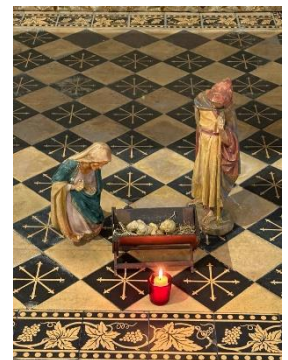
ST MARY'S ADVENT GRATITUDE PILGRIMAGE



Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas: the coming of Christ. Join us on St Mary's Facebook page for an [Advent Gratitude Pilgrimage](#) (please click the link for St Mary's Facebook page) as each day we open photographs to reveal what we might like to be grateful for in our village. Pilgrimages are currently very popular; while not all of us can walk the Camino to Santiago de Compostela, we can follow this local pilgrimage, either by walking it, or online. Find the Pilgrimage Map on the [Benefice website](#) from Advent Sunday, then click on the 'What's On' tab.

SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER, 3.30 pm – All Saints' Children's Crib Service

We're inviting families with young children to join us for our first Crib Service at Feering Church. It's a great chance to introduce children to our lovely crib figures. The children will be asked to help put the animals and characters in place under the altar. Everyone is very welcome, of course, with or without children. Come to hear and see the Christmas story.



SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER, 6.00 pm – St Mary's Traditional Carol Service

Join the St Mary's Choir as they lead us in their traditional carol service. Along with well-known Christmas readings, there will be plenty of carols for the congregation to sing, as well as some that the choir will sing on their own. Plus some delicious mulled wine and mince pies after the service. Everyone is very welcome to join us.

ALL SAINTS' "SING-ALONG-A-CAROL", MONDAY 18th DECEMBER, 7.00 pm

Another chance to sing carols, and fundraise for Feering church too. Bring your carol requests for our excellent organist Keith to play. In between the carols will be one or two festive readings plus musical interludes from Keith. Mulled wine and mince pies too! **£10.00 per person on the door, no need to book.**





ST MARY'S CHILDREN/FAMILY SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND GIFTS TO BRING

A few years ago we needed to split our popular St Mary's family Christmas Eve service into two: numbers were becoming so huge we were worried about safety. Now we have one at 4.00 pm for younger children (up to KS1) and one at 6.00 pm for older children (KS2 and above) and their families. At both these services we ask you to bring unwrapped presents please for children from toddlers to teens. The younger children love toys, but for the teens please bring: shower stuff, shampoo, soaps, etc. Some of the young people looked after by the [Children's Society](#) have recently set up home on their own, a huge and frightening step for them to take, so some practical stuff is needed – but, of course, some fun things too. Many thanks.

COUNT CAMELS in CHURCH STREET, KELVEDON

As you walk with your children up Church Street in Advent, look out for colourful camels to cheer you on your way. They'll be lurking in the windows of Church Street houses, easily visible from the street. Count the camels, jot down their names if you would like to and Natasha will tell you how many camels there are at the 4.00 pm St Mary's Crib Service on Christmas Eve.



ALL SAINTS' TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE – CHRISTMAS EVE, 6,00 pm

All Saints' Christmas Eve Carol Service has long been very popular, with traditional readings and well-known carols. Everyone is very warmly invited, but we do suggest that you come early to make sure of a good seat! All Saints' doesn't have a service on Christmas Day, but you'll be made very welcome at St Mary's for their 10.00 am Christmas Day service.

BENEFICE DIARY *Sunday 10th December – Monday 18th December*

***Please see the top of this Newsletter for our services on Sunday 10th December**

Monday 11th	2.00 p.m.	St Mary's	Funeral of William (Bill) Rudman <i>Followed by burial in St Mary's Burial Ground</i>
Wednesday 13th	9.30 a.m.	St Mary's	Teddy Bear Club – last one before Christmas
Thursday 14th	9.30/10.30 a.m.	St Mary's	Kelvedon St Mary's Primary Academy Carol Services
SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER: <u>ADVENT 3</u>	9.30 a.m. 11.00 a.m. 3.30 p.m. 6.00 p.m.	All Saints' St Mary's All Saints' St Mary's	Sung Holy Communion Parish Eucharist (Sung Holy Communion) Children's Crib Service Carol Service <i>with St Mary's Choir</i> <i>Mulled wine and mince pies will be served in church after the service.</i>
Monday 18th	10.30 a.m. 7.00 p.m.	All Saints' All Saints'	Feering Primary School Carol Service "Sing-Along-A-Carol" – bring your favourite carols! £10.00 entry on the door – mulled wine and mince pies included

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