

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

SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER 2023 – SUNDAY 7th JANUARY 2024

Services for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day:

SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE

10.00 am UNITED BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE **at All Saints'**
For the 4th Sunday of Advent No Morning Service at St Mary's

4.00 pm YOUNGER CHILDREN/FAMILY CRIB SERVICE **at St Mary's**

6.00 pm OLDER CHILDREN/FAMILY GIFT SERVICE **at St Mary's**

6.00 pm CAROL SERVICE **at All Saints'**

11.30 pm MIDNIGHT MASS **at St Mary's**

MONDAY 25th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 am FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE **at St Mary's**

No Service at All Saints' on Christmas Day

SERVICE PATTERNS after CHRISTMAS to the end of FEBRUARY – please note!



From after Christmas till the end of February, our service times are a bit more complicated: **we will be alternating one morning service between our two churches each Sunday, with services at both churches starting at 10.00 am – no 9.30 or 11.00 am services.** Please be careful to go to the right church at the right time, on the right day!

After Christmas we have **Holy Communion at All Saints' on Sunday 31st December at 10.00 am, with no service at St Mary's on that day.**

In January we start our winter regime, alternating between the two churches to save on heating at the coldest time of the year. **We begin on Sunday 7th January with a Said Book of Common Prayer Communion Service at St Mary's at 8.00 am, followed by our 'Worship for All' service at 10.00 am, again at St Mary's (no Communion).** Please let us know if you'd like a craft bag for your child at the service. **There will be no service at All Saints' on Sunday 7th January.**

Sunday 14th January will have a United Benefice Communion Service at All Saints' at 10.00 am, with no service at St Mary's.

We'll keep reminding you in this Newsletter and on social media, and please also refer to our website for a full list of what's happening in January and February.



**PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO BUY CHRISTMAS GOODIES FOR THE FOODBANK,
AND PLEASE LEAVE ALL ITEMS AT EITHER CHURCH. *THANK YOU***

CAROL AND CRIB SERVICES



Kelvedon St Mary's Primary Academy held its end-of-term services in church last week and, as it was Christmas Jumper Day, everyone looked very festive indeed. Feering Primary School held its carol service in church last Monday (18th), with lovely singing and readings from Michael Morpurgo's charming version of the Christmas story, *On Angel Wings*. All Saints' also held its

first family crib service for many years, with children and parents bringing up the figures as the Christmas story was told. Fortunately no one asked any tricky theological questions, like whether there was a large yellow duck in the stable where Jesus was born!



There was a traditional carol service at St Mary's on Sunday 17th, with St Mary's Choir leading the congregation in some favourite carols interspersed with poems and Christmas Bible readings, followed by delicious home-made mulled wine and mince pies.

'SING-ALONG-A-CAROL' at ALL SAINTS' – ROBERT LINES WRITES



Wow, All Saints' have hit upon a great idea and made lots of money in the process! Natasha was a brilliant compere throughout the evening and Keith played superbly in his solo items, many in arrangements by Alan Rawsthorne (buried in Thaxted Churchyard). He accompanied the lusty enthusiastic singing with his usual panache. It was great to sing such a wide range of carols from 'Once

in Royal David's City' all the way to 'We Three Kings' in under two hours, via Hollywood and 'White Christmas', 'Have yourself a merry little Christmas' and finally 'Jingle Bells'. It was a great evening and much appreciated – and amazing **£560** was made for All Saints' Church funds.

THE POSADA IS ON ITS WAY BACK TO ST MARY'S FOR CHRISTMAS EVE



For more years than many of us care to remember, we've circulated the knitted crib known as the Posada around Kelvedon, following a Mexican tradition of giving a home for the night to Mary and Joseph. The Posada (its figures knitted by Geraldine Kennedy's mother) travels from family to family in Kelvedon, ending up at the 4.00 pm Family Crib Service in church on Christmas Eve. Since Covid we

haven't found enough families to host it during December; then Church School Governor Simon Gibbs had the brilliant idea to do it via Kelvedon Primary Academy. So Year 2's Miss Hutley took on the task and pupils in her class have been the hosts. Look out for it at the Family Christmas Eve services: 4.00 pm for children up to KS1 and at 6.00 pm for KS2 and above and their families. *Please remember to bring an unwrapped present for Homestart or the Children's Society. All ages of items needed please, tots to teens. Thank you very much.*

WIFI AT ALL SAINTS'

The long-awaited Wifi has been installed at All Saints' thanks to the help and advice of Jack Linstead. There are a few technical problems that Jack is sorting out, but you'll soon be able to find the log-in details in church and make donations the new Card Reader.

SCREEN INSTALLATION AND UPDATING OF THE SOUND SYSTEM AT ST MARY'S

At last the screen and projector have been installed in St Mary's which will hugely enhance services and enable us to use video clips, photos etc. as well as projecting the words of services and hymns. The sound system has also been upgraded, a huge relief to those who were in church a few weeks back when the sound system emitted alarming loud noises that sounded as if giants were running over the church roof... Just in time, things have been brought up to modern standards and the sound will be much improved.



ALL SAINTS' TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE – CHRISTMAS EVE, 6.00 pm

All Saints' Christmas Eve Carol Service is always very popular, with familiar Bible readings and much-loved carols. Everyone is very warmly invited, but we do suggest that you come early to ensure you have a good seat!

There's no Christmas Day service at Feering, but you'll be made very welcome at St Mary's either for Midnight Mass at 11.30 pm on Christmas Eve or for the 10.00 am Christmas Day service.

Finally, if you have got this far, thank you for reading our Newsletter. We do hope it's kept you informed about all the goings-on in both our churches. We wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year. There's no newsletter next weekend – we'll be back on Friday 5th January.

BENEFICE DIARY Saturday 23rd December 2023 – Sunday 14th January 2024

****Please see the top of pg.1 for our Christmas Eve & Christmas Day services***

Saturday 23rd December – Community Payback Team in St Mary's Churchyard

Sunday 24th December

Advent 4 (Morning only) 10.00 a.m. All Saints' Sung Holy Communion *for both churches*

** Natasha is away on her post-Christmas break after St Mary's Christmas Day service at 10.00 a.m. and returns on Wednesday 3rd January 2024*

Sunday 31st December

The 1st Sunday of Christmas 10.00 a.m. All Saints' Sung Holy Communion *for both churches*
NB no service at St Mary's on this Sunday

Sunday 7th January 2024

The Epiphany 8.00 a.m. St Mary's Said Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
10.00 a.m. St Mary's Sung Holy Communion *for both churches*
NB no service at All Saints' on this Sunday

Sunday 14th January

The 2nd Sunday of Epiphany 10.00 a.m. All Saints' Sung Holy Communion *for both churches*
NB no service at St Mary's on this Sunday

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