

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

SUNDAY 7th JANUARY – SUNDAY 14th JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY 7th JANUARY – ALL SERVICES AT ST MARY'S:
8.00 am Said Holy Communion (1662 Book of Common Prayer Service)
10.00 am Worship for All Service for Epiphany (no Communion)
NO SERVICES at ALL SAINTS' on SUNDAY 7th

WINTER PATTERN OF SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE



This Sunday, 7th January, we're worshipping together as a combined benefice at St Mary's. Next Sunday (14th) we'll be at All Saints', with no service at St Mary's. This alternating pattern goes up to the end of February. **Also**



please note the earlier time of 10.00 am. See above and the Diary on page 2 for more details.



CHRISTMAS RETROSPECTIVE

It was great to welcome so many people period to our two churches for Christmas. Both Christmas Eve family services at St Mary's were very busy: Simon led the 4.00 pm service for younger children when the Posada (travelling crib) was welcomed back to church, after its Advent journey through Kelvedon. The 6.00 pm service was very well attended and Natasha, Emily, Max & Lucy May performed a fabulous play with 3 various-sized oxen and lots of clip-clopping around church. All Saints' Christmas Eve carol service was as popular as ever; a good number came to Midnight Mass at St Mary's, and more to the 10.00 am Christmas Day Communion Service. Thanks to all who generously donated gifts at St Mary's for HomeStart & the Children's Society. Thanks also to all who decorated our churches so beautifully and who volunteered in so many ways to make the services run smoothly.

ST MARY'S NEW SCREEN/PROJECTOR AND UPGRADED SOUND SYSTEM



The new screen was only installed on the Thursday before Christmas. It was used for the first time at the 6.00 pm Christmas Eve service and the feedback was very positive and enthusiastic. While this service is aimed at older children and their families, it's becoming very popular with all ages and we had a real mix, from babes in arms to those well into their 80's. So it was great to hear that every single person asked as they left church were very happy with the screen. The singing was so much better as everyone was looking up at the screen rather than burying their noses in a hymn book. People said they felt very much more part of the service with the screen; others that it was so helpful not to have to find their place in several books or booklets; that it was so clear to read and admired our leap into the modern world.

Thank you Geraldine, who was so keen to use the screen for the first time at one of our busiest services of the year! Some of us were a bit doubtful, but she was quite right: everything worked perfectly and it was a marvellous way to launch this new equipment.

When you visit St Mary's you'll also be very impressed with our upgraded sound system. The company who installed the screen, projector and sound system work exclusively in churches and know exactly what is needed. Our sound system was first installed about 20 years ago, so it isn't surprising it needed updating. If you wear a hearing aid and want to use the loop system, please remember to sit in the main body of the church, not the aisles or in the pews behind the font.

TIPTREE FOODBANK

The Foodbank hasn't yet posted its request list, but please buy the usual basics and put them in either of our churches. But **no baked beans please**: they have more than enough! The Foodbank also offers free consultations with Colchester Citizens Advice, where you can talk in confidence about saving energy, money, grants or benefits. Please check Tiptree Foodbank Facebook page to book a session or advise someone you know who might benefit from this service.



ST MARY'S KELVEDON GRATITUDE ADVENT PILGRIMAGE

Thanks to all who followed our Facebook Advent Gratitude Pilgrimage. Each day in Advent we had a photo of something we might feel grateful for in Kelvedon. The post was seen by about 150 people each day, which is far more than come on Sundays to both the churches combined, so it was a good way to reach out to the village as a whole. Hopefully those who took part in the Gratitude Pilgrimage are still noticing things each day to be grateful for.

THANK YOU FROM SIMON AND NATASHA

A very big 'Thank you' to everyone who gave us gifts over the Christmas period. People have been very kind and generous, and both we and our families really appreciate the thought and generosity that everyone has shown. We are both particularly looking forward to dining at the Old Crown in Messing!

Simon & Natasha

BENEFICE DIARY Sunday 7th to Sunday 21st January 2024

****Please see the top of pg.1 for our Epiphany services on Sunday 7th January***

NB Simon is away for his post-Christmas break from Monday 8th to Monday 15th January inclusive.

Wednesday 10 th	9.30 a.m.	St Mary's	Teddy Bear Club restarts
Sunday 14th Epiphany	10.00 a.m.	All Saints'	Sung Holy Communion <i>for both churches</i> <i>NB no service at St Mary's on this Sunday</i>
Wednesday 17 th	9.30 a.m.	St Mary's	Teddy Bear Club
Thursday 18 th	8.00 p.m.	St Mary's	Worship Group in the Vicarage
Sunday 21st Epiphany 3	10.00 a.m. 3.00 p.m.	St Mary's All Saints'	Sung Holy Communion <i>for both churches</i> Thank-you Tea for All Church Volunteers <i>NB no service at All Saints' on this Sunday</i>

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