

KELVEDON & FEERING CHURCHES NEWSLETTER SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER to SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER – THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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|----------|-------------|---|
| 9.30 am | ALL SAINTS' | SUNG HOLY COMMUNION |
| 11.00 am | ST MARY'S | WORSHIP FOR ALL SERVICE FOR ADVENT |
| 5.00 pm | ST MARY'S | CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL CLOSING SERVICE |



ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL THIS WEEKEND

We look forward to seeing lots of people at our 15th Christmas Tree Festival!

TODAY, FRIDAY 29th NOVEMBER, Opening of the Festival with THE BIG SING Choir, 7.30 for 7.45 pm – entrance £10, includes mulled wine & mince pie

Saturday 30th November, 11.00 am – 6.00 pm

Sunday 1st December, 11.00 am – 5.00 pm: Festival Closing Service at 5.00 pm

There's no set cost to come to the Festival on Saturday or Sunday, but donations are always very welcome. They will be halved between the church for our general upkeep, and our two chosen charities this year – our local Food Bank and Save the Children. Refreshments will be available in the Church Rooms, including home made soup and cakes, teas and coffees.

FATHER CHRISTMAS IS HERE on both Saturday & Sunday, 11.00 am–12 noon and 1.00–2.00 pm.

Donations for children's visits to Father Christmas would be appreciated to **Freddie's Appeal:**

<https://specialnamedfunds.cclg.org.uk/freddie-kicking-cancers-butt>. Freddie's family comes regularly to Teddy Bear Club. He and his family are raising funds for research into the very rare form of cancer which 9-year-old Freddie sadly has. Thank you very much for your support.



ST MARY'S MESSY CHRISTMAS LAST SUNDAY

Thanks so much to all who came to St Mary's Messy Church last Sunday. It was a really fun event with loads of crafts to make (thank you, Geraldine). Everyone joined in enthusiastically with the interactive Christmas story and sang the songs on the screen very loudly and well. Thanks to the fantastic helpers, who were so patient and cheerful. We made bath bombs and baby Jesus in a manger, both an edible one and one to take home (the edible crafts rarely get out of the door!). We made candles in tinselly

holders, crowns and more. If you missed it, All Saints' has its own Christmas Messy Church on Sunday 15th December, so why not give it a try?



CHRISTMAS WREATH-MAKING WORKSHOPS

All Saints' Wreath-making Workshop last week was a big hit, as these photos show. St Mary's Wreath-making this Wednesday is fully booked, but there are a couple of places on the Thursday one (5th December, 4.30 pm).

Please email [Ruth](#). Places are limited so booking is essential please. **The cost is £25 per person**, with all materials and refreshments included at both workshops.



LAST SUNDAY'S JOINT PCC MEETING *from Simon, Priest-in-Charge*

Last Sunday our two PCCs had a helpful initial discussion of a major change to our whole benefice that will occur over the next couple of years. For some time both PCCs have known that our two-church benefice is too small to survive on its own; other small parishes in our deanery are in the same boat. The deanery also has quite a few clergy vacancies, so now seems the right time to join with other parishes in one large benefice of 18 churches, led by a team ministry of four full-time priests, plus part-time lay and ordained self-supporting ministers, so all parishes can be supported and no clergy become isolated.

The four benefices involved are two large ones (the Blackwater Benefice, Thurstable and Winstree) and two smaller ones (Wickham Bishops with Little Braxted and our own K and F). These four benefices would join together, either as one large group with 4 clergy, or possibly as 2 smaller groups with 2 priests each. The parishes would be shared as equally as possible between the four priests. Our two PCCs are looking at several different ways of structuring this new large benefice, but they need a little more information before they make any final recommendations.

I do realise that the start of Advent isn't the best time to talk about all this, so I will arrange some meetings in the new year for both congregations to hear about it in more detail. Thank you for your patience, and please keep this – and our PCCs – in your prayers. *Simon G.*



PLESHEY RETREAT HOUSE ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION

Four of us from St Mary's, all Book Club members, spent a refreshing day reflecting on John the Baptist's role as Bringer of Hope to the Advent Season with talks, readings, music and poetry. We can't wait to spend another Quiet Day at Pleshey together.

Robert Lines



TIPTREE FOOD BANK REQUESTS – VERY LAST CHANCE TO DONATE CHRISTMAS GOODIES TO THE FOOD BANK – [Tiptree Food Bank](#) | [Tiptree](#) | [Facebook](#)

The Food Bank would like Christmas treats please: chocolates, nice biscuits, good toiletries etc. are very welcome. No alcohol please. Please get donations to us by Sunday 1st December, so that families receive them before Christmas. Please leave donations at either church and our volunteers will deliver them to Tiptree. Many thanks for your donations and to Betty, Jill & Fleur for taking them to the Food Bank.



ST MARY'S PRIMARY ACADEMY YEAR 6 HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

We have two Holy Communion Services in school each year. This began several years ago when a church school inspection suggested we should give the children the opportunity to be part of a Holy Communion service in school. Tasha led a lively service, and as usual with Year 6, with lots of participation in the service from the children – they operated the PowerPoint, read the Gospel reading, led the prayers and helped get the altar ready for Communion. Natasha and Simon prepared the children a few days before the service and we were delighted to welcome lots of parents and grandparents who came to join us and support the children.



KEEPING UP WITH K & F

Keep up to date with service times, events and information about both our churches via our United Benefice website: kelvedonandfeeringchurches.co.uk.

Please send church information/photos/events on both parishes to me, [Sarah Openshaw](#), by Wednesday, for inclusion in that week's newsletter. Also same email for any church events to go on the Benefice Website. Thank you.

BENEFICE DIARY FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER to SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2024

ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – Friday 29th & Saturday 30th November, and Sunday 1st December – please see page 1 for details

| | | | |
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| Sunday 1 st December | 8.00 am | St Mary's | Said Holy Communion Service (1662 Prayer Book) |
| ADVENT SUNDAY | 9.30 am | All Saints' | Sung Holy Communion Service led by Simon |
| | 10.00 am | St Mary's | Worship For All Service for Advent led by Natasha |
| | 5.00 pm | St Mary's | Christmas Tree Festival Closing Service |
| Tuesday 3 rd Dec. | From 8.00 am | St Mary's | Heating engineers in Church |
| | From 8.30 am | All Saints' | Payback Team in the Churchyard & Cemetery |
| Wednesday 4 th | 9.30 am | St Mary's | Teddy Bear Club |
| | 2.30 pm | St Dominic's | Holy Communion for Advent |
| | 4.45-6 pm | St Mary's | Junior Christian Club |
| | 7.00 pm | St Mary's | Wreath-making Workshop in the Church Rooms* *Please see item on page 1 above for more details |
| | 8.30 pm | Zoom | Night Prayer (Compline) |
| A quiet, reflective service of 10-15 minutes for the end of the day. Please use this link (also on our website): https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83398813389?pwd=UitzYjRnQzh5ZXJCRjgyMStyTU8ydz09 | | | |
| Thursday 5 th | 8.30 am | St Mary's | Morning Prayer |
| | 4.30 pm | St Mary's | Wreath-making Workshop, Church Rooms (see pg.1) |
| Friday 6 th | From 8.30 am | St Mary's | Payback Team in the Churchyard & Burial Ground |
| Saturday 7 th | 7.30 pm | St Mary's | Witham Choral Society Concert, incl. Christmas carols |
| Sunday 8 th Dec. | 9.30 am | All Saints' | Sung Holy Communion Service |
| The Second Sunday | 11.00 am | St Mary's | Sung Holy Communion Service |
| of Advent | 4.00 pm | All Saints' | Christingle Service with Feering Primary School Choir |

ADVANCE NOTICE

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Wednesday 11 th Dec. | 9.30 am | St Mary's | Teddy Bear Club | Last before Christmas |
| | 4.45-6 pm | St Mary's | Junor Christian Club | Last before Christmas |
| Thursday 12 th Dec. | 9.30 & 10.30 am | St Mary's | Kelvedon St Mary's Academy | Christmas Services |
| | 3.00 pm | Drummonds Care Home | Carol Service | |
| Sunday 15 th Dec. | 9.30 am | All Saints' | Sung Holy Communion Service | |
| The Third Sunday | 11.00 am | St Mary's | Sung Holy Communion Service | |
| of Advent | 2.30 pm | All Saints' | Christmas Messy Church | |
| Monday | 7.00 pm | All Saints' | Sing-Along-a-Carol – more details to follow next week | |

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