



ST MARY'S CHURCH, THORPE



Vicar: The Revd. Father Damian Stewart Miles. BTh. 01932 565986

St Mary's Vicarage, Church Approach, Thorpe Village, TW20 8TQ

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St Mary's is committed to
inclusivity and there is always a
warm welcome for all.



Charity No: 1176929

Churchwardens:

Margaret Roberts 01932 562152

Barry Huxley 01932 564168

Sunday 15th December 2019

Third Sunday of Advent

For use of the Church Hearing Loop, please select T.

Welcome to St Mary's Church, Thorpe. We do hope that you will enjoy the service and be able to stay for coffee and a chat after. Gluten free wafers are available; please ask one of the Wardens on duty before the service.



8am Said Eucharist (Holy Communion)

Led by Fr Damian. Server: Andy West.

Reader & Welcome: Joy Whitfield.

10am Sung Eucharist

With Admission of Children to Communion

Sophie Leonard, Oliver Hales & Ronny Walker

TODAY WE USE THE GREEN HYMN BOOK

Today we use Rizza *Bread of Life* (CA955) Kyrie, Sanctus and Agnus Dei.

Procession On Jordan's Bank 12

Advent Candle Song

Offertory Hark! a herald voice is calling 5

Choir Anthem Creator of the starry height

Communion The Church's one foundation 484

Recessional We have a Gospel to proclaim 486

Celebrant: Fr Gerard. Preacher: Fr Damian. Deacon: Mtr Jo.

Warden: Pete Gruncell. Welcome: Joan Gruncell & Andrew

Falconer. Verger: John Brittain. Readings: Pete Gruncell &

Andrew Falconer. Intercessions: Jane Lowe.

Organist: David Howard. Cantor: Petra Hudson.

Sermon Notes for today are available at the back of the church.

Children's Colouring Sheets are also available.

11am Café Church (Refreshments) in the R/Room

11:30am Family Service – Theme: Noah's Ark!

Song 1 Make way, make way 438

Song 2 My God is so big 865

Song 3 Little donkey 859

Led by Fr Damian. Welcome: Andrew Falconer.

6pm Lessons & Carols

Led by: Fr Damian. Preacher: Mtr Jo. Warden: Barry Huxley & Bev Syradd. Welcome: Jane & Jim Lowe & Elaine Gill.

Readings: Tony Grove, Jane Carter, Bev Syradd, Lara Winn-Smith, Mtr Jo & Bridgett Grove. Intercessions: Susi Thornton.

Organist: David Howard.

ST MARY'S INTERCESSIONS – Please remember in your prayers:

The Sick (immediate need): David, Rob, Susan Dean, John Pollen, Sally Blundell, Margaret Bradshaw, David Brown, Joan, Nicola, Daphne, Janet, Kim Breaker, Richard, Michelle Anthony, John Knott, David Woodward, Kirsty Fuller, Haden & Sue Thompson.

Continuing prayers: Sean Hudson, Mark Wardell, Natasha, Jessica Siddall, Baby Ray, Kathleen Shaw, Brian O'Kane, Miles Herne, Alice McGonnell, Zoe Reeves, Meryl, Jane, Jessica Wells, Caroline Wareham, Patti & Pat Harnden. **Giving thanks for recovery:** Robin Alderson.

General Prayer Requests: All affected by terrorism & natural disasters. St Mary's finances & challenge of meeting increasing parish share. Our PCC, After School Club & "Faith Confirmed" Group. Preparations for Brexit & debates in parliament. **The Elderly & Infirm:** June, Elaine, Margot, Joan, Jean, Evelyn, Rita & Ruth.

The Recently Departed: Mary, Joy Bridgman, Stephen Cleobury, Con Kemp, Enid Peake, Jean Stubbs, Val Elgar, Russ Winzer & Terry Rylie. **Anniversaries of Death:** Arthur Miller, Eileen Junor, Beryl Jane Maxwell, Dorothy Johns & Earnest Turner.

DURING THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

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| Monday | 8am Morning Prayer; 2:30pm Thorpe Primary Juniors Carol Service |
| Tuesday | 8am Morning Prayer |
| Wednesday | 8am Morning Prayer; 10:30am Eucharist; 11am Office Open in W/R; 8pm Egham Band Christmas Concert |
| Thursday | 8am Morning Prayer; 9:30am Noah's Ark Christmas Party |
| Friday | Fr Damian is off duty today |
| Saturday | 12nn Eucharist; 1 – 4pm Church Open |



Next Sunday – 22nd December 2019

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8am Said Eucharist (Holy Communion)

10am Sung Parish Eucharist

11am Café Church in the Rutherwyke Room

11:30am Wedding Rehearsal

4pm Informal Carols & Christmas Songs

with the Feltham Choral Society

followed by Tea & Cakes in the Rutherwyke Room

CHURCH OPENING TIMES outside service times by appointment only – please contact the Verger: Mr John Brittain on 01932 562333.

Noah's Ark is a toddler/pre-school group for parents with young children. Term-time Thursdays from 9:30am in the Rutherwyke Room. Contact: Margaret 01784 435292



FAITH & FUN – our Sunday Club for children 4-11 years –
2nd & 4th term-time Sunday – 10am

St Mary's Church on TV!

"To Kill a King", in which the interviews were filmed at St Mary's, will be on BBC4 at 9pm on 17 - 19 December, running for three consecutive nights at the same time.

Christmas Flower Dedications are now available –
sign-up sheets at the back of church.

The BIG CHRISTMAS CARD BOARD is now up in the Link!

Please consider pinning just one card there for all your church friends and make a donation in the wall safe for the money you'll save by not writing multiple cards! The environment & St Mary's thank you! ☺

Church Sitters Needed: Sat 21 Dec & 18 Jan 1 – 4pm

Coffee Stop on Saturday mornings has now finished, to be reviewed at the next PCC meeting. Instead the church will be open (coffee/tea available) from 1 – 4pm on the 3rd Saturdays of the month. If you can help out in December or January please let us know - thanks.

We need lots of mince pies for use 15/12 & 24/12 please!!!

LOOKING AHEAD – IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

Christmas Eve Crib Services – Tue, 24 Dec, 3pm + 5pm

Midnight Mass – Tue, 24 Dec, 11:30pm

Christmas Day Eucharist – Wed, 25 Dec, 10am

St Stephen's Day Service – Thu, 26 Dec, 10am (said w/carols)

Please note: NO FAMILY SERVICE on 29 December!

Compline for the Epiphany of our Lord – Sun, 5 Jan, 6pm

Please only use yellow Gift Aid envelopes for Gift Aided donations – not for any other money. Thanks. Card payment donations are now accepted!

Items for newsletter by 12nn Wednesdays; items for mailer by 12nn Thursdays - all to stmaryschurchthorpe@outlook.com please.

COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING **Isaiah 35.1–10**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM **Psalm 146.4–9**

R **Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help.** *Or*

R **Come, Lord, and save us.**

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! Whose hope is in the Lord their God; Who made heaven and earth, the seas,

and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever; Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. **R**

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked. **R**

The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia! **R**

SECOND READING **James 5.7–10**

A reading from the letter of James.

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL **Matthew 11.2–11**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?

What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.' This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

