



St Mary's News First Sunday of Advent 30 November 2025

Advent Sunday **30 November 2025**
10.00am Holy Communion

The Reverend Keith Hine will preach and preside at our 10.00am Holy Communion service

First Sunday (Week 1) of Advent: Hope and the Old Testament Prophecies

On the first week of Advent, as we light the Hope candle on the Advent Wreath, also known as the Prophecy candle, we are reminded to prepare our hearts for the fore-told birth of Jesus. This candle symbolises the hope and anticipation of the coming Messiah, promised throughout the Old Testament. It reminds us of the prophecies that foretold Jesus's birth and of the faithful waiting of God's people for the Saviour.

Some bible verses for this week:

Genesis 3: 14 – 15 Isaiah 7: 14

Isaiah 8: 2 Isaiah 11: 1-10



Many people feel tempted to skip over the Old Testament prophecies (there are literally hundreds of them) of Jesus' birth. But God did not include the first 39 books of the Bible for no reason. Throughout the Old Testament, we see the story of a people needing redemption and a Saviour. As Israel found themselves falling prey to foreign nation after nation, they realized that not only did they need a physical Saviour but a Spiritual one as well.

Throughout the Old Testament, in the Psalms, Isaiah and even in Genesis we see the Bible foretelling a Saviour who would defeat the greatest enemy of all: sin. Jesus' birth was not only a miracle in the sense of the virgin birth but also a miracle in terms of prophecies fulfilled centuries later.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we see your faithfulness in the entire story of the Bible. Your story of redemption doesn't start in the Book of Matthew, but rather, in the first prophecies in Genesis. You always intended to save humanity, and you did so at such a great cost. May we remember your promises this Advent season and the hope we have through the birth of Jesus which we pray will fill us all with joy and gladness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Don't forget the Autumn Big Clean – Saturday 29 November 9.00am – 12.00pm

Please lend a hand to give our church building a thorough clean. We can't do it without you! Even if you can only spare an hour, please, please do come and help us get our church building presentable again.



Prayer during our Church Vacancy

To help us in our worship during our Church Vacancy a special prayer has been developed which we hope everyone will be willing to use and to pray daily, at our services on Sunday or whenever we meet as a group. It is important that we ask for God's help in everything we do and especially as we go forward working together to bring a new Rector to St Mary's. We all have a part to play in what is happening and we can all influence the outcome. With God's help we will succeed in getting the right person to help us grow in faith and to lead us forward in whatever God puts before us. **Derek and Ian.**



Vacancy Prayer

O God our Father, send your Holy Spirit to our Church of St Mary's Lymm, to fill us with vision, energy, and love. Help us to bring new life to our community and fellowship, and in unity and expectation, remain ever faithful to your calling.

Guide with your heavenly wisdom those involved in bringing a new minister to this Church that whomever we receive may be a wise and gentle shepherd. We pray that the minister of your choice will hear your call and respond in faith, ready to serve us with joy, and to lead us by example in loving obedience to your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Lord in your Mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**



Community Christmas Tree Festival 2025

Friday 5th – Sunday 7th December

The trees will be arriving on Thursday, and we're making last minute preparations to welcome hundreds of people from Lymm and beyond to visit St Mary's next weekend. We want to give them a warm welcome as they enjoy all the trees brought along by our many community groups. Thank you to everyone who has signed up to help – there's room for more!

Box for crafts There is a box at the back of church for you to start bringing in any craft/produce items which you are donating for the craft stall.

Cakes We would appreciate a few more offers of cakes for the café. See the list for what is required.

Decorating the church for Christmas

As we have in previous years, we are asking for your help to decorate St Mary's for our Christmas services. It is a huge help to the decorations team and much appreciated.

There are jars inside zinc buckets available in church – please take a jar and fill it with evergreen foliage plus a few red and/or white supermarket flowers such as red roses or red and white spray carnations.

Please also decorate the outside of the bucket with some red and/or gold ribbon. You can use your own ribbon or take a length from the reels beside the jars.



Just remember to remove all leaves below the waterline in your jar. Full instructions will be attached.

We need the jars to be returned on **Saturday 20th December** to church between **10.30am and 11.00am** please. We can also arrange for you to drop off at another time if that is not convenient for you.

Thank you in advance for helping us to make our church look beautiful and welcoming as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Church Hall Garden – Sensory Garden Design

Recently there were a series of successful primary school visits for over 200 children who came and visited the church and church hall garden, participating in lots of fun activities. Thank you again to all who were involved in making it a success.

We are pleased to report that all the primary schools have responded with entries to our competition to design the Sensory Garden section of garden. Entries will be collected from the schools over the course of the next few weeks, then judging and shortlisting will take place.



The shortlisted entries will be displayed at the back of the church for the congregation to look at and vote for as part of the judging process. All entries will be on display at a future date.

Services November/December 2025

1 st Sunday of Advent 30 November 2025	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Keith Hine	
2 nd Sunday of Advent 07 December 2025	10.00am Christmas Tree Festival Family Advent Service 	
3 rd Sunday of Advent 14 December 2025	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Bishop Sam, Bishop of Stockport	
Monday 15 December	Ravenbank School Christmas Concert	
Wednesday 17 December	Cherry Tree School Christmas Concert	
4 th Sunday of Advent 21 December 2025	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Anita Raggett	6.30pm Carols by Candlelight
Wednesday Christmas Eve 24 December 2025	4.00pm Christingle and Crib Service	11.30pm Holy Communion Priest Reverend Christina Westwell
Thursday Christmas Day 25 December 2025	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Edmund Betts	
Holy Innocents 28 December 2025	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Keith Hine	

Green Tips – Tree Aid – it's a gift!

Instead of giving a physical gift this year, have you thought about giving a tree to a gardener friend? But not a tree to plant in their own garden.....

At Tree Aid, their vision is thriving, sustainable communities across the drylands of Africa. They believe that tackling poverty and protecting the environment are inseparable. That's why they work together with local people to grow trees and restore land, to fight poverty and the effects of the climate crisis.



So will you give an Ethiopian Apple Tree or a Marvellous Mango?

Find out how to make a Tree Aid gift: <https://www.treeaid.org/gifts-that-grow/>

Please Pray

- For our Churchwardens, Lay Readers, visiting clergy and all involved in running our church during our period of vacancy
- For those rebuilding their lives in Jamaica devastated by Hurricane Melissa
- For those suffering as a result of civil war in Sudan
- For a lasting ceasefire and peace in Gaza, Israel and the West Bank
- All those suffering as a result of conflict in Ukraine
- Remember in prayer those in the Book of Remembrance for today and the next week
- For those being prayed for by St Mary's Prayer Circle

Contact Details

Website - www.stmaryslymm.org

Rector: Vacancy

Lay Readers: Derek Buckthorpe 01925 752810 Ian Bunday 01925 755286

Church Wardens: Elizabeth France 07956 408300 George Bainton 01925 757732

PCC Secretary: Derek Buckthorpe 01925 752810

PCC Treasurer: David Young 01925 759919

Choir Director / Organist: Susan Gadd 07398 399121

Church Hall Secretary: Kath Hough Telephone: 01925 754435

Pastoral Care Team: Derek Buckthorpe 01925 752810, Pauline Buckthorpe 01925 752810 Ian Bunday 01925 755286

St Mary's Prayer Circle – Co-ordinator for Prayer Requests Jill Wasey 01925 754265 email jhwasey@yahoo.co.uk Members - Susan Brooks 01925 755735 Derek Buckthorpe 01925 752810, Pauline Buckthorpe 01925 752810 Ian Bunday 01925 755286 Vanessa Lees 01925 757471, Angela Roberts, Jill Wasey

Church Wi-Fi Wifi name = St Marys Church Wifi code = Welcome2Everyone

FIRE EXITS VIA THE MAIN ENTRANCE, THE DISABLED ENTRANCE BY THE TOILETS AND THE EXTERNAL DOOR VIA THE FELLOWSHIP ROOM