



# St Mary's News Third Sunday of Advent 14 December 2025

Third Sunday of Advent 14 December 2025  
10.00am Holy Communion

**Bishop Sam, Bishop of Stockport will preach and preside at our  
10.00am Holy Communion service**

## Third Sunday (Week 3) of Advent: Joy in Christ our Saviour

On this third week of Advent, we light the **Joy Candle**, also known as the **Shepherd's Candle**. This candle symbolizes a move from repentance to the joy of our coming Saviour. It reminds us of the joy that filled the shepherds' hearts when the angels announced Jesus' birth, declaring good news of great Joy for all People.

### Some bible verses for this week:

Isaiah 65: 18 Colossians 1: 19-20

Luke 2: 10 John 3: 16-17



Lighting the Joy Candle is a celebration of the deep and abiding joy we have in Jesus. A joy that isn't based on circumstances but on the incredible gift of His love and salvation. It is a chance to rejoice in the hope and peace we've been given through Jesus, letting that joy fill our hearts as we draw closer to Christmas. We don't often associate Christmas and Easter together, but Jesus came to earth not for us to exchange presents but to give Himself in order to save humanity from their sins. God chose to come to earth in the humblest of ways, lived a humble life, and died a humiliating death. All for us. The Good News of Jesus' birth should also therefore remind us of the great Joy that this brings to each one of us because of Jesus' birth and death for us.

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you could have come to earth as a king or a rich man, but instead, you chose a humble birth and life. Help us to remember the true reason that we celebrate this season. Not to exchange gifts or enjoy Christmas light displays but to recognize your gift to us and the great sacrifice you have made for each one of us through your own death and resurrection. Thank you for the Good News of great joy of your coming. Thank you for your sacrifice. Thank you for the Joy you bring that fills our hearts each day. Amen.



Lymm and District Chorus will be holding their Annual Christmas Concert in Church. We're looking forward to a cheerful programme of songs and carols. The concert will begin at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. £10 pay on the door. Do come and enjoy this popular event.

## 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 - Thank You!

We enjoyed another wonderful (our 10<sup>th</sup>) Christmas Tree Festival last weekend. It was extremely well received and enjoyed by all the visitors we were able to welcome into our church over the three days.

The success of the festival was thanks to all the volunteers who helped in so many ways, not just over the weekend but in the weeks leading up to the Community Christmas Tree Festival, to make it such a success.

This includes the knitters, crafters and preserve makers who provided such a splendid array of items for sale and to the bakers for the delicious cakes served in the cafe. Then there the many who gave of their time to meet and greet, to help on the sales table, to serve refreshments and provide us with entertainment via the new audiovisual system and not forgetting those who helped prepare and set up the church, welcomed the trees and tidied up at the end. Well done everyone and thank you!

## Decorating the church for Christmas

Thank you to everyone who has taken a container for the Christmas decorations. There are still 2 spare containers which will be available for collection on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> after the Christmas tree Festival if you would still like to fill one.

We need the jars to be returned on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> 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

The gardening group has managed to whittle down the school entries for the Sensory Garden Competition to 15 short listed designs.

It was a hard task as the standard was very high indeed, with even those who did not make the final 15 containing brilliant ideas that we will be using in our final design.



After the Christmas Tree Festival, the 15 shortlisted entries will be on display at the back of church. The copies of the criteria that were given to schools will be there for you to look at.

Please if you can find the time have a look at the entries and give us your top 4. (First, second, third and runner up). The entries will be anonymous and labelled 1 to 15. Sheets will be provided for this.

Thanks again on behalf of the gardening team.

## Services December 2025 / January 2026

3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent <b>14 December 2025</b>	10.00am Holy Communion <b>Priest Bishop Sam, Bishop of Stockport</b>	
<b>Monday 15 December</b>	Ravenbank School Christmas Concert	
<b>Wednesday 17 December</b>	Cherry Tree School Christmas Concert	
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent <b>21 December 2025</b>	10.00am Holy Communion <b>Priest Reverend Anita Raggett</b>	6.30pm Carols by Candlelight
Wednesday Christmas Eve <b>24 December 2025</b>	4.00pm Christingle and Crib Service	11.30pm Holy Communion <b>Priest Reverend Christina Westwell</b>
Thursday Christmas Day <b>25 December 2025</b>	10.00am Holy Communion <b>Priest Reverend Edmund Betts</b>	
Holy Innocents <b>28 December 2025</b>	10.00am Holy Communion <b>Priest Reverend Keith Hine</b>	
Epiphany <b>04 January 2026</b>	10.00am Holy Communion	
Baptism of Christ <b>11 January 2026</b>	10.00am Holy Communion <b>Priest Reverend Anita Raggett</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany <b>18 January 2026</b>	10.00am Holy Communion <b>Priest Reverend Peter Mckriell</b>	
Conversion of St Paul <b>25 January 2026</b>	10.00am Holy Communion <b>Priest Reverend Mark Orrell</b>	

## Green Tips – Choose one big present!

We all know that Secret Santa gift we get and then forget about, shoved to the back of the cupboard, until we move. This year, avoid the tiny presents with no impact and consider choosing one gift for the whole family, or friendship group, that everyone can enjoy together.

.....and wrap it sustainably As we think about wrapping presents up can we think about a sustainable way to do this? Reuse gift bags perhaps. Buy wrapping paper made of recycled paper (see Oxfam shop) use a reusable wrapping such as a cloth bag. Avoid glittery non-crunch paper that cannot be recycled.

## **Please Pray**

- For those asking for prayer on our St Mary's Prayer Tree
- For our Churchwardens, Lay Readers, visiting clergy and all involved in running our church during our period of vacancy
- 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](http://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](mailto: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**



## **St Mary's Church Lymm Advent and Christmas Services 2025**

**ADVENT SUNDAY 30 November 25  
10.00am Holy Communion**

**SUNDAY 7 December 25  
10.00am Christmas Tree Festival Family  
Advent Service**

**SUNDAY 14 December 25  
10.00am Holy Communion with Bishop Sam**

**SUNDAY 21 December 25  
10.00am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight**

**CHRISTMAS EVE 24 December 25  
4.00pm Christingle and Crib Service  
11.30pm Holy Communion Midnight Mass**

**CHRISTMAS DAY 25 December 25  
10.00am Holy Communion for Christmas**

**SUNDAY 28 December Holy Innocents  
10.00am Holy Communion**

**More details:  
[www.stmaryslymm.org](http://www.stmaryslymm.org)**

