



St Mary's News Fourth Sunday of Advent 21 December 2025

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10.00am Holy Communion
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Rev'd Anita Raggett will preach and preside at our 10.00am Holy Communion service

Fourth Sunday (Week 4) of Advent: God's Love offered to all

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the Love Candle, also known as the Angel's Candle. This candle represents the love God demonstrates to us all in sending His Son to the world and reminds us of the angelic message proclaiming Christ's birth to Mary and to the shepherds. Jesus came out of God's great love for humanity, fulfilling His promise to redeem us.

Some bible verses for this week:

Isaiah 7: 14 Philippians 2: 8-10

John 13: 34 – 35 1 John 4: 9-16



Lighting the Love Candle invites us to reflect on the unconditional and sacrificial love of God, who sent His only Son so that we might be saved. During this fourth week, we prepare our hearts to receive that love more fully, remembering that Christmas is ultimately a celebration of God's immense love for each one of us. God's love lives within us, and when we love one another, His love grows fuller and more complete in our lives. During this season, let's lean into God's love, allowing it to fill our hearts and overflow into others in ways that bring hope, joy, peace to everyone

PRAYER

Jesus, You gave your life so that we could have life abundant. Help us to overcome the consumerism that often accompanies this season and to remember the truth of Christmas. Give us a spirit of compassion, love and charity so that we may bless others. Prepare us to welcome Jesus not only in the celebration of Christmas but in the everyday moments of our lives. May Your love guide our words, shape our actions, and shine through us always. Amen.

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.**

Decorating the church for Christmas

Thank you to everyone who has taken a container for the Christmas decorations. 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.



Weekly Church Flowers



Every week throughout the year we are fortunate to have fresh flowers on the Altar and by the Book of Remembrance. This is only possible because of the donations made by members of the congregation. We would like to thank all those who have given so generously in 2025.

Many take this as an opportunity to remember a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion, for example a birthday or wedding anniversary. If you would like flowers in church in your name, please sign against the relevant date on the diary at the back of church and give your donation to Sue Walton or Vanessa Lees about 2 weeks before the chosen date. They will organise the purchase and arranging of the flowers by our Flower Arranging Team. Alternatively, you may provide your own arrangement.

For more information please speak to Sue (slwalton@tiscali.co.uk) or Vanessa (vanessalees53@gmail.com).

New tea/coffee rota – weekly from January 2026

The new rota for serving tea/coffee after our services is now available at the back of church. Thank you to the many people who have so willingly taken their turn to provide this.

From January 2026, and by request of many, we would like to trial to see whether we have enough volunteers to serve tea/coffee after every morning service as we did pre-Covid. As a congregation we all seem to enjoy the fellowship of a chat and a hot drink after the service.

If you are able to offer to help, please sign up so that we can see if we can make this work weekly. Many thanks.

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.



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

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	
Epiphany 04 January 2026	10.00am Holy Communion	
Baptism of Christ 11 January 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Anita Raggett	
2 nd Sunday of Epiphany 18 January 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Peter Mckriell	
Conversion of St Paul 25 January 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Mark Orrell	

Green Tips – Use those Christmas Dinner leftovers!

When food waste is sent to landfill, it decomposes buried under layers of other rubbish, choking its oxygen supply. This makes more of the carbon in the food break down into methane instead of CO₂.

Methane emissions are responsible for almost a quarter of global warming. Reducing methane emissions could slow the rate of current warming by 30%.



There are lots of recipes online for making delicious meals from our leftovers – try these!

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/christmas-leftovers-recipes>

<https://www.jamieoliver.com/inspiration/christmas-leftovers/>

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/uk/food/g538847/christmas-leftover-recipes/>

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 the humanitarian effort bringing help to many in Gaza
- 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

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**

