



St Mary's News Epiphany

04 January 2026

Epiphany 04 January 2026
10.00am Iona Morning Prayer

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.**

Epiphany Gifts

Could you add one more gift to your list? A gift to the church for Epiphany? Perhaps 10% of what you spent on presents for others? That would be wonderful.

You can give either by:

- using one of the special yellow gift envelopes available in church
- making a one-off payment to:
Parochial Church Council of Lymm
Sort code: 20-01-96
Account no: 90703893
- using our card machine in church – please ask for help to use it
- putting an extra gift in the collection plate.

Donating Regularly

If you have not yet considered making a regular donation to the church, and would like to do so, please have a word with Elizabeth France or David Young. There are several ways of doing this – by joining the envelope scheme or by setting up a regular standing order from your bank. If you are able to Gift Aid a regular donation, that will be a big help in making your donation go even further. You can find a Gift Aid Form attached to this newsletter.

Decorating the church for Christmas

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to decorate the church for the Christmas services – those who decorated the trees, set out the candles, set up the Crib, filled a vase with flowers and foliage and who helped arrange flowers in the larger arrangements. Many people commented on how much they appreciated our beautifully decorated church. So, thank you all! Our Christmas Crib and other arrangements will remain in place to enjoy until Candlemas – the end of season of Epiphany.

Thank You for the Music!

A heartfelt Thank You from us all to everyone who worked so hard to give us the wonderful music at the services we all enjoyed so much over Christmas, and in particular our Director of Music, Susan. The music has been outstanding, so thank you to all who sang, played, rehearsed and arranged the music for our services. Thank you also to our Audio Visual team who enhanced the services in so many ways using our new facilities. And of course thank you to Ian and Derek who put together our special Christmas services superbly and have so ably led us.

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 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.



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 (sjwalton@tiscali.co.uk) or Vanessa (vanessalees53@gmail.com).

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 January/February 2026

Epiphany 04 January 2026	10.00am Iona Morning Prayer
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
Presentation of Christ in the Temple Candlemas 01 February 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Anita Raggett
2 nd Sunday Before Lent Thanksgiving Sunday 08 February 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Michael Ridley
Sunday Next Before Lent 15 February 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Chris Moore
Ash Wednesday 18 February 2026	10.00am Ash Wednesday Service Bishop Sam, Bishop of Stockport
1 st Sunday of Lent 22 February 2026	10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Christina Westwell

Green Tips – Veganuary!



Are you looking for a new challenge for the new year? Why not try **Veganuary**? Veganuary encourages people to try vegan meals and recipes for the month of January. You can go 'all out' or why not try Meat-free Mondays?

Veganuary champions compassionate food choices that help to protect the planet and improve human health. If you would like to find out more and get some recipe advice you can access more information at this link - <https://veganuary.com/>

Recycle in your blue bin If you are tidying up after Christmas, here's a quick reminder of all the things you can put in the **blue bin** in Warrington:

- Cardboard
- Aerosols (empty)
- Envelopes (with windows) and junk mail
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic bottles - drinks bottles, household cleaner bottles, shampoo bottles etc
- Plastic food trays/tubs/pots e.g. margarine tubs, yogurt pots
- Newspapers and magazines
- Shredded paper
- Tetra pak drink cartons
- Food and drink tins and cans
- Tin foil, and clean foil trays

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**