



St Mary's News

Baptism of Christ 11 January 2026

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| Baptism of Christ 11 January 2026 10.00am Holy Communion |
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The Reverend Anita Raggett will preach and preside at our 10.00am Service

Heulwen Smith

It is with the greatest sadness that we have learned of the death of Heulwen Smith on Wednesday 7th January, just one day short of her 90th Birthday. She is remembered with the greatest love and respect by many at St Mary's for her many years of faithful service to the Christian faith and to St Mary's Church in particular and is held in great affection by so many people. Her funeral will be at St Mary's. Further details will be available later. May she rest in Peace and rise in Glory.

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.

Prayer during our Church Vacancy

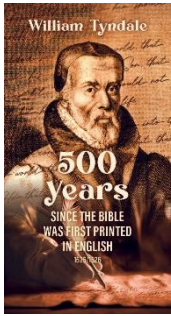
To help us in our worship during our Church Vacancy a special prayer has been developed which we hope everyone will be willing to use and to pray daily, at our services on Sunday or whenever we meet as a group. It is important that we ask for God's help in everything we do and especially as we go forward 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.**



Tyndale 500 During the 2025 Lymm Festival there was a celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the translation of the Tyndale Bible at which a number from St Mary's Fellowship took part. 2025 was the 500th anniversary of his translation, but it took more than a year for him to get it printed. So, 2026 is the 500th anniversary of the printing and its import (disguised in bales of hay) in to England.

There will be a Radio 4 program at 07:10 am this coming Sunday 11th January on the Tyndale anniversary. If you would like to tune in to listen, please do so. The broadcast has already led to several enquiries from other churches across the

UK. The program is also accessible via BBC Sounds.

Sunday Program

A 5-min feature capturing something of the atmosphere, ideas and conversations that shaped the project. The piece weaves together different voices from across the events and provides a snapshot of what Tyndale 500 achieved:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002pdxl>

Starts just after 6 minutes in

Sunday Worship

The whole service last Sunday focused on William Tyndale and included Bible Readings and reflections on the passages as well as sung worship and prayer:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002pdxv>

Note: a BBC account is needed to listen to these – but it is very easy to sign up.

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).

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.

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.



Services January/February/March 2026

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| 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 | |
| 2 nd Sunday of Lent 01 March 2026 | 10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Keith Hine | 12.00pm Holy Baptism Reverend Keith Hine |
| 3 rd Sunday of Lent 08 March 2026 | 10.00am Holy Communion Priest Reverend Anita Raggett | |
| Mothering Sunday 15 March 2026 |  10.00am Mothering Sunday Family Service | 6.30pm Said Holy Communion Reverend Keith Hine |

Green Tips – The Big Garden Birdwatch 23 – 25 January

Will you take part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch this year?

Big Garden Birdwatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring.



Every Birdwatch counts

Across the UK, over 590,000 people took part in Big Garden Birdwatch 2025, counting a whopping 9.1 million birds! House Sparrows took the top spot, but counts of these chirpy birds are down by 60% compared to the first Birdwatch in 1979. In fact, we've lost 38 million birds from UK skies in the last 60 years. With birds facing so many challenges, it's more important than ever to get involved in the Birdwatch. Every bird you do – or don't – count will give us a valuable insight into how garden birds are faring.

To find out how to take part, just go to the RSPB's website for more information:
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/>

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**