



St Mary's News

2nd Sunday of Epiphany 18 January 2026

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10.00am Holy Communion

The Reverend Peter McKriell will preach and preside at our 10.00am Service

Warden's Words – from Liz and George

Our PCC meeting on Monday began with a discussion with our Archdeacon, Michael Gilbertson and Rural Dean, Michael Ridley, about the future. While we made clear that we were open to any proposals to work with St Peter's and St Werburgh's we emphasised that we had, in effect, been without a Rector for a year and were keen to move forward with recruitment as fast as possible.

One of the issues has been that none of us has been paying our full parish share. Last year we paid about 60% of our share (£55,000). This year we are expected to pay the diocese £80,000. We have taken the decision, made possible by a generous recent legacy, to pay £70,000 now and to undertake to meet the full share within 3 years.

We thought carefully about this and are confident that with the energy and enthusiasm evident in St Mary's now, and with a new Rector to lead us, we can grow our church family. On that basis the Archdeacon will ask the Bishops to agree to our going ahead with recruitment. If the Bishops agree, it will still take us a while to complete the process, but we will progress as fast as we can and maybe we shall have a new Rector by the summer. We will keep you all updated.

Meet the Bishops

Bishops Mark and Julie are visiting our Great Budworth Deanery for two days in January and there will be an opportunity for members of our congregation to come and meet with them and to ask any questions they may have. This can be on our vacancy or any other matter they may wish to raise.

Bishops Mark and Julie will be attending a Q&A session on Tuesday 20th January at St James, Latchford between 7.00-8.30pm. There will be a short service first and this will be followed by the Q & A session and there will be some light refreshments.

All are welcome. If anyone cannot attend but would like to ask a question, please contact either Derek or Ian who will be able to pass the question on.

Meet the Bishops

Tuesday, 20th January 2026

7.00pm to 8.30pm

at St. James, Latchford



You are invited to a
'Question and Answer' evening with
Bishops Mark and Julie

The evening will begin with a short act of
Worship, followed by questions taken
from the floor

Light refreshments provided

Heulwen Smith – funeral Friday 30th January at 11.30am.

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 served St Mary's faithfully over many years, was Reader/Reader Emeritus and we give thanks for all she did to strengthen so many in their own journey of faith.

Her funeral will be at St Mary's on Friday 30th January at 11.30am following the committal at the crematorium.

Godly Play returns to St Mary's on 8th February at 10.00am

We are pleased to announce that we will be beginning a monthly reintroduction of Godly Play to our Sunday worship, starting monthly for the time being. Children and young people aged 5 – 14 are invited to come along to our 10.00am service. We begin in church with all our church family, and then we go to the Fellowship Room for the Godly Play session, returning at the Communion for a blessing and the end of the service.

If you know of any child or young person who would like to give it a try, do invite them to come. Parents are requested to be in church and are welcome to come to the Fellowship Room to take part and see what we do.

If anyone has any questions, please have a word with Vanessa Lees, Carol Roberts or Jill Wasey.



Lymm and District Churches Together –

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (17 - 24th January)

The Churches Together in Lymm and District will be participating in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This will take place on Zoom between 7pm and 8pm each evening from Sunday the 18th of January until Sunday the 24th of January.

Different ministers will be leading each evening's session. Derek Buckthorpe from St Mary's will be leading the session on Friday the 23rd of January.

If you would like to join in with this or any of the sessions the Zoom Link for doing this is given below.

On Saturday the 17th of January there will be a starter session in the form of a Breakfast at the Sanctuary Café from 8.30am followed by a short service at 9.30am within the adjacent United Reformed Church.

The Resources for the different days can be viewed and downloaded from:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity>

The Zoom link for joining in with the different sessions is:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84934245257?pwd=ab6Xcza7n19rNER4sJKEP0lllkATkX.1>

Meeting ID: 849 3424 5257 Passcode: 677281

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.

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).

Services January/February/March 2026

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 with Godly Play session 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 – 10 Ways to Reduce your carbon footprint

This list of 10 simple ways to reduce your carbon footprint at home are quick practical wins you can adapt into your everyday life. Easy eco-friendly lifestyle tips and swaps that add up, save you money and help simplify your life.

Living sustainably isn't about wearing a hair shirt and living off grid. It's about sensible practical steps that benefit you as well as the planet. This list of 10 eco-friendly actions is suitable for everyone including beginners and will help you reduce your environmental impact every day.

<https://www.therealmealdeal.com/how-to-live-more-sustainably/>



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**