



ST. MARY'S  
WOLLATON PARK

# DECEMBER- JANUARY NEWS

## COMING UP IN DECEMBER

<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Morning Service with Baptism (10:30am) Evening Service (6:30pm)
<b>4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup></b>	Week of Prayer for Friends International
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Funeral of Margaret Felstead (Bramcote Crematorium, 10:15am)
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Pub Lunch at the Rose & Crown (12:00pm) Songs of Praise (2:00pm)
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Prayer & Praise (7:45 for 8:00pm, Vicarage)
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> &amp; Saturday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Church Christmas Decorating (Friday from 3:00pm, Saturday from 10:00am)
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Holy Communion (10:30am) Carols by Candlelight (6:30pm)
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Holy Communion at Middleton House (10:30am) Wednesday Fellowship (2:00pm, Church Hall)
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Service (10:30am) Open Air Carols at Farndon Green (4:00pm)
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Explorers toddler group Christmas Party (9:30- 11:00am, Church Hall)
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Games and Fish & Chips (11:00am, Church Hall) Holy Communion (2:00pm, Church Hall)
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Service (10:30am) Christingle Service (3:00pm, Church Hall)
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	All Age Christmas Communion (10:30am) <i>Office closed this week, no midweek fellowship, toddler group or daily prayers</i>
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Morning Service (10:30am) <i>No evening service</i>

CALLING IN - BUILDING UP - SENDING OUT

## COMING UP IN JANUARY 2018

<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<i>Church office reopens, daily prayers resume at 9:00am and 4:30pm, no toddler group.</i>
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Pub Lunch at the Rose & Crown (12:00pm) Songs of Praise (2:00pm)
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Holy Communion (10:30am) <i>No evening service</i>
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Explorers toddler group reopens (9:30-11:00am, Church Hall)
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Holy Communion at Middleton House (10:30am) Wednesday Fellowship (2:00pm, Church Hall)
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Service (10:30am) Evening Service (6:30pm)
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Prayer for Bluecoat School (8:00-9:00pm, Church)
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Games and Fish & Chips (11:00am, Church Hall) Holy Communion (2:00pm, Church Hall)
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	MGP evangelism conference (Cornerstone Church)
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Morning Service (10:30am) Informal Communion Service (6:30pm)
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Wednesday Fellowship (2:00pm, Church Hall)
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	CI Safeguarding Training (6:30-9:30pm, Church)
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Service (10:30am) Evening Service (6:30pm)
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Christianity Explored begins (7:30-9:30pm, Vicarage)

## COMING UP LATER

<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	Prayer & Praise (7:45 for 8:00pm, Church Hall)
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## NEWS

### 1. **Baptism – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

We are delighted to celebrate with Dawn Wilkes and her family and friends as she is baptised at the morning service on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Everyone is invited for lunch in the church hall afterwards.

### 2. **Prayer & Praise – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

Our next two whole-church prayer and praise evenings will be on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Vicarage and Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February in the Church Hall, both with refreshments at 7:45 for an 8:00pm start.

### 3. **Christmas decorating – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

We would love your help to decorate the church ready for Christmas! We'll find a job for everyone, from setting out candles to climbing a ladder to arranging flowers. Join Henry and Tom on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December from 3:00pm for Christmas tree and candles, or Joyce Cooper and the team on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 10:00am for flowers and more decorating.

### 4. **Friends International week of prayer**

Please join us in a week of prayer for Friends International, the organisation working to bring the gospel to international students at our universities. Prayer cards are available at the back of church for you to use on 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> December.

### 5. **Christmas services**

Sunday 10 December	<b>Carols by Candlelight</b> 6:30pm
Sunday 17 December	<b>Open Air Carols at Farndon Green</b> 4:00pm
Sunday 24 December	<b>Christingle service for families</b> 3:00pm in Church Hall
Sunday 24 December	<b>Midnight Communion at the Priory Church</b> 11:30pm
Monday 25 December	<b>All-Age Christmas Communion</b> 10:30am
Starting Wed 31 January	<b>Christianity Explored course</b> Wednesday evenings for 7 weeks at the Vicarage, starting 7:30pm with a meal, talk and discussion.

## **6. Holiday closures**

Please note that there will be no 6.30pm service on Sundays 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> December and 7<sup>th</sup> January. The church office will be closed from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December, reopening on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January. There will be no daily prayer meetings while the office is closed. There will be no midweek meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> December, and no Explorers toddler group on 26<sup>th</sup> December or 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

## **7. Christianity Explored & Catering**

We look forward to welcoming new friends to join us on the Christianity Explored course, beginning on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January for seven weeks, 7:30-9:30pm at the Vicarage. Please pray for and invite those you know who might want to chat over the basics of Christianity.

We will be offering a home-cooked meal to course participants each week, and we would love some help to do that. If you can offer to prepare in advance a meal for 6-8 people, please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/cecatering2018> or at the back of church.

## **8. Bluecoat prayer evening – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

Everyone is welcome to join Tom in the church on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January, 8:00-9:00pm to pray for our local secondary school.

## **9. MGP evangelism conference – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

Midlands Gospel Partnership is putting on a day conference entitled *Compelled by Love: Cultivating a Heart for the Lost* to encourage and equip us for evangelism. It will be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at Cornerstone Church. The main speaker is evangelist Roger Carswell, and Henry will be leading a seminar entitled *Your Story, My Story, The Story*. For further details pick up a flyer at church or see <https://midlandsgospel.org.uk/conferences/annual-conference/>.

## GIVE THANKS

Give thanks with **Dawn** for her journey to faith in Christ, and pray for her continued growth in faith. Pray for more new Christians next year!

Thank God for his provision through the financial giving and offers of help promised on **Membership Sunday**. We had expected a shortfall of £5,000 in 2017, but this has been covered by promised increases in giving. Praise God who gives us what we need!

Give thanks for a successful **Christmas card delivery** to all homes in our parish. Pray that the cards will be received warmly, and that local residents will be stimulated to consider Jesus.

Thank God for a lovely Christmas **wreath-making** evening, which was well-received and enjoyed by all who came, including a number of new faces.

Give thanks for recent opportunities to ask local people their views about Jesus through **questionnaires** on the street. Pray for those we have spoken to.



## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Pray for the families and friends of **Margaret Felstead** and **Barbara Anson**, both of whose funerals will be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Pray for the students of **Nottingham University Christian Union** as they hold their popular carol service on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December.



Pray for our **Christmas** events and those you will invite. Pray for those involved in preparing for these events, especially the choir and music team.

Pray for the children and adults of **Explorers** toddler group, as we hold a Christmas party on 19<sup>th</sup> December and invite them to Christmas services.

Pray for children at our local schools as we lead a Christmas assembly at **Middleton School** on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December and Christmas services for **Bluecoat School** at St. Mary's on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

Pray for God's provision and direction as we seek to start new, **mission-focused house groups**, and that these groups would be a source of close fellowship, spiritual growth and new outreach opportunities.

## OUR MISSION PARTNERS



**Debs Hunt** is the Nottingham staff worker for gospel schools work charity Crossteach. She asks our prayers for the **Christmas Experience, Christmas assemblies and services** in schools during December, and gives thanks for even **more opportunities** opening in Nottingham schools. Continue to pray for **funds** to employ a second Nottingham worker in order to take these up.

You can contact Debs at [debs.hunt@crossteach.com](mailto:debs.hunt@crossteach.com).

**Tony and Cath Swanson** are mission partners with Africa Inland Mission in Tanzania. Cath is an expert in child safeguarding and Tony seeks to mobilise African missionaries. Give thanks for a recent donation enabling the completion of **Sanga Sanga** conference centre – phase 4 involves the construction of more accommodation to hold larger conferences. Pray for **pastors' and evangelists' seminars** held there to be a source of blessing and produce many godly leaders.



You can contact them at [tony.swanson@aimint.org](mailto:tony.swanson@aimint.org) and [cath.swanson@aimint.org](mailto:cath.swanson@aimint.org).



**OpenDoors**

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

We pray for the **persecuted church** around the world, anywhere that being a Christian brings danger or discrimination. Pray for protection over our brothers and sisters for whom it is dangerous to meet and celebrate Christmas.

You can find out more from Open Doors at [www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org).



## Contact Details

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Wifi is available in church buildings.

Please use the *StMarys* network and password *Thessalonians*.

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