

PCC & Ministry News:

The PCC last met on 22nd November 2021.

Ministry & Worship; see overleaf for the Christmas services that are planned

Building: We await a new downpipe for the vestry and internal plaster repairs after the water leaks, then there is the fencing to replace. The repair to the cracked lintel in the tower entrance door is straightforward; we await the stone and mason! Heating & sound systems have both been repaired.

Safeguarding: Forthcoming renewals have been reviewed; new applications continue to be processed and training requirements are being checked. Training is via Zoom.

Giving: We have new collection bags for your cash or envelopes. If you wish to use our regular giving scheme, please contact either of the churchwardens (Vas Mowat or David Pickavance), Treasurer, Peter Mount or Planned Giving Secretary, Ian Carter.

Charity nominations: We now have sufficient nominations for charities and the sponsors will shortly be informed of which months they have been allocated.

Pastoral Care: If you want to talk to someone or share an issue in the strictest confidence, please contact Pastoral Care Co-ordinator Marilyn on 07871 085268 or pastoralcare@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

Advent Relections: Why not download the CofE AppAt The Heart of Christmas which has daily reflections and family activities. Or, as suggested by Fr David on Advent Sunday, read Walking Backwards to Christmas by Stephen Cottrell.

Charities:

Foodbank at Christmas: As the Christmas season approaches, our gifts of food are so important. We deliver to Godmanchester Food Bank every week from the food collection box at the back of church.

PRAYER CORNER

PLEASE PRAY....

For our communities here and in the Offords, come close to us in all that we are and do. Comfort and shelter; pour out your blessings Lord of love, and in your mercy hear us. Help us Lord to love our neighbours, and forgive us when we fail to; give peace in our hearts so we might better hear the voice and the needs of others.

For the world, for peace, and peacemaking, healing, and the cessation of violence. For all who are displaced from their homes. For all who make dangerous journeys seeking refuge and asylum pray for calm waters and safety, For those who have perished on the water, rest for their souls.

For the church, that we in St Mary's are inclusive, and welcoming. For those who cannot confess their faith for fear of reprisal, and for us to proclaim boldly our faith in Christ Jesus as Lord and Saviour in any way we can. Give us the heart for mission and the strongest desire to say your name, Jesus, everywhere. In the darkness, O Lord, show us the way the truth and the light. **Amen**

St Mary's Buckden Parish Church Newsletter: December 2021 – January 2022



Dear Friends

When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" (Exodus 3:4). Moses' looked up at the right moment and saw a bush which burnt but was not consumed by fire.

Sometimes we look up at the right moment, and, as God said to Moses "the place where you are standing is holy ground".

The trees I look towards over the fence from me, have largely left their leaves on the lawn on the vicarage side of the fence now. A couple of weeks ago though, sitting in my study, a voice of one sitting opposite on the sofa facing the back door "the trees...very Klimpt", I look round and..oh yes! there was one view of green, gold, and orange. It made us both see the background to a Gustav Klimpt painting. Sometimes, we look up at the right moment.

I had been walking a few days previous to this Klimpt moment and glanced over to a small group of trees near the path. Under them, lying down, were four cows. Around the trees, artfully arranged, were sheep. A more pastoral idyll I could not have imagined. I was walking along the foreground of a Dutch 17th masterpiece! an undiscovered Aelbert Cuyp maybe. Not a little surreal, but, a rather beautiful experience. It was as if I were on the edge of a painting. Sometimes, when tramping along, often grumbling to myself, I look up. Sometimes, we look up at the right moment. As if to tell me that looking around is better than looking at my feet I then caught the lovely movement of a green woodpecker. Perfect timing. A distinctive flight, over the field of sheep, and a beautiful subtle green colour. Sometimes, we, like Moses, look up at the right moment.

December and January are such distinctive months. Jesus, arrives, in the great narrative arc of God coming to dwell among us. January though, well, I know I'm not alone in finding January a bit of a challenge. Many of us struggle, in all kinds of ways. If you find December and January difficult know that you are not alone. And remember to look up; sometimes, we look up at the right moment.

God bless, lots of love, *Fr David*

DIARY Services & Events in December 2021

St Mary's is currently open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Monday-Thursday	9am	Morning Prayer
Monday-Thursday	5pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesdays	9.30am	Holy Communion

Sat 4	10:00am	Cleaning Crew
	10:30am	Coffee & Cakes
Sun 5	8.00am	Holy communion
	11:00am	Family Communion
Weds 8	2.30pm	Community Café (LSR)
Sat 11	3.30pm	CHRISTINGLE - collection to The Children's Society
Sun 12	11.00am	Family Communion
	6:00pm	TAIZE service
Mon 13	9.30am	Buckden School Service
Thurs 16	6.000m	Buckden School Carol Service
Sun 19	8.00am	Holy communion
	11:00am	Family Communion
Tues 21	7.30pm	VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE – please book in advance
Fri 24	2:30pm	CRIB SERVICE
	11.30pm	MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
Sat 25	10.15am	CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION
Sun 26	8.00am	Holy communion
	11:00am	Family Communion
Mon 27	1:15pm	Bible study group

Days and times may change. Please comply with the safety measures in place and always wear a mask / face-covering in church.

Buckden & District Churches Together

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE in St Mary's Saturday 11th December 3.30pm

One for all the family. Organised by Buckden's Churches and Scouts. Collection for The Children's Society

"NEW": TAIZE SERVICE

Sunday 12th December 6pm in St Mary's
A peaceful and reflective ecumenical service for Advent with songs from Taize

Buckden & District Churches Together



VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE

**Tuesday 21st December
7.30pm in St Mary's**
Given the popularity of this village service, please

book in advance by emailing both david.pickavance1@outlook.com and vas.mowat@stmarysbuckden.org.uk
Please wear a face mask

CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE - 2.30pm Friday 24th December in St Mary's

A service especially for children and their adults. Come along dressed as a character from the nativity and join in as we hear the well-known story of Jesus' birth.

St Mary's Church Buckden: contact information The Vicarage, Church St, Buckden, St Neots, PE19 5TL

Priest-in Charge Fr David Sheppard 07792 128503 fr.davidowainsheppard@gmail.com

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Vas Mowat 07535 922829 vas.mowat@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

Bookings enquiries@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

Pastoral Care: Marilyn Rolin 07871 085268 pastoralcare@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

Safeguarding: Sammy Riley 07720 244255 safeguarding@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

Friends in Deed: friendsindeed@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

Virtual worship, prayer and support

Check any of our social media forums for resources for worship, prayer etc.

Website: www.stmarysbuckden.org.uk

Facebook "St Mary's Buckden"

Twitter @A1ChurchBuckden

YouTube St Mary's Buckden

Join our email distribution list: email consent@stmarysbuckden.org.uk

If you cannot access any of our online resources, please do let any of us know.

DIARY Services & Events in January 2022

St Mary's is currently open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Monday-Thursday	9am	Morning Prayer
Monday-Thursday	5pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesdays	9.30am	Holy Communion

Sun 2	11:00am	Epiphany - Family Communion
Sun 9	8.00am	Holy communion
	11:00am	Family Communion
Weds 12	2.30pm	Community Café (LSR)
Sun 16	11.00am	Family Communion
Sun 23	8.00am	Holy communion
	11:00am	Family Communion
	6:00pm	Churches Together Unity Supper at Buckden Towers
Sun 30	11:00am	Family Communion
	6:00pm	Evensong
Mon 31	1:15pm	Bible study group

Days and times may change. Please comply with the safety measures in place and always wear a mask / face-covering in church.

Buckden & District Churches Together - UNITY SUPPER. Sunday 23rd January 6pm in Buckden Towers. All are welcome to this bring & share supper and time for prayer.

Closing Date for the February Newsletter is Sunday 23rd January.

Items by hand to Phil Mowat or by email to secretary@stmarysbuckden.org.uk