

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCHES & SERVICES



31st December 2023 – 1st Sunday of Christmas
and New Year's Eve

THIS WEEK

Collect: *Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

Readings: Isaiah 61.10-62.3, Gal. 4:4-7, Luke 2:15-21

Hymns:

Hark the herald angels
The holly and the ivy
What child is this?
Of the Father's love begotten

SUNDAY WORSHIP 31st December

10.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's
Sorry, no livestream this week.

RADIO No Cross Talk this week

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK Dec 31st – January 6th

Mon No Belling practice this week
Wed 10.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's
Thurs 9.00am Morning Prayer at St. Mary's
Fri 10.00am Refresh Café and lunch
Sat 9.00am Village Green Pray-ers

SUNDAY WORSHIP 7th JANUARY 2024

8.30am Holy Communion at Reach
10.00am Epiphany Café Church at St. Mary's

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

- We give thanks for the season of Christmas, when the rush of the world stops, and a sense of peace covers the whole earth. We pray that people have enjoyed family harmony and togetherness, and rest and refreshment from their usual routines. We remember those in emergency services and other occupations who have to work over Christmas. We pray for those in hardship at this time of year. For all who are struggling; for those who are alone; for all who are homeless. Thank you that Jesus came into our world to know the realities we face, and to share them with us.

- After Christmas comes the New Year. As we look back over 2023, we pray especially for the Middle East, and the dreadful events that have unfolded since 7th October; for the death and suffering on both sides which has affected so many children and other innocent people. The war in the Ukraine has been overshadowed by these events, but death and suffering are still taking place there, and in other places across our world. May 2024 bring a resolution to some of these conflicts and hope to the nations involved for a better future. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment, and compassion to guide their decisions. We pray for just and peaceful solutions to be reached.

- We pray that governments and organisations be guided by wisdom, vision & courage to work together to take action to combat the effects of climate change, that justice and peace might flow like a mighty river.

- For the work of organisations, including Christian Aid, helping families around the world to overcome poverty and injustice, wherever the need is greatest, and there is high risk of famine including: Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Syria, DRC, South Sudan.

- We pray for all those who are struggling in today's difficult economic situation. May adequate immediate provision be made available, and support to find longer term solutions, so that everyone has their basic needs met for food, shelter, employment and security. For the Pop-up Pantry, at Burwell Day Centre Fridays at 2pm.
- We pray for our leaders as the Diocese continues the process of choosing a new Bishop of Ely, we pray that the right person will emerge to carry forward the work of Ely 2025 and beyond. Bless Bishop Dagmar as she supervises the diocese until a new Bishop is installed, and all those who serve the church under her leadership; priests, deacons, lay ministers and churchwardens. We pray for this church, for Eleanor, Paula, Virginia, Jo and all in leadership positions and the PCC.

- For those living in:- Baker Drive, Ness Court, Ness Road, The Avenue (Burwell), Chapel Lane (Reach).

- For those in special need: Danny, Sarah, Jackie, Neil, Don, Sonya (Anna Hopper's sister), Carol, Janice, Jennifer and John, Sonny (Jackie & Tony's Great Grandson), Sharon, Kate, Jenny, John, Andrew (Sue Reynolds' nephew), Joan, Joanne, Ian, Janet (Ken's cousin).

- For the bereaved, including the family and friends of John Sigrist and for those remembering anniversaries of loss of loved ones.

FOR YOUR ATTENTION:

* With our love and best wishes for a peaceful **New Year**, from Eleanor, Roger and family.

* **Open House at the Vicarage**, 22 Isaacson Road, New Year's Day 1st January 11.00am – 2.00pm. Pop in for a drink and a snack. All very welcome!

* **Alpha Course Online** – a new course will start on Thursday 11th January at 8pm. Please contact Jo llm@stmarysburwell.org.uk if you would like to join in with this opportunity to explore the Christian faith.

PASTORAL CARE

Please contact Eleanor or Paula with messages about pastoral news, needs & concerns, requests for prayer.
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