

# Churches Together in Kingswood

*Bringing the love of Christ into our community*

## CHRISTMAS 2023 Events and Services



*The entrance to St Mary's following the snowstorm in 2018.*

*Please note that all the events are subject to change.  
For more details please see the Church Notice Boards or*

[kingswoodcongregational.org.uk](http://kingswoodcongregational.org.uk)

[stmaryskingswood.org.uk](http://stmaryskingswood.org.uk)

# CHRISTINGLE

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 6:00pm St Mary's  
Hot Chocolate from 5:40pm



The Christingle Service supports the work of the **Children's Society** helping more children to enjoy a better, safer life. Please remember to bring along any of the collection boxes handed out at School.

Set off early and look out for **Mary and Joseph** in the **Village Inn** as they start their long journey down the High Street, and then join us for a mug of **Hot Chocolate** before the service starts.



## Reverse Advent Calendars

Boxes will be available to collect from the porch at St Mary's from the **3<sup>rd</sup> December**. Just add an item of food every day, then leave the box in the porch at St Mary's between

**10:00-16:00 on 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> December**

The Foodbank are also collecting presents for children. If you would like to buy a gift for a child leave it unwrapped at St Mary's between 10:00-16:00 before 12<sup>th</sup> December



**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
**10am Lower School Room**

A morning of fun for pre-school and primary school aged children with Christmas crafts, stories and song.

*All children must bring a parent/carer (includes lunch).*

*The following Messy Church will be on Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb*



## Gift Service

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 10:30 Congregational Church**

Please buy a gift for a child and bring it along to our Gift Service. All the gifts are donated to the Foodbank, and need to be unwrapped so that the parents can choose and wrap something they know their children will love.

**What Three Words** is used to identify every three metre square of the earth with three words. The main entrance to St Mary's is "*recapture lied snowstorm*" and the chapel is "*hammocks something screeches*". That the eternal, omnipresent God came into the world at a specific time in a specific place to share our humanity, is what began the salvation story. Traditionally, that place where Jesus was born is the site now occupied by the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem.

Among the squares occupied by that church, is "*rejoiced wound towel*". When babies are born in unexpected places, the first call is for hot water and towels, and so *towel* reminds us of the birth of Jesus, born in exceptional circumstances, which we will be remembering this Christmas. It was a time when many *rejoiced* Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds, the wise men. It is a time that Christians rejoice to remember today, for it began the tale of salvation of which we are also part today. But not all rejoiced *wound* reminds us that Herod from the start sought to harm the child, and that the story of salvation would not be completed without the wounds of the cross.

Yet though that tale is one of tragedy as well as joy, it is nevertheless the tale of salvation, and one to celebrate at Christmas and, indeed, throughout the year. Another square of the Church of the Nativity is, "*accompany euphoric replaying*". And we invite you to accompany us at our church in a euphoric replaying of the salvation story, beginning this Christmas and continuing as a journey throughout the year as we follow the life of Christ, his death and resurrection, and the sending of the Holy Spirit.



## **CAROL SERVICES**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm St Mary's**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 10:30am Congregational Church**

## **CAROLS ON THE CHIPPING**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm** *Collecting for the Foodbank*

## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

**6:00pm Crib Service St Mary's**

## **CHRISTMAS MORNING**

**10:30am Congregational Church**

**10:30am St Mary's**



## **Carol Service at St Mary's**

**17<sup>th</sup> December 6:00pm**

Join us at St Mary's for our traditional service of carols and readings followed by mince pies and mulled wine in St Mary's Room. This Christmas also marks the retirement of Gill Hatton who has been organist at St Mary's for 25 years.



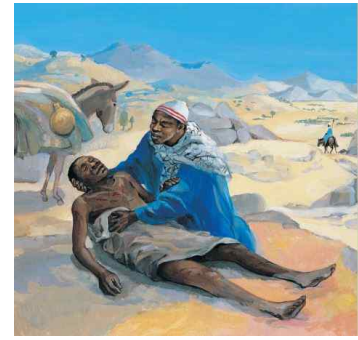
## **EPIPHANY** 7<sup>th</sup> January 6pm St Mary's



The Christmas story continues with a family service to celebrate the arrival of the Kings at our crib scene. *Join us for a mug of **Hot Chocolate** before the service starts.*



## **GO AND DO LIKEWISE.** Week of prayer for Christian Unity



18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> January – 7pm Congregational Church Vestry  
21<sup>st</sup> January 11am St Mary's - Joint Service

Using materials prepared by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso we explore the parable of the Good Samaritan a story that never seems to lose its power to challenge indifference to suffering and to inspire solidarity.

## **Holocaust Memorial Day** St Mary's 27 January

Saturday 10:00-16:00 Displays based on previous speakers.

18:00 - A short period of reflection with music and readings



## **CANDLEMAS** 28<sup>th</sup> January 6:00pm St Mary's



The Christmas season concludes with a family service telling the story of the baby Jesus being taken to the temple just 40 days after his birth. *Join us from 5:40pm for a mug of **Hot Chocolate** before the service*



**SUNDAY SERVICES**

11:00 St Mary's

10:30 Congregational

St Mary's is open every day 10:00–16:00

Congregational Church is open Wednesday 12:00-13:00 for prayer.

Wednesday Coffee Morning 10:00-11:00 Lower School Room

**Sunday School** 10.30 – 11.30 Lower School Room. *Parents can drop their children off and then join the Church service or collect them later.*

**Lighthouse Youth Group** Thursday 6:30-8:30 (*term time only*) Lower School Room. *For 10-15 year olds, with pool, table tennis, food and drink.*



**Drop-In Cafe** Lower School Room

Open Tuesdays 2pm-5pm and Fridays 10am-1pm.

**Community Pantry and Information Point**

St Mary's Church Open daily 10am-4pm