

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES IN DECEMBER AT ST MARY'S

Including 10am—11.30am ADventure in the Church Rooms

Sunday	3rd	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
		10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday	10th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
		10.00am	Informal Holy Communion
Sunday	17th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
		10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday	24th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
		10.00am	Said Holy Communion (NO Adventure)
Sunday	31st	10.30am	Group Service of Holy Communion at St John's Church, Ovington

Please note:- There will be NO services or ADventure at St Mary's on the 31st

For details of all the Christmas services please see inside this newsletter

Every Week:- Service at 9.30am on Wednesday followed by Tea & Coffee
Prayers at 5.00 - 5.30pm on Thursday
9.30 - 10.00am and 5.00 - 6.00pm on Saturday

THURSDAY CHAT Thursday 7th December 10am - 12 noon

A social coffee morning At St Mary's, Watton, continuing on the 1st Thursday of each month. All are welcome.

STORY BAGS Mondays 3rd, 10th, 17th December at St. Mary's from 9.30 to 10.30am for parents and pre school children during term time only

The Winner of the 100 Club November Draw was No. 2 Alan Wake

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES or NEED HELP PLEASE CONTACT

Church Office - from 9am to 1pm Tues, Wed, & Thurs.
TELEPHONE 01953 881252

e-mail - wattonchurch@gmail.com

St Mary's Church, Church Road, Watton. IP25 6DQ

Rev'd Gerry Foster (Vicar) 01953 881439

Steve Bibby (churchwarden) 01953 885419

Gill Smith (churchwarden) 01953 483231

Visit our web site- www.stmaryswatton.org

Follow us on Twitter @StMarysWatton



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WATTON

Newsletter December 2017

St Mary's believes in Reaching out with the power and love of Jesus in a caring, family atmosphere



**Christmas
Blessings
to you all**

On Crosby sands are the figures of Anthony Gormley's artwork. The statues are oblivious of the swirling waters, as they remain focussed and steadfast, eyes fixed on 'another place, or a far horizon'. Their attention is completely bound up with waiting and watching. At this time of Advent, we wait for Jesus and the 'other place' of God's Kingdom, which we watch breaking out through those who love and serve God with hope in the here and now.

Our Western culture is not very good at waiting, rather expecting 'quick fixes' to all its needs and desires. So Advent, with its four, long weeks of watching and waiting is deeply counter-cultural. The sound of Christmas songs meet us in the shops which have been decked with holly for weeks and the community lights are rigged for the official switching on celebrations. However, for Christians December has another growing rhythm and sense of anticipation, as we're aware something is still missing... the world is not as it should be and humanity's definitely not what it could be either. So as we move steadily forwards, our gaze is focussed not on an empty horizon, but a time when Jesus, the Lord and Saviour will come amongst us again and his kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven, as the Lord's Prayer tells it. Our hope strengthens us for each day to participate in faith to support each other in this journey. We need to keep watch, but be ready with the whole of our lives to greet the true 'Meaning of the Season', both at Christmas and always.
Every Blessing Your Vicar Gerry

**Watton Community Cinema Last film of 2017
a return of 'Beauty and the Beast'**

Friday 29th December 4.00pm Café Opens

5.00pm Children's Choir Performance 5.30pm Film Screening

Café and Tuck Shop selling lots of film favourites

Film Entry Free, although donations are always welcome

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

We will be assembling the Christingles in the church rooms from 1.30pm onwards on Thursday 21st December. Jan will soon be asking if people can make up sticks with fruit/sweets for the 200 oranges. At the same time the vergers will be leading a team to arrange extra chairs and prepare the church. Please would any ladies and men who are able, come along and help with these two important tasks.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PCC SECRETARY

Following a request, a copy of the PCC minutes is available for anyone to read. It is attached to the Notice Board in the Church Rooms

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES

Many thanks to all who filled shoe boxes with gifts for underprivileged children. This year the total from St Mary's was 15. Margaret Cator

Watton Christmas Festive Market in the High Street Sunday 3rd December from 1pm to 4pm

Lights Switch on at 4pm

Watton Churches Together have asked us to provide some
Tray Bakes for them to sell to raise money for Shelterbox

TRAY BAKES MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH FOOD CONTENTS

Watton Churches Together Invites You to
Sing Carols This Christmas...

At The Queens Hall, Watton

on Sunday 10th December at 3.00pm

Followed by Seasonal Refreshments Collection this year will be for Watton ATC

Mince Pies will be needed for this service, if you are able to help please bring to
St Mary's Church or to The Queens Hall on the day

CAROL SERVICE at ST MARY'S

SATURDAY 16th December at 6.30pm

Followed by Seasonal Refreshments

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE at ST MARY'S

SUNDAY 24th December at 4.00pm

Especially for Children and Families



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE at ST MARY'S

SUNDAY 24th December at 11.30pm

Midnight Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS MORNING at ST MARY'S

MONDAY 25th December at 10.30am

Family Holy Communion with carols

COVENANT SERVICE at Watton Methodist Church, with St Mary's Church

7th JANUARY at 10.30am

Led by Revd Eleanor Reddington and Revd Gerry Foster