

NEWSLETTER

St Mary's Fetcham Parish Church
www.stmarysfetcham.org.uk

4th December 2011

info@stmarysfetcham.org.uk

We aim to be a growing community of Christian people who desire to be:

mature disciples : committed church family members : effective witnesses : caring neighbours



Christmas Services at St Mary's:

Sunday, 11th December at 4.00pm

Christingle, followed by goodies in the hall

Thurs, 15th December at 6.00pm

Christmas Carol Service for the local business community followed by drinks and nibbles in Fetcham Park House

Sunday, 18th December at 9.30am
and at 6.30pm

Christmas Special (incorporating The Eleven)
Christmas Carol Service followed by mulled wine, etc, in the hall

Saturday, 24th December at 3.30 and 5.00pm
and at 11.15pm

Crib Services
Midnight Communion

Sunday, 25th December at 8.00am
at 9.30am
and at 11.00am

Holy Communion
Christmas Day Communion
Christmas Day Family Service



Happy Christmas!

Collections taken at the Crib and Family Services over Christmas will go to the Barnabus Fund to feed hungry Christians in various parts of the world, including the Horn of Africa and Pakistan, where Christians are frequently overlooked in the distribution of aid.

NB: *There is no service of Evening Prayer on Christmas Day and no 10.00am Holy Communion Service on Thursday, 29th December. Normal services on Sunday, 1st January, ie 8.00am Holy Communion, 9.30am Parish Communion, Family Service at 11.00am and Evening Prayer at 6.30pm.*

Christingle - Sunday, 11th Dec at 4.00pm

Christingle is relatively new, having been introduced to the Church of England by the Children's Society in 1968. It has since become one of the most popular events for families and communities in the church calendar. Loved by children and adults alike, this candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith. Don't miss Christingle at St Mary's this year, followed by tea, cake and mulled wine in the hall.



Congratulations to the Downs Pack cubs who will be presented with Faith Badges at the end of the service.

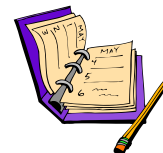
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- To Marion and the team for organising a fabulous Crafty Christmas Night In on Friday evening, to everybody who ran stalls, decorated the hall, provided food and drink, contributed towards and supported a fantastic evening. The hall was absolutely buzzing and it was great to have so many people from the village too. Any funds raised will be split between Kibera and equipment for Footprints, but the idea was really to have fun together. Awesome – thanks everybody!
- To Helen Dean who has been running the homemade stall and to the Mackays who are taking over from her
- To the Women's Group and Brian Egles for providing delicious refreshments after the Advent Carol Service
- To Joan Marr, Kit Oliver and the combined choirs from St Mary's and the Church of the Holy Spirit for the wonderful music at the Advent Carol Service, to all the readers, everybody who participated and to Joan and Judith Pinsent for putting the service together. It was a truly memorable evening.
- To Allison Jenkins and the 1st Fetcham Guides for making the Christingles again this year
- To Peter Jeffrey for coming to worship with us and preach on 20th November
- To Sarah Mackay for organising the Bike Ride, to everybody who participated and to the sponsors. All the money has now come in and we raised a whopping £1,000!
- To the Smith family who, for the past ten years, has got the church Christmas tree and crib ready for Christmas
- To Andrew Crawford and the team for preparing another Christmas edition of The Fetcham Link and to the distributors who will be delivering a copy to every house in the parish (providing they remember to collect them from the hall today!).
- To Sarah Mackay who's organising our Church Christmas card

Dates for your Diary:

- Sun, 4th Dec The Rt Rev'd Ian Brackley, Bishop of Dorking, is with us this morning
- Sun, 4th Dec Advent Family Service at 11.00am, "Tears to Smiles"
- Fri, 9th Dec Footprints at 10.00 in the hall
- Sun, 11th Dec Christingle at 4.00pm, followed by goodies in the hall
- Thur. 15th Dec Thursday Coffee Christmas Lunch, 12.30 for 12.45 in the hall
- Tues, 20th Dec Women's Group Carol Service at 7.30pm in church, followed by supper in the hall
- Fri, 16th Dec Horizon at 10 o'clock in the hall
- Sat, 14th Jan "Who let the Dads out?" 9.30 – 11.30 in the hall



Details of Christmas Services are on the front page. Info on events at Guildford Cathedral is on the notice board in the hall.

Something to think about for the New Year is our Covenant with God which those who want to will be saying during 09.30 Parish Communion on the 1st January:

This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people." Jeremiah 31³⁵

Lord God, Holy Father, since you have called us through Christ to share in this gracious covenant, we take upon ourselves afresh the yoke of obedience. And, for the love of you, we engage ourselves in the task of making you known to our neighbours and serving them in your name.

Lord God, I am no longer my own, but yours. Send me where you will, rank me with whom you will: let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you; exalted for you, or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing: Freely and wholeheartedly I yield my life and all I possess to your pleasure and disposal. Amen

Father, we dedicate ourselves to serve you faithfully and to follow Christ, to face the future with Him, seeking his special purpose for our lives. Send us out now to work and to witness freely, gratefully and hopefully, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and for the honour and glory of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Don't forget Homemade, Traidcraft and Book Stalls in the hall today. The Homemade stall will have a Christmas flavour with lots of goodies and gifts. Mary King has made a beautiful Christmas cake to be raffled in aid of Kibera – the draw will take place after the Family Service this morning. Please note there are no stalls in January so let's make a special effort today.



Sunday Morning Crèche - There will be no crèche facility for the 9.30 am services on Christmas Day nor New Year's Day. As always, babies and toddlers will be most welcome in church. There are books and toys for the little ones beneath the back pew on the door side and space to play just in front of this. The weekly crèche in the hall will resume on 8th January.



Church Christmas Tree: For the past 10 years or so the Smith family has had the pleasure of performing the festive task of preparing the church Christmas tree and crib. They now feel it is time to pass on this enjoyable duty, perhaps most suitably to a young family. If you're interested please contact Darryll or Liz on 386443 who will gladly show you the ropes and share the task with you this year.

Good News: The lady who went missing in Fetcham last weekend was found safe and well last Sunday evening.

Christmas Cards: Rather than exchanging Christmas cards within the church family we're having a St Mary's card for everybody to sign and the opportunity to put the money we would have spent on cards into a charity box in aid of Kibera. Don't forget to use the Christmas Charity Post to deliver your local cards, stamps on sale at St Mary's @ 25p.

Bellsgrave: Did you know that our Pastoral Assistants, together with members of our congregation, lead regular services at Bellsgrave? They will be going on Friday, 9th December for a special Christmas service with carols. Huge thanks to Manager, Loga, who always makes everybody so welcome. If you're interested in joining in, speak to Rosemary Godwin, 376458.

Paid Minute-taker Wanted for Fetcham Residents Association's monthly Committee meetings

FRA's Committee meetings are held in St Mary's hall on the third Monday of each month, attended by 12 committee members and up to 5 councillors, and last about two hours. A minute-taker is sought to make a record of proceedings and prepare a draft for the Chairman using an existing format. Interested? Speak to Paul Fairweather on 372006 for details and to discuss remuneration.

Please pray for:

- Those who are sick, including Barry Welch, Graham Alsop, Phil Walters who has been in hospital this past week and Sheila Hill who has problems with her hip again
- Youngsters returning home from university for Christmas, especially those who've just completed their first term
- Churches everywhere planning for Christmas activities and events and preparing to welcome people who don't normally come
- Leaders and participants on the new Welcome Course. The course resumes on 9th January after the Christmas break
- Youngsters on the Confirmation Course and leaders Natalie Pither and Paul
- Our local schools' carol services being held at St Mary's, Oakfield's on the 19th Dec and FVIS's on the 20th, both at 11.00am.



We remember those who have died recently, including Reg Britnall and Mabel Crossweller, and surround their families and friends with our love and prayers.

St Mary's, Fetcham Parish Church: Rector: the Reverend Paul Boughton, 10a The Ridgeway, tel 01372 375000. Please submit copy for inclusion in the Newsletter by the Wednesday preceding publication to Corinne by e-mail (newsletter@stmarysfetcham.org.uk) or corinne.braid@ntlworld.com), post (12 Long Copse Close, Gt Bookham, KT23 3PX) or via the tray in the vestry.