



ST MARY'S
BARNES

Follow The Star
THE GREAT
INVITATION

The Advent & Christmas Season

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as we prepare to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation, and also look ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. Advent falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas.

The Moravian custom of Christingle has been revived in recent years with the encouragement of the Children's Society, and our service takes place on 11th December. The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (*Gaudete* or 'Rose Sunday', and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations.



The celebration of Christ's incarnation at Christmas is, with Easter, one of the two central points of the Christian year. We wonder at the mystery of God's dwelling among us in the fullness of humanity, foretold by the prophets and born of Mary. Christmas is however much more than simply the celebration of Jesus' birth, as we are reminded, amid the celebrations, of the profound truth of the Word made flesh. In the complex times we face, this deeper understanding provides comfort alongside the joy of the season.

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The Christmas crib and the nativity play, which we celebrate on Christmas Eve afternoon originated with St Francis of Assisi in the 13th century. Christmas carols were a medieval tradition, notably developed from the end of the nineteenth century. We have a traditional service of lessons and carols on 18th December and informal service in the church garden on 20th.

The Christmas season is often celebrated for twelve days, ending with the story of the wise men visiting Jesus at the Epiphany. However we continue to celebrate in other ways until Candlemas on 2nd February. We remember St Stephen (26th), the first Christian martyr, St John (27th), and the Holy Innocents (28th), drawing our attention to the plight of so many children who suffer in our world just as those who suffered at the hand of Herod as he sought to murder Jesus as an infant.

In January we also remember the conversion of St Paul, the crucial moment leading to him being the apostle to the non-Jewish world. Finally between 18th-25th January we celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, as we come together with fellow Christians here in Barnes and around the world, remembering Jesus' call for us to be united in him.

Advent Sunday

27th November 2022

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am All Together

Advent Parish Eucharist

6pm Advent Carols

at St Michael's & All Angels



CHURCHES TOGETHER in BARNES
SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

ADVENT CAROLS
Sunday 27th November 6.00pm
A service of seasonal anthems, poetry, hymns and readings followed by refreshments

Advent



ADVENT COMPLINE

29th November, 7th, 14th & 21st December

9pm in the Langton Chapel

WWW.STMARYBARNES.ORG

Advent



ADVENT QUIET DAY

Saturday 3rd December, 9.30am-3.30pm - St Nicholas, Chiswick

'Behold, I make all things new'

Come away for a while from your routine and the busyness of outward preparations and prepare inwardly for Christmas through prayer, silence, reading and reflection in the beautiful surroundings of St Nicholas, Chiswick. Fr Stephen leads a day on behalf of the whole Barnes Team as we join together to reflect on Revelation, with its themes of expectation and justice that are also central to the spirituality of Advent.

Please email the Parish Office to put your name down.



St Mary's Christmas Posada

Join the Holy Family's Advent Journey



Sign up if you would like to host the holy family overnight this year.

They travel in their own box with everything they need.

For more information, please speak to Julie Smith, 07899 797737

Christmas



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ST MARY'S
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CHRISTINGLE SERVICE SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER AT 4PM



Come to this special service as a lovely way of getting ready for Christmas. This year we will have fun making our Christingles, with refreshments, before lighting them in a short informal service.

Oranges and materials all supplied!

The Christingle tradition started in Germany in the 18th century and is now a regular part of Christmas preparations here in England.

   @stmarybarnes

Do join us for this special service

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Christmas

Carol Services

Sunday 18th December 6pm

Traditional Lessons & Carols in church

Tuesday 20th December 6pm

Informal Carol Service outdoors by the crib



ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS CARD SHOP

now open for Christmas 2022

with a delightful new card: Joy & Peace

www.stmarybarnes.org/shop/

A CEREMONY OF CAROLS

Thursday 22nd December
7pm



@stmarybarnes

Ensemble Pro Victoria, one of Britain's finest young vocal ensembles, along with the Choristers and Choral Scholars of St Mary's Barnes, directed by Toby Ward, present Britten's canonic work for upper voices and harp, A Ceremony of Carols, alongside works including local greats Herbert Howells and Gustav Holst.

Enjoy a world-class team of singers and harpist, along with young singers for solo and ensemble items, for the feast of Christmas. Mulled wine and mince pies are available at the end of the concert.

All profits go to the St Mary's Music Fund which supports the choristers, the choral and organ scholars and guest organists for special services.

www.ticketsource.co.uk/stmarybarnes/a-ceremony-of-carols

www.stmarybarnes.org



Christmas Eve

3pm Nativity Service

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Christmas Eucharist with Carols

11.30am All Age Informal Service with Carols

No Evensong

Sunday 1st January 2023

Second of Christmas

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Parish Eucharist

6pm Evensong

Sunday 8th January 2023

Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am All Together Parish Eucharist

6pm Healing & Wholeness

www.stmarybarnes.org

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