



# St Mary's Church Newsletter

December 2023

## WELCOME TO ST MARYS

- Refreshments including tea and coffee will be available at the end of morning services.
- Gluten free wafers are available for communion. Please ask a steward or member of the clergy.
- An induction loop is available for those who are hard of hearing. Please turn your hearing aid to the 'T' setting.
- Toilets, including disabled and nappy changing facilities are situated at the far end of the church. Follow signs past reception and the main hall.

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN DECEMBER

**Sunday 3rd Advent Sunday** - welcome Bishop Sophie who will preach and celebrate at our service of Holy Communion today. There is a separate childrens' group this morning. Share lunch after the service - there is always lots of food so everyone is very welcome to stay.



**Sunday 10th** - Holy Communion with separate groups for children and young people.

**Sunday 17th** - NO MORNING SERVICE - instead come at **4pm** for our Community Carol Service.

We will be looking for volunteers to help us set up...to dress up as all the characters of the nativity story - costumes provided...and to serve the food after the service. This will be outside, weather permitting. Mulled wine and hot turkey rolls (vegan alternative), bring a torch.

**Sunday 24th 10.30am** - Christingle and Crib Service.

**Sunday 24th 11.30pm** - Midnight Mass.

**Christmas Day, Monday 25th 10.30am** - All Age Communion.

**Sunday 31st 10.30am** Holy Communion for All Ages.

## OTHER CHRISTMAS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Monday 11th 1.30pm** Porter Croft Primary Academy Christmas Service in church

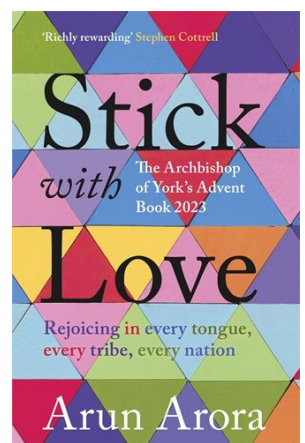
**Wednesday 13th 6-7pm** Carol Singing at the Golden Lion, 69 Alderson Road S2 4UB (10mins walk from St Marys) – returning at their special request! Free buffet included. Wear your Christmas Jumper!

**Thursday 14th 1.30pm** Carols and Mince pies with staff users and volunteers in the Centre

Please take a postcard invitation for yourself and some to give away to invite others to all our services and celebrations over Christmas.

## ADVENT INSPIRATION

"Stick with Love" an advent book exploring themes of racial justice, hospitality and welcome alongside the stories of saints across the globe and across the ages. Please pick up your copy from Claire.....or ask and we can buy more – to inspire us over advent and to gather together to share our thoughts in the new year.



## STARS IN ST MARYS

Stars in St Mary's – once the Christmas trees are up in the church and hall spaces and outside we will be inviting everyone who comes to St Mary's to hang stars on the trees as their prayers. We

will be joining our prayers with theirs – please take a copy of the new prayer cycle leaflet for Advent and Christmas.

## GIVING TO ST MARYS

We value all that people offer to St Marys..... time, talents, participation and your financial support. There are a variety of ways to do this:

- We have a tap and give machine which accepts cards and phones,
- There is a plate for cash collections or you can set up a standing order or direct debit from your bank.
- If you are a tax-payer we can also reclaim additional funding from HMRC so please complete a gift aid form. All the forms are available by the tap and give machine – or ask those on welcome duty by the door.
- There's an online giving page on the church website or [here](#)

## PIANO PARTY

Save the Date: Friday **19th January 7pm** (to be confirmed)

Celebrate the arrival of our new piano at a 'Piano Party'. With very special piano-playing guests!



Tickets on sale after Christmas. All proceeds to supporting the good work of St Marys Bramall Lane.

## ST MARYS SOCIAL MEDIA

Did you know that St Marys has a presence on all the main social media channels?

If you read the online version of this newsletter, which you can always get from the church website here...

<https://www.stmarys-church.co.uk/newsletters>

...you can use the links in the footer of this page to take you straight to twitter (X), instagram, or facebook.

There's also an email list, which only gets used occasionally - ask steve if you'd like to sign up for this.

Here are some highlights from recent St Marys posts on social media.



**Diocese of Sheffield**  
17 October  
On Saturday young people from **St Mary's Church, Bramall Lane** attended The PBS Cranmer Awards Leeds Diocese Heat - the first regional Heat in Yorkshire.  
The competition involved 2 sections: Senior group (15-17 year olds) and Junior group (11-14 year olds). In each section 4 prizes were awarded as follows: 1st, 2nd & 3rd then 1 highly commended.  
St Mary's youth were awarded 4 of these 8 prizes, creating an equal division of awards between South Yorkshire and the rest of Yorkshire.  
A big well done to everyone who took part! #LightsforChrist



Miriam Cavanagh, Oyo Opiyo and 29 others  
4 comments 1 share

...find out more...talk to someone...send some news...

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Newsletters available online  
news to [steve@to-lo.co.uk](mailto:steve@to-lo.co.uk) or  
0783 5420392

St Marys facebook group  
[facebook.com/groups/stmarysbl](https://facebook.com/groups/stmarysbl)  
(private group)



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