



Mary Christmas

Mary is one of the key characters in the Christmas story but, lost in the homely entertainment of every school nativity play, we don't often appreciate what a traumatic experience it must have been for her; the scandal, the gossip, the strain with Joseph, the long journey and the emergency delivery in a rustic outhouse.

At Saint Mary's we're going to be looking at the story through her eyes in the weeks approaching Christmas. Her readiness to accept God's will is inspirational. At the beginning of the narrative, when what she was asked to do was sinking in, she said "Let it be to me according to your word."

This openness to God's word has given us an idea for the New Year. As a church, throughout 2013, we're going to read together the key 150 passages that make up the whole Bible story. You can download a reading plan from our website if you'd like to join in.

Wishing you every blessing,
John Lambert

Harvest Festival

The Harvest festival was a great success. Led by Gill Clayton, with readings by Sonia Wade and Janet Russell, talk by John Taylor, and anthems from the choir, the service was fast paced and engaging. It included various hymns including the great Harvest song 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter', two anthems from the choir and a talk about what life is like in Lesotho—a country surrounded by South Africa. Lesotho is supported by Durham diocese and the collection money from this service is being sent there to help with missionary work. The splendid collection of harvest goods brought by the congregation and children of St Mary's school have been distributed amongst local women's refuges and refugee centres. Over 70 people attended the service with many staying for the delicious shared lunch after the service.

Forthcoming Dates

2 nd December	Christingle Service & Godzone Team, 4pm
16 th December	Christmas Gift Service, 10.30am
23 rd December	Carol Service, 10.30am
24 th December	Christmas Eve Midnight Communion Service, 11.30pm
25 th December	Christmas Day Communion Service, 9.00am
28 th December	'Cinderella' one hour Pantomime, Wilson Centre
30 th January	GodZone Service, 2.30pm

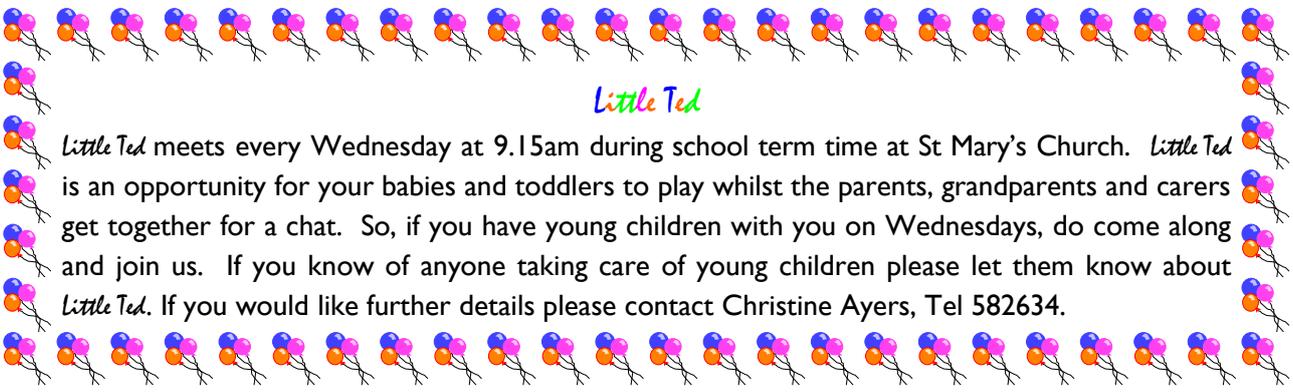
Weekly Events

Tuesday @ 10 – Informal service in Church at 10.00am
Wednesday - Little Ted in Church at 9.15am
Thursday - Coffee and chat at Wilson at 10.00am

Community Lunch — Forthcoming Dates

Thursday 13th December, Wilson Centre at 12.30pm
Thursday 10th January 2013, Wilson Centre at 12.30pm

Why not take a look at St Mary's Church Website for further details of events and contacts? www.stmaryslongnewton.co.uk



Little Ted

Little Ted meets every Wednesday at 9.15am during school term time at St Mary's Church. Little Ted is an opportunity for your babies and toddlers to play whilst the parents, grandparents and carers get together for a chat. So, if you have young children with you on Wednesdays, do come along and join us. If you know of anyone taking care of young children please let them know about Little Ted. If you would like further details please contact Christine Ayers, Tel 582634.

Community Lunch

We have had two Community Lunches now since the summer break, both of which have been attended by around twenty-five folk. The opportunity to eat together and share a time of fellowship together is proving very popular and the atmosphere is lively. None of this can happen of course without the support of a great team of helpers who prepare the food and serve. Lunches are now once a month at the Wilson Centre and all ages are welcome to join us. Give it a try.
Cheryl Moore

Bible Reading Plan

The Bible is the world's all time best selling book - but it is such a daunting book and some parts are difficult to grasp - so it is not known all that well. At Saint Mary's, throughout 2013, we are going to be reading together 150 essential Bible passages. It works out at three readings a week. 75 readings are from the Old Testament (before Christ) and 75 are from the New Testament (the life of Jesus and the birth of the church). Together, the 150 passages give you a good overview of the whole Bible story.

The Reading Plan can be obtained in church. We recommend you read a modern translation like the New International version.

Back To Church Sunday: the name says it all! A day for people to come back to church and enjoy a service which was fun, engaging and enthusiastic. Regular church goers invited people along they thought would like it and, thanks to various publicity, other people came of their own accord. The congregation was generously swelled and many remarked how much they enjoyed the service (and the cakes afterwards of course!). Two members of the regular congregation shared their 'back to church' stories which was very moving. The service showed that there's a variety of reasons why people find their way back to the church and that, whatever the reason, they will always find a warm welcome at St Mary's. If you missed it then never fear - every Sunday has the potential to be your back to church Sunday. Come and join us!

St Mary's School

I am pleased to say all the children returned to school safe and well after their summer holidays and quickly settled into the routines of school. There was a surprise for them when they returned in the shape of a new outside shelter/ classroom just off the playground. This was completely funded by the "Friends" of the school and was supplied and built by Coatham Stob Fencing. It has already been a big hit with the children.

We have recently celebrated Harvest at our October GodZone Service in the church. We were all very pleased with the number of parents who worshipped with us and by the generous donations brought in by the children. I would like to invite all who worship at St Mary's to join us at our next GodZone to be held on Wednesday 30th January (2.30 p.m.) to witness at first hand the fun we all have.

David Moorfoot, Headteacher



Longnewton Music

The next concert from Northern Brass will be held on Saturday 1st December at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church. Tickets £10. Ticket hotline Tel. 585238.