



St. Mary's Tadley
Faith | Food | Friendship



ST PAUL'S | ST PETER'S | ST LUKE'S
FAITH - LOVE - COMMUNITY



December Newsletter

Our Clergy, LLMs and Administrator

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As you start to prepare for Christmas, I wonder how many gifts you've already bought? Perhaps the idea of shopping fills you with dread. For many, Christmas is a difficult time of year, a time when checking in on those who are alone is even more important.

We remember that the greatest gift we've ever been given wasn't bought in a shop. No cash exchanged hands. It wasn't even wrapped. Yet it cost the Giver everything. It wasn't a Black Friday deal, but a Good Friday gift. How far love came to bring us home.

This month there is a wonderful Christmas shopping opportunity at the **Tadley Craft Market at St. Paul's on Saturday 6th December from 11am – 2pm**. Over 20 local artisans will be in attendance as well as live music, fantastic food, and free activities for young people.

During December millions will hear the gospel of Immanuel. God with us. Let preachers preach it, choirs sing it, Zoom declare it, kids unwrap it, rulers fear it, mothers hold it, cynics see it, people with heads bowed perceive it, those with debts receive it, and those souls whose faith has been shaken this year - believe it all again. Blessed is the season that engages the whole world in the conspiracy of love.

We invite you to celebrate Christmas with us in Tadley, Pamber Heath and Silchester, and pray that the joy and hope offered here will fill your hearts afresh with optimism that those who walk in darkness, this Christmas, WILL see a great light.

The start of advent...

Sunday 30th November at 10am – Advent kicks off with our benefice **Advent Carol Service**, at **St Mary's, Tadley**. Please note, this service is in place of the regular morning service.

Events in December...

Tuesday 2nd at 7pm – ATC/RAFA (Air Training Corps/Royal Air Forces Association) Carol Service at St Mary's, Tadley.

Saturday 6th from 11am to 2pm – The Tadley Christmas Craft Market at St Paul's. We have some fantastic local craftspeople joining us who will be selling unique handmade gifts. It will be a great community Christmas shopping event. Over 20 local artisans will be in attendance as well as live music, fantastic food, and free activities for young people

Can you help with the Craft Market?

- Could you help for an hour to run one of our church stalls?
- Can you bake a cake and deliver it to St Paul's, either on Friday 5th or Saturday 6th before 11am?
- Could you donate sweets or chocolate for our tombola?
- Could you make a hamper or provide new goods for a hamper for our Grand Draw?

If you can help, please let Steve know – revstevemckay@gmail.com

Friday 5th at 7pm – The amazing Christchurch Players pantomime 'A Christmas Carol'. The pantomime is continuing for a second week after a run in November. Please note, Saturday 6th is already sold out but tickets are still available for the Friday performance. Tickets available from:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/christchurch-players or by calling: 0333 666 3366.

Sunday 7th from 10.30am – Christingle and Toy Service at Silchester School. Join us for refreshments and Christingle making at 10.30am with the service starting at 11am.

Friday 12th and Saturday 13th – CTAT Community Christmas Festival of Stars at Tadley Common Methodist Church. Many of you have spent the year making Christmas stars to distribute to our Tadley Community. Come and see the spectacular stars all together on one venue. (Open Friday 2pm - 7pm and Saturday 10am – 5pm.)

If you would like to help us distribute the stars around Tadley the week after, please let Steve know. It will involve an early start on two mornings (not giving too much away in this newsletter) but a cooked breakfast is provided for all helpers!

Sunday 14th at 10am – Messy Christmas at St Paul's. Relive the Christmas story by dressing up and joining in as we tell the greatest story ever told. There will be crafts, carols, and lots of breakfast. We will also collect toys for the Christmas toy appeal. Dressing up is not mandatory, but always fun!

Monday 15th from 10.30am to midday – St Paul's Morning Christmas Get-together. Come along for a time of friendship and great cake! This month you can also get busy crafting some fantastic Christmas decorations.

Thursday 18th at 1.30pm – Let's Pray! our monthly prayer group meets at St Mary's, Tadley.

Thursday 18th at 7.30pm – CTAT Live Nativity Trail 'Actors and Helpers' meeting. Over 300 people attended this event last year and so we need stewards to walk the trail and to help people cross roads. We also need help with refreshments and crafts. If you can help in anyway at all, please pop along to this meeting. Even if you can't make the meeting please do offer to help by emailing Steve at revstevemckay@gmail.com

Sunday 21st at 9am – RISE Christmas and Christingle in St Mary's Church Hall, Tadley. Christmas family fun as we tell the Christmas story, take part in crafts and challenges and share breakfast!

Sunday 21st at 3pm and 5pm – Tadley Traditional Candlelight Carol Services at St Peters, Tadley. As Christmas approaches, come and sing together in our beautiful ancient church. This was so popular last year that this year we are offering two services. The earlier service will have some family friendly carols, while the later service will be more traditional organ led carols and readings.

Sunday 21st at 3pm – Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary the Virgin, Silchester. Please note: this is the only service at Silchester on 21st.

Monday 22nd at 4pm CTAT Live Nativity Trail. Come and live the Christmas story as we travel to Bethlehem and meet the characters. There will be live animals, Christmas Carols, mulled wine, crafts, and a folk band. It all begins at St Michael's, Bishopswood Road, Tadley at 4pm and concludes at St Mary's around 6pm, allowing plenty of time to see the animals, hear the band, and get in the Christmas spirit!

Can you help at our CTAT event? We need stewards, helpers with craft and refreshments. We also need lots mulled wine and mince pies. Please leave these in either St Paul's or St Mary's, Tadley. Please do offer to help by emailing Steve – revstevemckay@gmail.com



Please keep this sheet for reference and check for updates via email.

Like our Facebook pages: **@St.Marys.Tadley** | **@stpaulstadley** | **@silchesterchurch** or go to our websites:

<https://st-marys-church-tadley.org.uk/>

<https://www.stpaulstadley.org.uk/>

<https://www.silchesterchurch.co.uk/>



Christmas CRAFT MARKET



GIFTS - CRAFTS - FOOD

ST PAUL'S, TADLEY

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER

11AM TO 2PM

FREE ENTRY



**ST PAUL'S CHURCH
THE GREEN,
TADLEY RG26 3PB**



@STPAULSTADLEY



ENQUIRIES@STPAULSTADLEY.ORG.UK



ST PAUL'S ST PETER'S ST LUKE'S
FAITH • LOVE • COMMUNITY

Christmas

⊕ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

TADLEY | PAMBER HEATH | SILCHESTER

Sunday 14th 10am
Messy Christmas at St Paul's

Sunday 21st 3pm & 5pm
Carol Services at St Peter's

Sunday 21st 4pm
Nine Lessons & Carols
Service at St Mary-the-Virgin

Monday 22nd 4pm
Live Nativity Trail starting
at St Michael's, Bishopswood Rd

Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24th 2.30pm
Nativity Service at St Luke's

Wednesday 24th 4pm
Crib Service & Christingle
at St Mary's

Wednesday 24th 4pm
Crib Service at
St Mary-the-Virgin

Wednesday 24th 4pm
Crib Service at St Paul's

Midnight Holy Communion

Wednesday 24th 11.30pm
Midnight Holy Communion at
St Luke's / St Paul's /
St Mary's / St Mary-the-Virgin

Christmas Day

Thursday 25th 10am
Christmas Day Holy Communion
at St Mary's

Thursday 25th 10am
Christmas Day Holy Communion
at St Mary-the-Virgin

Thursday 25th 10am
Church on the Green Christmas
All Age at St Paul's

Later in the week

Sunday 28th 6pm
Benefice Carol Service
at St Mary's

Charity number: 1187062

You are welcome in all our churches and at all
our services. Do join us again this Christmas.

More information:



@stpaulstadley | @st.marys.tadley | @silchesterchurch

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December

- **2.30pm – Pamber Heath Nativity Service at St Luke's.** Come and join in Pamber Heath's Crib service as Cathy leads us through the Christmas story.
- **4pm – St Mary's All Age Crib Service and Christingle.** A crib service for everyone! Chris and the St Mary's team will tell the Christmas story with some of your favourite carols along the way.
- **4pm – St Paul's Crib Service.** Christmas at the chocolate factory is back! Come and hear the Christmas story, alongside some of Revd Steve's terrible jokes! **Carols will be led by Tadley Concert Brass.** This service is always really popular, so arrive early to get a seat!
- **4pm – St Mary the Virgin Crib Service.** Come and hear the Christmas story. And why not dress up as your favourite character?
- **11.30pm – 'Midnight' First Christmas Communion services** take place in four venues: St Luke's, Pamber Heath / St Mary's, Tadley / St Mary the Virgin, Silchester / St Paul's, Tadley.

Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December

Services

- **10am – Church on the Green Christmas Day All Age Family Communion at St Paul's on the Green**
- **10am – Christmas Day Holy Communion at St Mary the Virgin, Silchester**
- **10am – Christmas Day Holy Communion at St Mary's, Tadley**

Lunch

- **11.30am – Christmas Day Lunch at the Ambrose Allen Centre.** If you're alone for Christmas, or maybe you have a friend or neighbour who would benefit from this event, please book by emailing tadleychristmasday@gmail.com

Sunday 28th at 6pm – Benefice Carol Service. Join together at St Mary's, Tadley for a special Christmas season Carol Service for all our church family, led by Revd Karen and Charles LLM. Please note, there will be no morning services on this day.

Christmas Appeal

This year our CTAT churches are again joining in with the toy collection run by the Salvation Army. Collections can take place right up until 14th December as the toys are distributed locally by our churches to families who really need them. And with a local distribution there are no overheads other than the donated toys. The toys must be new and unwrapped. Any toys bought at The Entertainer toy shop will be matched in value by the store. Also, money donations will be accepted and will be used for food vouchers for local families. Special toy collection services will take place across the benefice on first Sunday's and at Messy Church on 14th December.

Looking ahead to 2026...

Sunday 18th January at 10.30am – CTAT Unity Service at St Paul's. This is an opportunity for all our church congregations to meet together for one big morning service. Everyone is invited. This year CTAT has contributed over 6,000 hours of work to the community, something to come together and celebrate.

Thursday 22nd January at 7.30pm – CTAT AGM takes place at The Salvation Army, Mulfords Hill. Please join us from 7pm for refreshments with the AGM due to start at 7.30pm.

Regular events every week and home groups...

Evenings

- **There are home groups that meet most evenings.** These are a great way of exploring your faith and offer a safe space for discussion. If you would like to know more please speak with one of the clergy.

Mondays

- **St Paul's Morning Get-together meets twice a month.** The first meeting is the Monday after Messy Church, which is usually the second Monday of the month. The second meeting is two weeks later. Please check the monthly newsletter and weekly emails for dates. Please note: there is only one Morning Get-together in December, on Monday 14th.
- **Christian Meditation Group** meets in Silchester. If you would like to know more please contact Eve at eve_baker2003@yahoo.co.uk

Tuesdays

- **St Paul's Gardeners** meet at St Paul's at 9.30am, everyone welcome.

Wednesdays

- **Worship at either St Luke's or St Mary's, Tadley** at 10am.
- **St Mary's café** is open from 8.30am with everyone welcome.
- **The Wednesday Weeders** meet outside St Mary's from 10am for good coffee, gardening, and friendship.

Thursdays

- **St Luke's coffee morning** from 10am. A great place to meet and chat.
- **Let's Pray!** monthly prayer group meets (next date 18th December)

Fridays

- **Monthly breakfast at St Mary's.** The next breakfast is in January '26.
- **Tadley Men's Shed** meets at St Mary's

Saturdays

- **Every fourth Saturday, pub lunch in the Pelican, Pamber Heath.**

Worship this Month in our churches:

Date:	Services at St Paul's, Tadley – RG26 3PB
Sun 7 th	9am Holy Communion (Steve) 10am Church on the Green Café Worship (Steve)
Sun 14 th	10am Messy Christmas (Steve & the Messy Church Team)
Sun 21 st	10am Morning Worship (Rob)
Wed 24 th	4pm Crib Service (Steve) 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion (Chris)
Thurs 25 th	10am Church on the Green Christmas All Age (Steve)

Date:	Services at St Luke's, Pamber Heath – RG26 3DX
Wed 3 rd	10am Midweek Holy Communion (Cathy)
Wed 10 th	10am Midweek Morning Prayer (Myles)
Wed 17 th	10am Midweek Holy Communion (Linda)
Sun 21 st	11am Holy Communion with Carols and Readings (Cathy and Linda)
Wed 24 th	2.30pm Nativity Service (Cathy) 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion (Cathy)
Wed 31 st	10am Benefice Midweek Holy Communion (Linda)

Date:	Services at St. Marys, Tadley – RG26 4HQ
Wed 3 rd	10am Midweek Holy Communion (Steve and Charles)
Sun 7 th	10.30am Morning Worship (Chris and Lay Team)
Wed 10 th	10am Midweek Holy Communion (Steve)
Sun 14 th	10.30am Holy Communion (Cathy) 5pm Benefice Evening Community at St Mary's (Charles)
Wed 17 th	10am Midweek Holy Communion (Chris)
Sun 21 st	9am RISE Christingle (Steve, Chris and the RISE Team) 10.30am Holy Communion (Steve and Chris)
Wed 24 th	4pm Crib Service and Christingle (Chris and Lay Team) 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion (Steve)
Thurs 25 th	10am Christmas Day Holy Communion (Chris)
Sun 28 th	6pm Benefice Carol Service (Karen and Charles)

Date:	Services at St Mary the Virgin, Silchester – RG7 2HH
Sun 7 th	8am BCP Holy Communion (Karen) 11am First Sunday Christingle / Toy Service (Karen)
Sun 14 th	10am Holy Communion (Chris)
Sun 21 st	<i>No morning service</i> 4pm Nine Lessons and Carols Service (Karen)
Wed 24 th	4pm Crib Service (Karen and Silchester Team) 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion (Karen)
Thurs 25 th	10am Christmas Day Holy Communion (Karen)

Date:	Services at St Peter's, Tadley – RG26 3AX
Sun 21 st	3pm Carol Service (Steve and Chris) 5pm Carol Service (Steve and Chris)