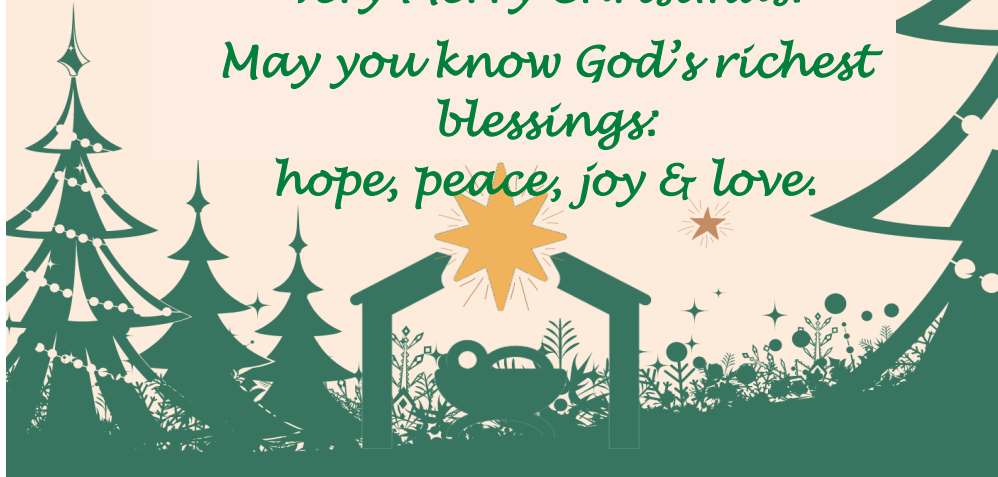




*The Ministry & Office Team wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.*

*May you know God's richest blessings: hope, peace, joy & love.*



### Office Hours and Christmas Contacts

St Mary's Church Office is closed from

**3pm Friday 23rd December until 11am Tuesday 3rd January**

and messages will not be checked in that time.

However, in **absolute emergencies only**, please call:

Chris Hill on 01353 662308.

### Want to know more? Get in touch.....we'd love to hear from you

**The Church Office**

office@stmarysely.org or call 01353 659550  
Open weekdays 11am - 3pm.

**Team Rector** - Revd Chris Hill

chris.hill@stmarysely.org

**Team Vicar** - Phil Marsh

phil.marsh@stmarysely.org

**Team Curate** - Ruth Holmes

ruth.holmes@stmarysely.org

**Children & Families Missioner** - Ruth New ruth.new@stmarysely.org

**Operations Co-ordinator** - Kirsty Smith kirsty.smith@stmarysely.org



# Christmas

**ST MARY'S**  
ELY

at St. Mary's Church

Welcome to our Christmas Worship

*Christmas Eve*

4pm Crib Service

An interactive retelling of the Christmas story. Come dressed up as your favourite nativity character! - we also have costumes available at the service. All Welcome

*Christmas Day*

Our Online sermon is available from 9am.

8.30am Traditional Christmas Communion

10am all age Christmas Service

*New Year*

There will be no Thursday Communion or Coffee 29th December or Sunday Services on Sunday 1st January

The Church will be open for prayer 10am - 12 noon Sunday 1st January

Thursday Communion will be back on 5th January

Our new service pattern will begin on 8th January with the eight15, nine45 and eleven15 meeting in the church, followed by coffee.



## The New Year at St. Mary's! Dates for your Diaries

### Social Meet up and Litter Pick

All are welcome to join with the nine45 team on **Friday 30th December at 10.30am** by the pirate ship at Pocket Park. Meet up, get some fresh air and join in a litter pick or a walk. Hot chocolate available and all equipment provided.

**Sunday 1st January** - There are no services at St. Mary's on Sunday 1st January, but all are very warmly invited to join the Little Downham congregation at 11am at St. Leonard's.

**Monday 2nd January** - A local music group are putting on a short yuletide free event of words and music with complimentary hot drink. All welcome! Arrival from 6.15pm, event 6.40pm - 7.20pm.

**Tuesday 3rd January** - Office back 11am - 3pm weekdays.

### Warm Space

Warm Space will be held at St. Mary's Church every Wednesday 9am - 12.30pm starting Wednesday 4th January. All welcome to share company, enjoy refreshments and activities in a warm, safe and friendly space.

**MARKET DAY**  
ST MARY'S

### Market Day is back in church from Thursday 5th January!

9.30am Join us in Church for a short said Market Day Communion

#### All Welcome to Join us for Thursday Coffee!

Coffee will be served in the church after Communion 10.15am - 11.30am.

**Jam Packed** is back Thursdays 4.15pm - 5.30pm from 5th January. Games, chat, worship and fun for school years 1 - 6.

**Pathfinders Youth Group** is back Sundays 6.30pm - 8pm from 8th January.

**Under 1s** is back Mondays 10am - 11.30am from 9th January. A friendly drop in for parents and carers with Under 1s.

**Be Still.** The first session of 2023 is Monday 9th January 8pm - 9pm in the Lady Chapel. All welcome to explore different dimensions of prayer and meditation.

### The Bereavement Journey

The Bereavement Journey is a free 6 session course open to all who have suffered a bereavement. It will meet in the Cathedral Centre on **Monday afternoons from 9 January to 6 February 2.30pm to 4.00pm**. If you or anyone you know would like to attend, please book a place as spaces are limited: 01353 660302 or [james.reveley@elycathedral.org](mailto:james.reveley@elycathedral.org)

**Under 5's** is back Tuesdays 9.30am - 11am from 10th January.

A toddler group for children under school age with their parent or carer.

**Mothers' Union** first meeting of 2023 is 2.15pm Wednesday 11th January.

**Monday Club** will be meeting 2.30pm Monday 16th January.

### Save the Date: Learning to Listen

The first monthly Pastoral Training session will be held in church  
**Tuesday 17th January**

All welcome to explore the topic of "Learning to Listen".  
Look out for more details in the New Year.

**Creative Minds** first meeting of 2023 will be a post-Christmas lunch at the High Flier at 1.30pm Monday 23rd January. All welcome, lunch £13.95. Please RSVP to the church office.

### New Bereavement Café

Beginning on **Wednesday 25 January 2023**, St Mary's will be hosting a Bereavement Café on the last Wednesday of each month, where anyone who has suffered the loss of someone close to them either recently or longer ago is invited to drop in between 10am and 12 noon, have a free cup of tea or coffee and find a warm welcome and someone to chat to. Trained listeners will be on hand if needed, or just come and meet other people who are also trying to navigate their way through loss and grief – it can help to talk to those who have had similar experiences.

The café will take place in the Lady Chapel of the church. All are welcome.

Dates for the next few months: 22 Feb, 29 March, 26 April.