

"Offering a welcoming, God-centred environment to the people of New Mills"

FROM THE VICARAGE

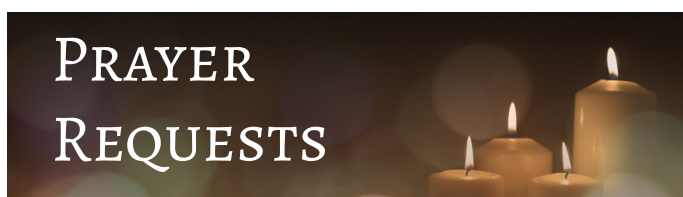


Christmas is, of course, the celebration of God becoming human 2000 years ago and living life as we live life. God in Christ, that tiny infant born into poverty, dedicated His life to the care and wellbeing of the oppressed, the downtrodden, the struggling and the despised. He practised and preached a simple message of faith, hope and love, bringing peace and good will to all who believed and trusted in Him and in His Father's love.

Three years ago, during Christmas 2019, everything looked so wonderful, so certain. We were in control of everything. Of course, we knew life was not perfect, nor would it ever be. But could we have imagined the events of life unfolding in the way they did?

Around that time, the first news of Covid 19 began to break and three months later our nation went into lockdown. Then came Christmas 2020 with 'bubbles' to enable the relaxing of restrictions for just one day, allowing up to three households to gather. But with travel restrictions, closed pubs and restaurants, rules prohibiting indoor gatherings and so forth still in place, Christmas was very different from what we were used to. Even churches were required to limit services and the numbers attending these.

Christmas 2021 was a much freer, but still cautious, celebration of Our Lord's incarnation. Normality had almost returned, but with some precautions still in place. Our own Crib Service was cancelled due to a spike in numbers in our schools.



Please submit your prayer requests to Fr. Owain by calling the vicarage on: (01663) 743225 or email: vicar@newmillschurch.co.uk

A year on, and so much has changed. Coronavirus is almost a distant memory for most. Now we face the war between the Ukraine and Russia; rocketing food, utility and fuel prices; rising interest rates and mortgage repayments and so forth.

Increasing demands are being placed on the Food Pantry, Foody Friends, the Food Bank, Welcoming Spaces, Debt Supporters and so forth. As a community, we are grateful to these and all the local, national and international organisations and institutions which strive to ease human suffering in difficult times. Although it may be a struggle, so many continue to provide from the little they have to support this work, giving donations and offering time and skills to serve as volunteers.

The pressures and uncertainty of previous years look set to affect the world once again in the months ahead. However, the message of Christmas – God is with us – inspires us to share His gift of love with those around us, that all may experience the true peace and joy of Christmas.

With every blessing,

Fr. Owain

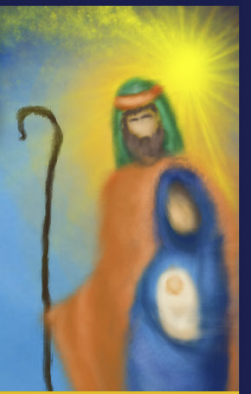


A free phonenumber of hymns, reflections and prayers



CHRISTMAS

at St. George's Parish Church
- New Mills -



Sunday 18th December

6.30pm - Carols by Candlelight

Our popular traditional service of Nine Lessons & Carols led by the parish church choir amongst the candlelit church followed by Mulled Wine.

Saturday 24th December - Christmas Eve

5.30pm - Family Crib Service

A fun service for the whole family with activities and Christmas Carols.

11.30pm - Midnight Mass

Join us as we celebrate the first Communion of Christmas.

Sunday 25th December - Christmas Day

8.00am - Said Morning Communion

10.00am - Sung Parish Communion

*A warm welcome awaits you at St. George's Parish Church
this Christmas.*

Midweek Services:

Wednesdays

9.15am - Said Holy Communion

Sunday Services:

8.00am - Said Holy Communion

10.00am - Sung Parish Communion

6.30pm - Evening Prayer



Saint George's
The Parish Church of New Mills

WWW.NEWMILLSCHURCH.CO.UK

CHURCH OF ENGLAND COMMITTS £2M TO HELPING HOUSE VULNERABLE PEOPLE

WHO IS THE BABY?



The Church of England's Social Impact Investment Programme has committed £2m towards the second Social and Sustainable Housing Fund (SASH II) managed by Social and Sustainable Capital.

SASH II seeks to enable charities and social sector organisations to acquire portfolios of property that provide a combination of high quality housing and targeted support to vulnerable people.

SASH II has a target size of £125m, and the fund aims to help over 30 organisations purchase 1,000 properties, providing homes for 10,000 people over the life of the fund.

It is estimated that up to 200,000 people in the UK are currently living in housing on a transitional basis before they can return to independent living without the need for additional support.

This £2m commitment will enable charities across the UK to support a wide range of vulnerable adults, including people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, fleeing domestic violence, experiencing mental health issues, with drug or alcohol addiction, or who are ex-offenders or asylum seekers or young people leaving the care system.

The Church of England's Social Impact Investment Programme will focus on investments that strengthen communities, particularly through access to housing and affordable finance.

A little girl was examining a Christmas crib with her grandmother and commented, 'Grannie, it's really nice, but there's one thing that bothers me: is the baby Jesus ever going to grow up? He's the same size He was last year!!' The birth of Jesus must be the most well-known birth in the world, but are we really growing in our understanding of this story?

The angels announced, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.' (Luke 2: 10,11). The birth of a baby is a time of great joy and excitement and Jesus' birth is good news for all people! He is none other than the king of the universe, who has come as our Saviour. To experience this joy, we must let go self-centredness and living as our own saviour. His deliverance and wholeness is a real cause for joy!

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.' (Luke 2:14). We may feel anything but peace with God, ourselves, or even with those closest to us at Christmas. How can a Jewish infant born to a peasant family in first century Palestine be the source of peace between God and man in the 21st century? Jesus came to establish such peace through His death on the cross. Trusting the Prince of Peace in our lives brings peace with God. If we ignore this message of Christmas, we won't benefit from it. As the carol says, 'Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth receive her King.'

90 YEARS OF BROADCASTING THE ROYAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGES



This year we shall have our first Royal Christmas Message from King Charles III. He follows in a tradition that spans three generations.

It was 90 years ago, on 25th December 1932, that the first Royal Christmas Message was broadcast on radio. King George V addressed the nation live from Sandringham. A quarter of a century later, on 25th December 1957, the Christmas message by Queen Elizabeth II was televised for the first time.

King George V had been asked to broadcast a Christmas message in 1922, but at the time he felt that radio was for entertainment, and therefore not suitable. Ten years later, after a visit to the BBC, he was persuaded otherwise, and agreed to do it as part of the inauguration of the new Empire Service (now the World Service).

The time chosen was 3pm because it was the best time for reaching most countries in the Empire. In fact the first message started five minutes late and lasted only two and a half minutes, but it made a massive impact and established itself as a regular Christmas Day event.

Edward VIII never delivered a Christmas broadcast, but King George VI continued the tradition, using it to encourage people during the second world war. Queen Elizabeth II broadcast her first Christmas message in 1952, again from a room at Sandringham, and five years later agreed that her Christmas message could be televised – live. She proved to be a natural broadcaster.

But times changed, and in 1960 the message was pre-recorded from Buckingham Palace, which meant that it could be sent to Commonwealth countries for broadcast at a convenient time. However, the 3pm UK broadcast continued every year – except 1969, when the Queen wrote a message instead, believing that the Royal Family had received enough exposure with the TV documentary Royal Family, which had aired in the summer.

But the tradition was resumed the following year. The Christmas message is now also available each year as a podcast and can be seen through Facebook and YouTube. King Charles III is expected to give his first Christmas message this year.



I HEARD THE BELLS

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth,' I said
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

ST. GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH
-NEW MILLS-

Christmas Tree & Crib Festival

1ST TO 5TH DECEMBER 2022

Thursday 1st December
7.00pm - Cheese & Wine Opening Night
£5.00 on the door

Friday 2nd December
10.00am - 4.00pm - Church Open
7.30pm - A Night At The Musicals
£10.00 on the door
or via: www.ticketsource.co.uk/themartyrsplayers

Saturday 3rd December
10.00am - 4.00pm - Church Open

Sunday 4th December
11.00am - 4.00pm - Church Open
6.30pm - Advent Carol Service

Monday 5th December
10.00am - 4.00pm - Church Open

Saint George's
The Parish Church of New Mills

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St. George's Parish Church | Church Lane | New Mills | High Peak | SK22 4NP

St. George's Parish Church

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2022

6.30PM

A special service of readings, prayers and Advent carols.

St. George's Parish Church
Church Lane, New Mills, SK22 4NP



*"Offering a welcoming, God-centred environment
to the people of New Mills"*

WWW.NEWMILLSCHURCH.CO.UK

St. George's Parish Church
- New Mills -
presents

A NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS

Part of The Christmas Tree & Crib Festival

AN EVENING OF YOUR FAVOURITE SONGS FROM THE
SHOWS SUNG BY LOCAL TALENT.

FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2022

7.30 PM

ST. GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH,
CHURCH LANE, NEW MILLS, SK22 4NP

TICKETS: £10.00

AVAILABLE FROM:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/themartyrsplayers
or from Juice Graphics, 43 Union, Road, New Mills



Licensed bar & Raffle (cash only)

DONATE TO ST. GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH HERE



St. George's Parish Church relies entirely on the generosity of our regular congregation giving because we do not receive any funding from the government. The money we receive goes towards the community work, pastoral work, missionary and ministry work within the parish of New Mills.

We are also responsible for the upkeep of this beautiful and historic building of St. George's. The money that our regular congregation gives also has to cover the electric, lighting, heating and repairs. This special building is here as a place of prayer, sanctuary as well as being a useable space for the whole community.

For the work and life of St. George's to continue, we need your help.

giftaid it



1. Scan the above code with your smart phone camera.
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PREPARING THE WAY



'The Virgin and Child' by Raphael (1483-1520). Raphael was a talented artist from a very early age, but this drawing belongs to a time when he was in Rome from 1510-12. The finished painting is known as the Mackintosh Madonna, after its last owner.

This drawing, or cartoon, was the first stage in creating that work: it is in black chalk with heightening marks of white. When an artist made an initial drawing like this, he would then prick the cartoon with holes and then sprinkle charcoal powder over the drawing to reproduce the design on the canvas below. The pinholes on this drawing are still clearly visible. Sadly the final painting has been damaged through time, but here in the cartoon we see that first stage: a sensitive and balanced picture of mother and child: Mary warm and caring, Jesus laughing and alive.

During Advent we think of the preparations God made for the birth of the Saviour. We celebrate God's work of creation and how He chose a people for His own. Within that people He looked for a holy remnant and then finally a loving heart in the assent of Mary to be the mother of our Lord. These preparatory steps were as vital for our salvation as the artist moving from idea to sketch to the finished work.

Each stage is important; each stage a revelation of life and love. Vasari wrote of Raphael that in his paintings 'the flesh palpitates, the breath comes and goes, every organ lives, and life pulsates everywhere.' Even this preliminary drawing displays that life and vitality. It is a life we celebrate at Christmas in the birth of a child who turns to us, as he does in this work, as a sign of joy and love.



"Does anyone have a light, please?"

The Holy Family

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?"

One child answered, "Mary."

The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"

Another child ventured: "Verge?"

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"

He replied hesitantly: "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."

MUSIC FOR THE MESSIAH



Have you noticed that, in the Christmas story, singing is featured on three occasions?

Firstly, after Mary was given a message from the angel Gabriel, and was visiting her elderly and pregnant relative, Elizabeth. Mary was so overwhelmed with happiness at the forthcoming miraculous births, she started to sing.

Over the years, her words, known as The Magnificat, have been set to music by various composers. The hymn Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord is one example of it. Of course, we don't know Mary's melody line, but her words express God's promise that He would rescue His people and through them save the world. Mary sings of God's mercy and benevolence on the helpless, the humble and the hungry.

Months later, in the fields of Bethlehem, shepherds were confronted with an angel and given an incredible message: the Saviour, the Messiah had been born. This was followed by a host of angels who could not help but sing glory to God. Later, the shepherds saw the baby Jesus. They then returned home: not in silence and awe, but in song. They were overwhelmed with an encounter with Almighty God! Heaven and earth had been brought together. They simply couldn't stop themselves from praising and glorifying God.

For Mary, the Shepherds and the Eastern Men too, that first Christmas brought in a time of hope: hope for the helpless, pardon for the guilty, and forgiveness for the conscious stricken. Good news for those who had had nothing but bad news!

From that time on, people have tried to express their gratitude, thanks and wonder at God's love and mercy. Over the centuries, countless poets and musicians have composed music for us to sing. At no other time in the year, is so much music used to describe and express one moment in history.

Traditionally, December is a time for concerts and services of Christmas music. We come together to sing carols and other songs that express the wonder of God's Gift to us. Unfortunately, last year, the coronavirus restricted or even cancelled our musical festivities. This month, we may be in a better position to worship together.

Jesus has given us hope; forgiven our sin; and continues to impart faith and heal our spiritual wounds. Isn't that something to always sing about? O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Making Music For The Messiah Here At St. George's

Our own choir here at St. George's is busy preparing and rehearsing music for services over the Christmas period.

You can come and listen to them at any of our main Christmas services. Especially our very popular '**Carols By Candlelight**' on **Sunday 18th December at 6.30pm.**

A popular traditional festive service of Nine Lessons and Carols followed by Mulled Wine.

A Christmas Gift



It's not easy getting the right Christmas present for others, especially in these uncertain times. However, the Magi's gifts were entirely appropriate and help us to understand God's gift of Jesus to us.

'On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.' (Matt 2:11). These were the expensive kind of gifts that visitors from the east would bring: gold, frankincense (a plant gum resin used in incense) and myrrh (another resin used in perfumes).

Who is He?

Gold is a gift for a king. In Jesus, we see a king in baby clothes. The worship of the wise men was costly, not only in terms of their gifts but for their lives.

Why did He come?

Frankincense was used by the priests in the temple in offering sacrifices. Jesus, as the ultimate priest, is the one who came to bring God and man together. He could do this because He is both divine and human.

What did it cost Him?

Myrrh was used to embalm the dead. This gift reminds us that the baby of Bethlehem would die on the cross to give His life for us. The wood of the crib and the cross are the same wood!

What are we going to offer Him this Christmas? Jesus is Christ, the king who comes to rule our lives; He's Lord, the One who knows what it's like to be human as well as divine; and He's Saviour, who enables us to be friends of God.

"At Christmas time, when we receive presents that we don't really need, God offers us a gift we cannot do without."



Two snowmen were standing next to each other. One said to the other: "Can you smell carrots?"

THE CHOIR
ST GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH
NEW MILLS

Your invitation to come and join the choir of St. George's Parish Church in New Mills and help keep a choral tradition alive.

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Psallam Spiritu et Mente
"I will sing with the spirit and understanding also"

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- WEEKLY SERVICES -

Wednesdays

9.15am - Said Holy Communion

Sundays

8.00am - Holy Communion

10.00am - Sung Parish Holy Communion

6.30pm - Evening Prayer

Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages for up-to-date information and events.

A warm welcome always awaits you at St. George's.



A new community amateur theatre group based at St. George's Church, New Mills

PLAYS | PERFORM | ENTERTAIN

www.newmillschurch.co.uk/martyrsplayers

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If you would like to support us by advertising in our next issue (March 2023), or if you have a story you would like to share with us, then please get in touch:

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All information in this magazine was correct at the time of going to print.

The Deadline for the next issue of 'A Martyr's Message' is Friday 17th February 2023.

This magazine is also available to download and view on our website.