



Notices for 12th of January 2025

A warm welcome to everyone

The Baptism of Christ

Please come into the hall for refreshments after the 09:30 service.

Collect:

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Hymns:

- 496** Lead us heavenly Father, lead us
- 34** On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
- 585** The church's one foundation
- 411** Dear Lord and Father of mankind
- 622** Will you come and follow me

Although there is no formal collection during the offertory hymn, please feel free to make a contribution to the work of St. Mary's either in the Treasury box at the back of church, or using the card reader, also at the back of church. Thank you.

Readings:

Isaiah 43.1-7

But now thus says the Lord,
 he who created you, O Jacob,
 he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
 and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
 nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
 I will bring your offspring from the east,
 and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
 and to the south, 'Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
 and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
 whom I created for my glory,
 whom I formed and made.'

Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

The Baptism of Jesus

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Post-communion prayer:

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Vacancy News – Peter & Dan

St Mary Cuddington is blessed to have been supported through the Christmas period by our ministry team of John, Maggie and Jason whilst we advertise for a new vicar. Advertising closes 29th Jan, with shortlisting on 4th Feb for formal interview on 4th March. We will also be supported by visiting clergy including Revd Des Williamson at 09:30 on 26th Jan, and Revd Alex Stevens at 08:00 BCP on 2nd Feb.

8am SERVICES will be held only once a month on the first Sunday of each month. Any questions please talk to Dan or Peter.

Dates for your diary

Thursday, 16th January Afternoon Club: we meet this at 2.30 in the church hall for a social afternoon with board games and quizzes. Refreshments provided. Any queries contact Judith via the Parish Office.

Saturday 18th January is the next meeting for the **Women's Group**. We have our friend and Blue Badge guide Julie Chandler coming to talk to us again, this time about Jane Austen, as this year is the 250th anniversary of that famous author's birth. Julie's talks are always interesting and entertaining so do come along and join us from 10am.