

**Advent & Christmas at  
St Mary's  
2011**



**UNIVERSITY CHURCH OF ST MARY THE  
VIRGIN, OXFORD**

*Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement: "Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty." (Charles Wesley) The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22). Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas. The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice. *Common Worship: Times and Seasons*, © The Archbishops' Council 2006.*

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

**10.30am** Choral Eucharist with the Choir of the University Church  
*Preacher:* Canon Brian Mountford

**6.00pm** Evening Eucharist

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.30am** Choral Eucharist with the Choir of the University  
*Preacher:* The Revd Graeme Richardson

**6.00pm** International Advent Carol Service in conjunction with the German Lutheran Congregation

A service of traditional advent music and readings. The service will be accompanied by the Choir of the University Church. After the service refreshments, provided by the German Lutheran Congregation will be served in the Adam de Brome Chapel.

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.30am** Sung Eucharist  
*Speakers:* Canon Brian Mountford in Conversation with Lucinda Williams, Education and Volunteers Officer.

*After the service, during Coffee, there will be a table top sale in the Adam De Brome Chapel. All proceeds will go to the Gatehouse.*

**6.00pm** Evening Eucharist

## **The Spinning Wheel, 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> December**

*Once upon a time, a long time ago, there was a very old, very strange Spinning Wheel. It could not spin cotton, nor could it spin wool and it most certainly could not spin gold. Oh no. What this Spinning Wheel spun was enchanted tales of mythical worlds and fantastical characters - stories which danced to life before their listeners eyes. Some of these stories were delightfully lovely. And some were ... less lovely. Some had happy endings. And some had ... less happy endings. But regardless of how happy or wretched the weave of each tale, all who had heard them believed themselves to have been touched by the essence of true magic.*

***Exciting, enchanting and a little bit strange, The Spinning Wheel will excite the imagination and transport you into a world where even the impossible is possible!***

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### ***Theology & the Imagination Evening Friday 16th December, 7pm***

*Hiraeth and St Mary's invite you to join them for a pre-show drinks reception and presentation: Theology & the Imagination at 7pm, featuring an interview with the Artistic Director MaryClare O'Neill and presentations from The Revds David Neaum and Rachel Greene.*

## **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.30am** Sung Eucharist  
*Preacher: Dr Johannes Zachhuber, Reader in Theology, Fellow and Tutor in Theology, Trinity College.*

**6.00pm** Christmas Carol Service

A traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols with the Choir of the University Church. At this service a collection will be taken for Family Links

*Founded in 1997, Family Links trains parenting support workers and school staff to use the Nurturing Programme. This emotional health and wellbeing programme for adults and children is delivered in the following ways; 10-week parenting groups, one-to-one with parents and their children and whole school programme for staff and children*

## **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Eve**

**4.30pm** Children's Crib Service  
*Led by the Revd Charlotte Bannister-Parker. The service will include a nativity play written by Lizzie Mundell-Perkins.  
Refreshments will be served from 4pm in the Adam De Brome Chapel*

**11.30pm** Midnight Mass  
*Preacher: The Revd David Neaum*

## **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Day**

**10.30am** Christmas Day Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Rachel Greene

*Children are warmly invited to remain in church for the whole service. There will be no Sunday school on Christmas Morning. Please note there will be no Evening Service on Christmas Day.*

## **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January, New Year's Day**

**10.30am** Sung Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Rachel Greene

*There will be no family service or German Lutheran Service on New Year's Day*

## **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January, Epiphany**

**10.30am** Sung Eucharist  
*Preacher:* The Revd Charlotte Bannister-Parker

## **The Gatehouse Christmas Appeal**

The Gatehouse are appealing for donations of gifts to be made up into Christmas parcels for all their guests. They need socks, gloves, scarves, hats, underpants and chocolate. These do not have to be wrapped - the Gatehouse elves will be meeting on Wednesday 21st December to wrap up parcels, ensuring that everyone gets all these items. For more information, contact the Gatehouse [admin@oxfordgatehouse.org](mailto:admin@oxfordgatehouse.org)

## **St Mary's Restoration Project and Parish Life in 2012**

*Weekdays:*

Due to the development work taking place at St Mary's during 2012, there will be no weekday Eucharist from 23<sup>rd</sup> December until further notice.

*Sundays:*

From 8<sup>th</sup> January, the Sunday school will meet in a room in Brasenose College. The Children will be escorted to and from Brasenose by the Sunday school organisers.

There will also be no 6pm service from January to the end of May 2012. Members of the congregation who wish to attend an evening service are warmly invited to join the congregations at Oriel College Chapel or at Brasenose College Chapel.

The German Lutheran congregation will continue to meet in Oxford at 3.30pm on the first Sunday of the month. They will be meeting in Brasenose College Chapel.

*Acknowledgements:* Our thanks go to St John's College Oxford, who supplied the Christmas Trees in Church. We would also like to thank Peter McMullin for coordinating the Music for the Christmas Services.