



# The Parish of Moseley

## St Mary's & St Anne's



### Parish of Moseley - Second Sunday of Advent

Dear [name:first]

#### Our Services for the Second Sunday of Advent: 10th December 2023

- 8.00am - Holy Communion at St Mary's
- 10.00am - Nativity at St Mary's
- 5.00pm - Community Carol Service at St Anne's

Please note there is no 11am service at St Anne's and no evening service at St Mary's.

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#### Readings for the Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61.1–4,8–11, John 1.6–8,19–28

#### Thought for the Day by Glyn Samuel

The morning readings both take us into the Wilderness - but a wilderness where miraculous events were being prepared. In the Gospel of Mark (which doesn't tell us of Jesus' early life) it was revealed

what had become of the baby born of Mary's cousin, Elizabeth.

John - referred to as the Baptist - was to be found in the Wilderness, baptising in the River Jordan any who would repent of their sins. He proclaimed the imminent arrival of one much more powerful than he, as prophesied in the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

It is from the Old Testament reading, quoted in the Gospel, that Schwartz and Tebelak wrote 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord' for the musical 'Godspell'. The beseechment from Isaiah is for the performance of tasks that would have seemed truly difficult, or miraculous, to perform: to build straight roads in the ever-changing desert, to in-fill the valleys or to level the mountains. The request was effectively 'please make it easy for everyone to find and encounter the Glory of God'.

Take the two readings together and the promise was being made that someone special was coming, and through him anybody both faithful and repentant of past sins would find God with ease - and that someone was, of course, the Messiah found in Jesus the Christ.

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## Future Services

### Sunday 17th December - Third Sunday of Advent

- 8.00am - Holy Communion at St Mary's (BCP)
- 10.00am - Sung Eucharist at St Mary's
- 11.00am - Sung Eucharist at St Anne's
- 6.30pm - Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's

### Sunday 24th December - Christmas Eve

- 11.00am - Sung Eucharist at St Anne's
- 5.00pm - Christingle at St Mary's
- 11.00pm - Midnight mass at St Mary's

**Please note there is no 8.00am or 10.00am service at St Mary's.**

### Monday 25th December - Christmas Day

- 8.00am - Holy Communion at St Mary's
- 10.00am Sung Eucharist at St Mary's
- 10.00am Sung Eucharist at St Anne's

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## Our Regular Worship

- Details of our regular pattern of worship can be found on the Services page of our website [here](#).
  - Details of how the pattern relates to Children's Worship can be found on the Children and Youth page of our website [here](#).
  - Details of specific services can continue to be found in the [Calendar](#).
  - **Morning Prayer** is at 9.10am in the Lady Chapel at St Mary's on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and at 9.10am in St Anne's on Tuesday.
  - The Thursday **Midweek Communion** service is at 12.15pm in the Lady Chapel at St Mary's.
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## **Notices**

### **Death of Gill Berry**

Gill Berry passed away on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Please hold Frank and their sons Matthew and John in your prayers.

### **Churches Together Christmas Cards**

We are part of Churches Together in Moseley and have contributed to a joint Christmas Card. These are now ready for delivery locally. Please collect cards from St Mary's between 10am and 4pm on Saturday, or from St Mary's or St Anne's after morning services on Sunday and deliver them in the roads indicated. It would be very helpful if this could be done this week as the cards advertise events and services happening during December.

### **Advent Prayer Calendar**

Can you take a moment each day during Advent to pray? There are a few copies of this year's Advent Prayer Calendar available on each welcome desk, or you can download a copy [here](#).

### **Advent Reflection Group - Trees**

To run alongside our Christmas Tree Festival, we will be holding six Advent sessions on the theme of trees, led by different members of our Discipleship Team. Each Tuesday evening session will then be repeated on Thursday mornings. This also supports our working towards our Silver Eco Award. The evening sessions will be from 7.30-9.00pm in the West Room and Thursday Thinkers sessions will be from 10.30am until 12.00noon also in the West Room. All welcome and refreshments served. The remaining Tuesday date is 12th December. The remaining Thursday Thinkers date is 14th December.

### **Christmas Day Together 2023**

Once again, Moseley Parish will be hosting Christmas Day Together. This year, it is not at St Anne's but is at The Hive, 93A Alcester Rd Moseley, B13 8DD, which is opposite the Co-op.

All are welcome to attend but particularly if you will be alone. Some transport can be provided. Please contact the church office to book on 449 2243.

Volunteers to help on the day or for preparations will be welcome. Sign-up sheets for volunteers are available in both churches or phone the parish office on 449 2243.

### **Elisabeth Leicester**

We are pleased to hear that Elisabeth is back in Moseley and is now at Anita Stone Court, (Room 55. Visitors need to phone Anita Stone prior to their visit. The contact number is 0121 449 2756.

### **St Mary's Wins Bronze Eco Church Award**

We are delighted to have received the Bronze Eco Church Award in recognition of our efforts to care for God's earth. We are now looking for volunteers to form a group to work towards the silver award. If you are interested please contact the office on [office@moseleychurch.org.uk](mailto:office@moseleychurch.org.uk).

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Our Christmas Tree Festival continues until 10th December at St Mary's Church . The church will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm during the Festival but the Christmas Trees will be on display until Christmas Day. A big thank you to all who provided trees and decorated these so beautifully. We will contact those who have provided trees with a date to take down their trees in the early New Year.

### **Blue Christmas**

On Saturday 9th December at 4pm we will be holding a short service of reflection called Blue Christmas for anyone who isn't finding the festive season easy. We are especially thinking of those who might be grieving for whatever reason, or those of us who find the winter time and longer nights difficult. Blue Christmas will be for about 30-40 minutes in the Lady Chapel at St Mary's and will be followed by a chance to chat and find quiet companionship over hot drinks and homemade cake in the West Room. The service and space afterwards are open to everyone, regardless of faith. Please do feel welcome to come.

### **Christmas Flowers - Saturday 16th December**

We will be decorating St Mary's church for Christmas on 16th December. Can you help? If you can, please come to church at 9.30am. Greenery for displays would be much appreciated.

### **Brass Band of Central England**

The Brass Band of Central England presents "Sounds of Christmas" - 3.30 pm, Saturday 16th December at St Mary's Church.

You can't beat the sounds of Christmas music played by a full brass band. Get into the Christmas spirit at this afternoon concert!

Tickets £12, concessions £10. Available online [here](#) or phone 07732 353599. Limited tickets available on the door.

### **Eco Church - Christmas Cards this Year**

Our Parish has achieved a Bronze Eco Church Award which is a brilliant initiative to encourage our community to think around different areas where we could safeguard and celebrate our planet. We are now working towards our silver award. If you would like to be involved in helping us to achieve this, please contact the Church Office.

In accordance with our Eco Church status and to save paper, we are encouraging members of our church to send ONE card to everyone in the church this year. You can still donate to a chosen charity if this is a way you give money. As we are holding a Christmas Tree Festival in early December we are encouraging everyone to find cards with trees on them or an environmental theme to them. We will have a board designated to your card so everyone can enjoy them.

### **Heating at St Mary's**

The heating at St Mary's is currently broken. The installation of a new boiler is in progress but please wrap up warmly in the meantime.

### **Funeral of Revd Nick Ball**

Sadly we reported last week the death of Revd Nick Ball, former curate of St Mary's and Vicar of St Peter's Hall Green. Revd Nick's funeral will be on Thursday 21st December at 12:15pm at St. James Church, Shirley (B90 2AX), followed by committal at Robin Hood Crematorium, Solihull. All who wish to attend will be warmly welcomed.

### **£130 for our Church**

Take out a home insurance policy with Ecclesiastical and they will donate £130 to our church. To find

out more, please contact Ecclesiastical on 0800 7830 130 and quote TRUSTPST or go to [ecclesiastical.com/trust130](http://ecclesiastical.com/trust130).

### **Stewardship**

Our parish is facing significant financial challenges with a growing deficit which a small team are seeking to redress. However, **stewardship** (the giving of time, talents and financial means) is about us all. On Sunday 4th June we focussed on this in our Sunday services at both St Mary's and St Anne's. Information is available on the welcome desk.

You may also have noticed some notices with **QR codes around the buildings**. This can be an easy and quick way to donate to the church through 'the collection' when you come to church or are visiting. Please do make use of these on an occasional or more regular basis in our new 'cashless' society. Thank you so much - Magdalen.

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### **This week in the Parish**

#### **We continue to pray for:**

Cathie Carey and family, Tony Sheppard, Mike Carter, Sylvia Gold, Jeanette Riddick, William George, Ruth Carter, Jon Terry, Rachel McLeod, Sheila Perks, Laurie Flood and Elisabeth Leicester.

**Souls of the Departed:** Revd Nick Ball and Gill Berry.

#### **The Parish also prays and gives thanks for:**

- Our schools in this busy time of year, particularly for the students and staff at Moseley Church of England Primary as they prepare their celebrations.

**Church of England Birmingham Praying Together:** The current edition is [here](#).

**We celebrate the Birthdays of:** Richard Tearoe and Amy Townend.