ST MARY THE VIRGIN, EATON BRAY
with
EDLESBOROUGH & ALL SAINTS, DAGNALL

www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk email: admin@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk

WELCOME TO ST MARY'S

29TH NOVEMBER 2026; ADVENT SUNDAY

Services this week

We are pleased to welcome today, Revd Stephen Burge
as our Preacher and Celebrant

Sunday 29th November	10.00	Parish Eucharist with Baptism
	16.00	NCG Advent Service at Kensworth
Monday 30th	19.30	Ringing Practice
Tuesday 1st December	13.45	School visit
Wednesday 2nd	10.00	Morning Prayer
Thursday 3rd	18.00	Beavers
Friday 4th	12.00	Memorial Service and Burial of Ashes for Anne Crofts
Saturday 5th	10.30	Coffee & Cake
Sunday 6th	8.00	Holy Communion
	10.00	Parish Eucharist

Lighting of the Advent Candle

We wait for the coming of the Lord

Come Lord Jesus

The first candle is lit and this response is used:

The true light which enlightens everyone is coming into the world.

Come Lord Jesus

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Christ, shine in your church today.

Today's Hymns

29, 26, 32, 24, 31

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Isaiah 64:1–9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence – as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

My brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus

Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Mark 13:24–37

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord
Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

A verse for us to reflect on: John 15: 12

My command is this, Love each other as I have loved you.

This verse will be displayed also, in the North Chapel

FOR OUR PRAYERS

We welcome into the fellowship of Christ's Church Sophia, whose baptism we celebrate this morning.
In our prayers for the Church this week, we pray for persecuted Christians and in our own diocese, Workplace Ministry Industrial and Retail Chaplains.
In our own community we pray today for our parish's farms, smallholdings, businesses and light industries.
We pray for our Village Halls, Sports, Social and Recreational Organisations.
We pray for the person to be our new Vicar and for the appointing team.
In the wider world we pray for families under stress.
We pray for the sick and those who have died recently; especially for Geoff Hunter, his family and friends. Geoff's funeral is being held near his home on 7th December.
At their year's mind, we remember Fred Potts, Christine Sagon, Betty Sanders, Nora Stable, Phyllis Vera Brewer, Peter Bradbury, David Dunnett, Peter John Hunt and Gerry Wells.

WORDS OF DISMISSAL

With love and compassion, **come, Lord Jesus.**

With judgement and mercy, **come, Lord Jesus.**

In power and glory, **come, Lord Jesus.**

In wisdom and truth, **come, Lord Jesus.**

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

(from 'Times and Seasons')

NOTICES

Today at 4pm NCG Advent Service at St Mary's Kensworth
North Chilterns Group of Parishes 2026;
'Come Lord Jesus'
A quiet, reflective service with plainchant and lighting of candles as the natural light fades.

NOTICES CONTINUED

A Memorial Service

A memorial service for **Anne Crofts** will be held at St Mary's Eaton Bray **this Friday 4th December** 2026 at 12.00 noon followed by interment of ashes in the churchyard.

There will be a reception afterwards in the village hall to which everyone is invited.

Foodbank

Next Sunday is Foodbank Sunday when we make our donation to the local Foodbank.

This month's urgent requirements are:- Tinned meat e.g. ham, meat in sauce, tinned tomatoes, tinned vegetables, baked beans. Tinned fruit, UHT milk cartons, instant mashed potato, sweets, chocolate and biscuits.

Many thanks from us at the Foodbank and we wish you all a very happy Christmas

Coffee and Cake!

Next Saturday, 5th December is Coffee and Cake time at St Mary's, EB, from 10.30am – 12Noon. We'd love to see you for the last catch-up session of 2026! Come and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee with a delicious piece of home-made cake or a savoury bite to eat. Have a go to win a raffle prize; bring and swap a book you've read for one you haven't! Maybe chat to someone who has read the same book and swap notes on it! But most of all have a very enjoyable morning! Happy, peaceful Christmas, Everyone – Marion.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Thank you so much for supporting this year's, Poppy Appeal. The total amount collected in the Villages to date is £1,301.41. Your contribution in the "tin" raised £168.65. Thank you for your generosity.

Eaton Bray remains without anyone to organise the Poppy Collection in the Village, and this is why there were no collections in the shop, school or White Horse. I can cover the Church as members come from my area of Edlesborough and Northall as well as Eaton Bray. If you know of anyone who might volunteer to help with the collection in Eaton Bray, please let me know. I will be happy to give them as much support as they need.

Lorna Cubbage.

Bible Reading Notes

The new quarterly bible reading notes from Our Daily Bread, beginning **December** are now available on the shelf at the back near the Christian book library. These reading reflections are a lovely way of getting to know what God says to us through His word. Please do take a copy for yourself or pass one on to someone you feel would enjoy them.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST MARY'S

Eaton Bray

20th December	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Nativity Service
	6.00pm	Carol Service *followed by mulled wine and mince pies.*
Christmas Eve	4.15pm & 6.00pm	Candle Services
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Family Communion with carols

Edlesborough

12th December *(Saturday)*	3.00pm	Carols by Candlelight

Dagnall

20th December	3.00pm	Village Carol Service
Christmas Day	10.30am	Family Service with Communion





Churches Together
Advent Trail for 2026

Invitation to help create this year's Village Trail

It's soon the season of Advent when we prepare for Christmas in so many ways, and this year we have a new Advent idea for all living in the villages. Our theme is 'Following the Star' – the Christmas story involved wise men from the East looking for a star to show them where the new baby king was to be born. So this year we are asking you to display a star or picture including a star, designed by you, in a window that can be seen from the road in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

This year's challenge is to spot the stars appearing in village windows through Eaton Bray and Edlesborough during the month of December!

The trail of stars will start at the New Covenant Church, Eaton Bray, and Edlesborough Methodist church will show what the wise men found at the end of their journey!

Your picture can go up anytime you choose in December and we ask for your picture/star to stay on display until Tuesday, 5th January 2027, so it can also be viewed during the school Christmas holidays.

There will be an article in the December Focus magazine for all to read, including contact details for queries.

For more information please contact Helen Joels on:
thejoelsfamily@aol.com