





CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Wednesday 24th December

4.00pm Nativity Service

6.00pm Christingle Service
(at Hartford Church)

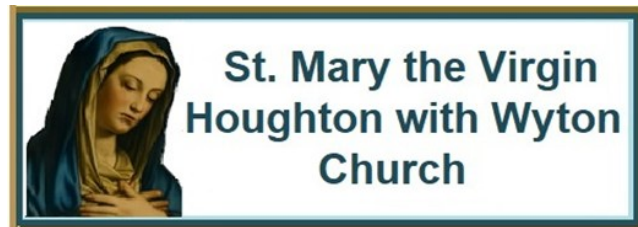
11.30pm Midnight Communion

Thursday 25th December

10.00am Christmas Communion

Notices

1. Recycle your small electrical items and cables etc in the **Pink Bin** adjacent to the main door of The St. Mary's Centre.



The Fourth Sunday of Advent
21st December 2025



Preaching of St John the Baptist - Domenico Ghirlandaio c1486-1490

Today

9.45 am Holy Communion Service

Leader: **Rev Geoff Boucher**

Preacher: **Guy Morton**

3.00 pm Carol Service

Leader: **Rev Steph Pedlar**

Readings: **Philippians 4:4-7**

John 1:19-28



Collects: **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

1. O Lord, raise up (we pray thee) thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the satisfaction of thy Son our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be honour and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

2. Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

1st Reading:

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Alpha Course

Alpha

Are you curious about faith?

Come and explore faith in a friendly environment. Our 10 week course is starting in January. Please email

revstephpedlar@gmail.com

To ask questions and register.



A Rocha Eco Church

St Mary's have started to work towards our Eco Church awards and we are looking to put together a team of people who would be interested in helping. If you are interested in joining in, please talk to Liz Lee. *Each month, we will suggest making JUST ONE CHANGE to reduce our environmental impact and encourage nature.*

JUST ONE CHANGE for December:

Use recyclable paper and paper tape rather than sellotape to wrap presents. Avoid buying cards with glitter on them - glitter isn't recyclable!

Gospel:

John 1:19-28

The Testimony of John the Baptist

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No."

²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

²⁵They asked him, "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know,

²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal."

²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.



ZOOM Meetings

Evensong on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. Anyone wanting to join should request the info required from

Guy Morton on **01480 494641**