



Community Events

Rucstall Primary School

It's been wonderful to continue our partnership with Rucstall Primary School this term. The *Open the Book* team go in regularly with an opportunity to 'open the book' and share different Bible stories with the children, as well as the church being invited in to take assemblies. Earlier this term we thought about how Jesus fed over 5,000 people with just two fish and five loaves of bread, thinking about who Jesus is and his amazing generosity to us!

In the lead up to Christmas the *Open the Book* team will be in again to act out the Christmas story, and then St Mary's will be hosting Key Stage 2 for their annual Christmas Concert!

Austen Lodge

In recent years, a St Mary's band and choir have visited Austen Lodge at Christmas, sharing festive cheer through much-loved carols. It has always been a wonderful opportunity to meet the residents and encourage them to join in with their favourite carols. We're delighted to be returning again this year on Thursday 11 December at 2pm—and we warmly invite you to come along and be part of it!



If you could meet one person...

... I wonder who would it be??

I love thinking about that question. I wonder who it would be for you? Maybe it's a famous film star, celebrity, pop star or sportsperson. Or to put it a different way, if you found out this person was visiting Basingstoke, what would you do to get the chance to meet them? I imagine we would look to get there early, maybe even camp outside, move anything in your diary, find childcare for the kids! Nothing would stop us!



Tom Woodbridge
Associate Minister

The wonder of Christmas is that this earth receives a visitor who far outstrips your favourite pop star, film star, celeb, or sports personality. At Christmas, Christians celebrate the coming of God himself into the world. The one who Christians believe created everything around us and gives us life chose to come and visit! And he didn't choose to come in wealth or royalty or on a throne, but came into scandal and into the dirtiness of a manger in a stable, with shepherds as his first visitors.

"The invitation of Christmas is to come and see this little baby, who claims to be God of the universe, King of everything. And the invitation is for everyone!"

A favourite Christmas carol says, "Come and behold him, born the King of Angels" (can you work out which carol this is?!) The invitation of Christmas is to come and see this little baby, who claims to be God of the universe, King of everything. And the invitation is for everyone!

You are very welcome to come and find out more about who this baby is, as well as sing some of your favourite carols at one of our Christmas events and services, you can find all the details on this newsletter. We'd love to see you there!

I hope you have a very happy Christmas,
Woody

COME AND BEHOLD HIM

CHRISTINGLE IN THE COMMUNITY

Relaxed all-age service exploring who Christmas is all about, including craft, refreshments and a Christingle to take home.
At Rucstall Community Centre, RG21 3QN.

14 DEC | 3PM

CONTEMPORARY CAROLS

Join us for a cosy, candlelit evening of carols, sung in a contemporary style.

14 DEC | 6PM

EASTROP CAROLS

Wrap up warm and bring the family to sing carols, enjoy festive refreshments and hear about the Christmas story!
In Eastrop Park, next to the boathouse.

20 DEC | 4PM

MORNING CAROL SERVICE

Come and enjoy some carols at this morning service as we prepare for the big day.

21 DEC | 10AM

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Join us for a cosy, candlelit evening of carols, sung in a traditional style.

21 DEC | 6PM

FAMILY NATIVITY

Witness the re-enactment of the Christmas story in this fun, interactive, all-age experience.

Christingle included.

24 DEC | 4PM

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

See in Christmas morning at this quieter, more reflective service.

24 DEC | 11PM

CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION

The day is here! Come and celebrate with us at this all-age service.

25 DEC | 10AM

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S

All services, unless stated otherwise, will be held at St Mary's Church, RG21 7PZ.
For more information, head to our website stmarys-basingstoke.org.uk/christmas or scan the QR code.



WELCOME SPACE

Space to Relax and Chat, Space to Work or Play,
Space for All to Enjoy

Open weekdays 9.30am-12.30pm
At St Mary's Church,
Goat Lane, RG21 7PZ

FREE Tea and Coffee
Homemade Cakes
Variety of other Snacks

www.stmarys-basingstoke.org.uk/welcomespace

Regular Sunday Services

10am Our morning service, which is also live-streamed. There are children's groups for children up to 14 years and a group for children with additional needs.

6pm Our more informal service with groups after for teenagers and young adults.

Want to find out more?

As well as our services, we run regular courses for those who want to explore the Christian faith further. Contact us for more details of our next courses at info@stmarys-basingstoke.org.uk.

Scan here to watch our services online, or visit www.youtube.com/StMarysBasingstoke



01256 464249 | info@stmarys-basingstoke.org.uk | www.stmarys-basingstoke.org.uk

StMarysBasingstoke



St Mary's Eastrop, Goat Lane, Eastrop, Basingstoke, RG21 7PZ