

Saturday 13th December

16.30 South-east District Bellringers'
Carol Service at St Mary's.



Sunday 14th December

11.00 Parish Eucharist at St Mary's **with Choir**

Monday 15th December

09.00 Celtic Morning Prayer at St Andrew's

Tuesday 16th December

20.00 Beer and Carols at The Rodney, North Hill

Thursday 18th December

11.00 Mary Alting-Mees Funeral Service
at St Mary's

Saturday 20th December

16.00 Messy Church does The Nativity at St Mary's

Sunday 21st December

08.00 Holy Communion at St Mary's

11.00 United Village Carol Service at St Mary's

Sharing in Ministry at St Mary's & The Chapel

At St Mary's

Priest in Charge: The Revd. Canon Jacqui Jones

The Rectory, 55 Main Road,
Danbury, CM3 4NG

Tel: 01245 223140

Email: ebbaafter@gmail.com

Jacqui's day off: **Wednesday**

Churchwarden : Andrew Wiltshire (01245 226918)

Email: andrew.churchwarden@tap.uk.com

PCC Secretary Pat Breeze

PCC Treasurer Graham Lennard

Reader Brian Gilders

Hon Asst Priest Revd Chris Poulard

Organist David Bayley

Pianist: Lara Clapp

At The Chapel

Minister: Vacancy

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The third Sunday of Advent is also known as 'Gaudete Sunday'. Gaudete is Latin for 'Rejoice'. The awaited birth of Christ bringing Joy to the world



Third Sunday of Advent - JOY

The Churches in Little Baddow

St Mary the Virgin (C of E)

(One of The Compass Churches)

and

The Chapel (URC)

www.littlebaddowchurches.org.uk

14th December 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome

To our churches today and our ecumenical

Pew News

If you are a visitor to our Church or Chapel today,
please make yourself known to our Ministers,
Sidespeople or Stewards. You are warmly invited to
join us for coffee, tea and biscuits after the Service
(before the Service on 3rd Sundays at St Mary's)

INTERCESSIONS

Please pray for those known to you who are unwell,
sad or anxious at this time and for the people who
care for them.

Remember too, the faithful departed, commending
them to God's love and mercy:

Your prayers are also asked for all that is going on
in our village community, for each other and for
those who minister to us



For **5 minutes before the Service PLEASE**
allow yourself to be quiet and permit others
to keep a time of **prayerful** preparation to
worship our **Lord Jesus Christ**

**A HEARING AID LOOP SYSTEM OPERATES
DURING SERVICES IN CHURCH**

COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your
mysteries may likewise so prepare and make
ready your way by turning the hearts of the
disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at
your second coming to judge the world we may
be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father in
the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
for ever. Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly
gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when
your Christ comes again we may shine as lights
before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever. Amen

READINGS

Isaiah 35: 1-10

The Return of the Redeemed to Zion

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the
crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice
with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall
be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and
Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the
majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak
hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to
those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do
not fear! Here is your God. He will come with
vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will
come and save you.' ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind
shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf
unstopped; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand
shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground
springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall
become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds
and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be there, and it
shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall
not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No
lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast
come up on it; they shall not be found there, but
the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the
ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to
Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon
their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Matthew 11: 2-11

Messengers from John the Baptist

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was
doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to
him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we
to wait for another?' ⁴ Jesus answered them, 'Go

and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind
receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are
cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised,
and the poor have good news brought to
them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no
offence at me.'

Jesus Praises John the Baptist

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to
the crowds about John: 'What did you go out
into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by
the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see?
Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who
wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then
did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you,
and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one
about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my
messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your
way before you." ¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those
born of women no one has arisen greater than
John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of
heaven is greater than he.



Beer and Carols
at The Rodney
8pm on Tuesday
16th December
Enjoy some Carol
singing



Saturday 20th December
4:00 pm

Messy
Church
does
The
Nativity



in the beautiful, atmospheric setting of
St Mary's Church, Little Baddow
Everyone welcome – come, listen and join in if you like
– props provided!

Christmas refreshments afterwards

Questions? Email messychurch@littlebaddowchurches.org.uk

- like us, share us, follow us.



Sunday 21st December, 11am at St Mary's