

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

Monday 22nd December

09.00 Celtic Morning Prayer at St Andrew's

Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

21.00 Midnight Mass at St Mary's

Thursday 25th December – Christmas Day

10.00 'Carols round the Crib' at St Mary's

Followed by a short Holy Communion for those who wish to stay

Sunday 28th December

11.00 United Parish Eucharist Service at St Mary's

Monday 29th December

NO Celtic Morning Prayer at St Andrew's

Sunday 4th January - Epiphany

08.00 Holy Communion at St Mary's

11.00 Parish Eucharist 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

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Jacqui's day off: **Wednesday**

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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

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Fourth Sunday of Advent - LOVE

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

21st & 28th December 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHRISTMAS

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 for 21st December

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the
mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our
saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when
he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER for 21st December

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the
mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace, that in all
things we may embrace your holy will and with
her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

READINGS for 21st December

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Isaiah Gives Ahaz the Sign of Immanuel

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹² But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³ Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Matthew 1: 18-end

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations

with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.



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
Do come to our United Village Carol Service



COLLECT for Christmas Night

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night to shine with
the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of
that light on earth, to see the radiance of your
heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is
alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER for Christmas Night

God our Father,
in this night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until
the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star

rises in our hearts.
To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen

READING for Christmas Night

John 1



COLLECT for Christmas Day

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son to
take our nature upon him and as at this time to
be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again and
made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is
alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER for Christmas Day

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us in the Holy
Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts and
shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord. Amen



READINGS for Christmas Day

Luke 2: 1-7

The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor
Augustus that all the world should be
registered. ² This was the first registration and
was taken while Quirinius was governor of
Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be
registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town
of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of
David called Bethlehem, because he was
descended from the house and family of
David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary,
to whom he was engaged and who was
expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the
time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And
she gave birth to her firstborn son and
wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in
a manger, because there was no place for
them in the inn.

Luke 2: 8-16

The Shepherds and the Angels

In that region there were shepherds living in the
fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.
⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to
them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing
you good news of great joy for all the people:
¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a
Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will
be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped
in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³ And
suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of
the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on
earth peace among those whom he favours!'
¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into
heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let
us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that
has taken place, which the Lord has made
known to us.' ¹⁶ So they went with haste and
found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the
manger.



COLLECT for 28th December

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our
humanity, so we may share the life of his
divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

POST COMMUNION PRAYER for 28th December

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of
an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family, united in
love and obedience, and bring us all at last to
our home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

READINGS for 28th December

Isaiah 63: 7-9

God's Mercy Remembered

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all
that the Lord has done for us, and the great
favour to the house of Israel that he has shown

them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸ For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour ⁹ in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Matthew 2: 13-18
The Escape to Egypt

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

The Massacre of the Infants

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'



The Tail end.....

Many Christmas cards are sent and received, more and more of them electronically, but here is a poem, extolling the real Christmas card

Let's hear it for the Christmas Card
By Nigel Beeton

A folded piece of Christmas cheer
Came through the post today!
I love it when those cards appear
I love the things they say.

And at this busy Christmas time
I'm always glad to see
The Christmas scene or Christmas rhyme
That you have sent to me.

The trouble that good people take
Is really, really kind –
Some people even sit and make
A card for me to find!

And in our virtual world of text
And pictures on a screen
These bits and bytes leave me perplexed
If you know what I mean?

And so I think that it is fine
To see your kind regard
I can admire this Christmas time

Your real Christmas card!

And another one from the same author

The Christmas Kitchen



The kitchen is, at Christmas
A very busy room!
Lots of work in such a rush
Or Christmas Day will loom.

First there is the cake to bake
And many pastries too,
Mince pies and biscuits, festive fare
There is so much to do!

Then comes the day, the kitchen fills
With wondrous cooking smells,
As turkey roasts and parsnip toasts
The cooks must work their spells.

The dinner's on the table
We gather round and eat,
But someone has to wash the pots
And make the kitchen neat.

So have a happy Christmas,
Enjoy the festive fare,
But grab a towel and help the cook,
And show them that you care!



**Wishing you, All the Peace and Joy
that Christmas brings**