

## ADVENT COURSE

*Reflections,  
meditation  
& prayer on  
Advent poetry,  
art & music*

**WEDNESDAYS**

5th, 12th & 19th December  
from 10.30-12.00  
St Mary's Parish Hall,  
Langham Road

*All welcome*

## NEW YEAR IN OLD VIENNA

Welcome in the New Year with  
the wonderful music of Johann  
Strauss, Franz Lehar, Robert Stolz,  
Schubert, Mozart and many more

with  
Maud Millar (soprano)  
Alexander Knox (baritone)  
Tony Lamb (clarinet)  
Tom Higgins (Piano)  
Richard Fawkes (narrator)

**Sunday 5th January 2013  
7.30pm**

at  
Parish Church of St Mary with St Alban

Tickets will be available on the door  
priced at £10 (£7 concessions)

This concert is in aid of fund raising for  
Teddington Summer Music, a new festival to  
be launched in June 2013

Front cover painting by Kate Randall, who is in Y11 at Wimbledon High School, and a member of our congregation.

Kate has also designed some 2012 notelets to commemorate our church's celebrations of the Jubilee and the Olympics. These will be on sale through the church, with half the proceeds going to St Mary with St Alban and the other half will go towards Kate's fundraising for a World Challenge trip to Peru that she is undertaking next summer. This will include a challenging high altitude trek and community work at a school near Lake Titicaca, as well as a trip to Machu Picchu.

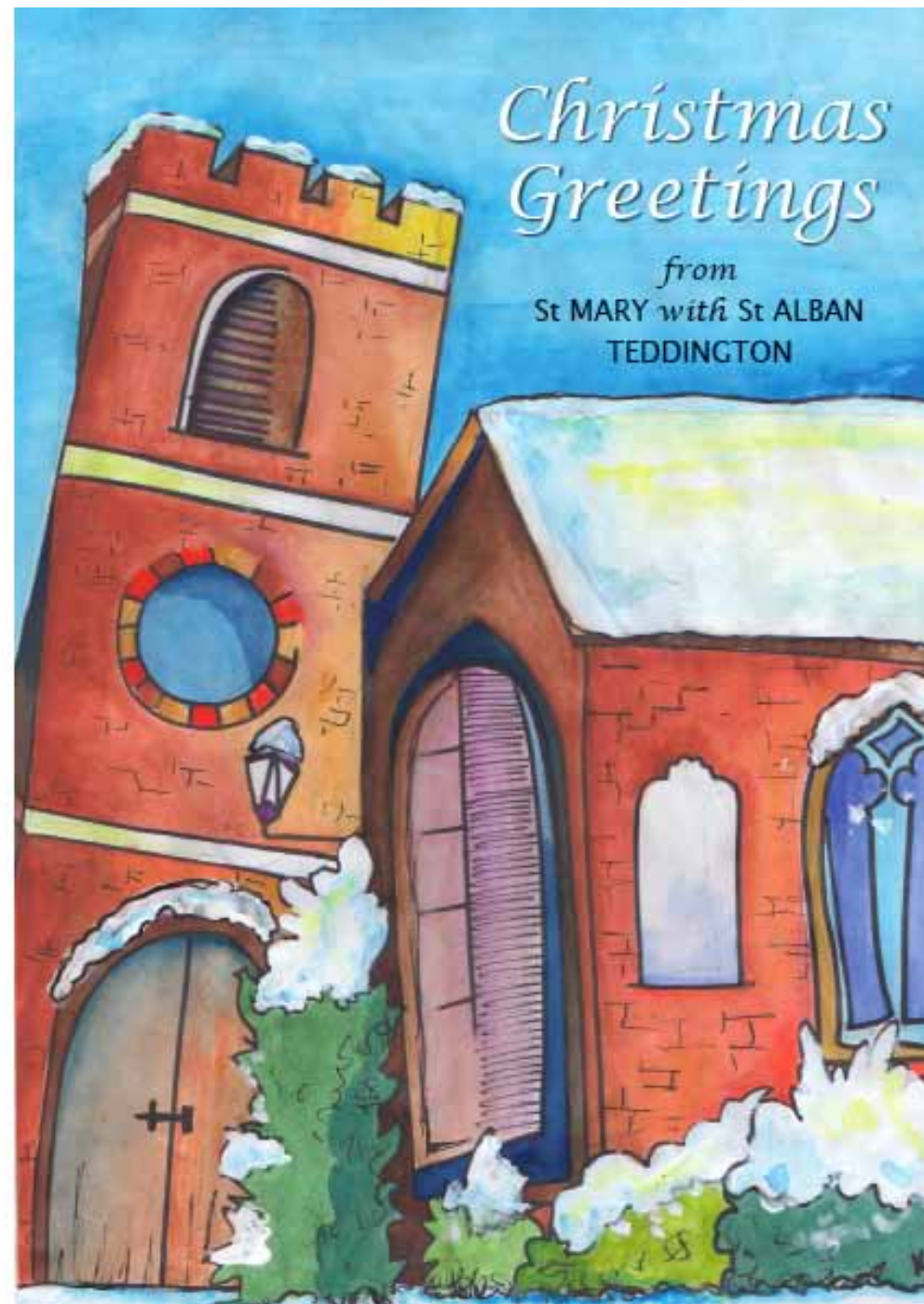
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## A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT ADVENT...

Advent begins four Sundays before December 25, lasts about 4 weeks, and prepares us for Christmas. We all know Christmas, right? Shopping, planning, buying, baking, parties, dinners, cookies, santa, cards, gifts, decorating, carolling, stressing...

There's a lot more to it.

Christmas is about Christ entering our world, and advent is the expectant waiting, hopeful anticipation, and cheerful preparation of God breaking into our lives. In all moments, all places, all times. Past, future, present. Commemorating the birth of Jesus, preparing for Christ's return, and welcoming God into our lives every day.



*The Revd Mary Hawes, Assistant Priest, introduces a new service:*

**Friday 21st December  
8pm**

Advent prepares us for these events, reminds us there's joy in waiting, and it begins the Church year. Advent is not stressing about Christmas, rushing around shopping, or a race to December 25.

Advent is also not Lent. It's about hope, not repentance. Lent is more of a spring cleaning of our lives. And advent is a cosier getting your home ready to welcome a special guest... Jesus. The one we've been waiting for.

Advent colours aren't red and green, they are purple and pink. Like the advent wreath (to count down the days) a new candle is lit each week. The third week is pink for Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means 'Rejoice, don't lose heart, the expected guest has almost arrived'.



Remember, advent is not about shopping, stressing, planning, or buying. Advent is about expecting, waiting, hoping, and praying. If you're sick of Christmas by December 25, you haven't done advent correctly.

Try using the 'busted halo' advent surprise calendar. Quotes, music, videos, and challenges to remind you what advent is all about while you wait for that special guest.

[www.bustedhalo.com/advent](http://www.bustedhalo.com/advent)

Best wishes  
Joe Moffatt

## THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

You can't escape it - everyone is trying to sell you a Christmas dream! If you believe the adverts, Christmas is a perfect day, full of smiles, laughter, and happy families. But for some of us, life isn't perfect. And it's hard to buy in to the world's view of Christmas when you are living with the reality of bereavement or sadness or worry. When life is hard, happy Carol Services and Crib services can feel very removed from real life.

The Longest Night Christmas Service is a chance to remember the Christmas story without having to pretend that all is right with the world. It's a quiet, reflective service with readings, prayers and carols to retell the story of that first Christmas, when God became incarnate to a single mother in a smelly stable.

If you find the Christmas season hard to bear, if you prefer a simple service or if you just want a quiet space in the hectic rush towards Christmas Day then please join us. Everyone is welcome.

## Christmas Services 2012

**Sunday 2nd December**

6.30pm Choral Evensong with Advent Carols

**Wednesday 12th December**

6.30pm Uniformed Organisations Carol Service

**Friday 14th December**

11am Newland House School Carol Service

**Tuesday 18th December**

6pm St Mary's & St Peter's School Carol Service

**Wednesday 19th December**

7.30pm Collis School Carol Service

**Thursday 20th December**

8pm Carol Singing at The Anglers

**Friday 21st December**

8pm Longest Night Service

**Sunday 23rd December**

10am Parish Communion with Nativity Play  
*Service in the Parish Hall*

6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

*followed by Mince Pies & Mulled Wine in the Hall*

**Christmas Eve**

3.30pm Crib Service

5pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day**

10am Parish Communion

## Regular Services

**Sundays:**

Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at 8am

Morning Worship (30 minutes) at 9am

Parish Communion (with Sunday School) at 10am

**Wednesdays:** Holy Communion at 9.30am

**Monday-Friday:** Morning Prayer at 9am,  
Evening Prayer at 5pm

