

## Join us this Christmas.

### Advent and Christmas 2018

★ **Christingle Service**  
*'God so loved the world that he gave..'*  
Sunday 9th December at 4.00 pm

★ **Carols by Candlelight**  
*'A star is born'*  
Sunday 16th December at 6.30 pm

★ **Crib Service**  
*'Let's go and see'*  
Christmas Eve  
Monday 24th December at 4.30 pm

★ **Midnight Communion**  
*'This thing that God has done'*  
Christmas Eve  
Monday 24th December at 11.00 pm

★ **Christmas Day**  
*'His name is Emmanuel'*  
Tuesday 25th December  
Holy Communion at 9.00 am  
All Age at 10.00 am

### Sunday Services

1st Service at 9.30 am  
Morning Worship

2nd Service at 11.00 am  
Informal Worship

1st Sunday of the month:  
Service of Healing and  
Wholeness at 6.30 pm

2nd Sunday of the month:  
Refuel at 6.30 pm

3rd Sunday of the month:  
Messy Church at 4.00 pm

4th Sunday of the month:  
Service of Prayer and Reflection  
at 6.30 pm

# Happy Christmas

#### Hall Hire

Main Hall suitable for children's parties - £20 per hour.  
Crypt and Small Hall suitable for meetings, small dance and  
exercise groups - £10 per hour.

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# Contact 2018

St Mary Magdalene with St Martin,  
Canning Road



www.stmmm.org.uk

## Christmas Journey December 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>

Come and meet  
the characters in  
the real  
Christmas Story

## What are you looking for in 2019?

As the old year turns into the new; how was 2018? What are you looking for in 2019?

A young woman was looking to the future with fear and trepidation. As a female she was a second class citizen with no income of her own so her only support was her husband to be, her fiancé. But she was pregnant and the laws which governed her people gave her fiancé the right to have her put to death or to abandon her because he knew he was not the father.

How many today face fear and violence in their lives?

But God had other plans for her. He spoke to her fiancé in a dream, telling him that she was carrying a baby conceived by God's own power, by the Holy Spirit. God was to become a baby, and grow up to be the man her people were waiting for to bring in a new kingdom, hope and the reality of eternal life. This man was to take the baby as his own son, and name him Jesus, which means God Saves.

The man, Joseph, went to his fiancée, Mary, and told her what God

had said. He protected her and married her; he was with her at the birth and took the baby as his own son.

In the face of pain, uncertainty and sudden changes in circumstances you can turn to God. If the future looks uncertain, if 2019 holds anxiety or fear for you, know that the baby whose birthday party we call Christmas, Jesus Christ, was born to set you free; born to give you peace in the face of uncertainty; born so you may personally know God.

Reach out your hand and put it into the hand of Jesus Christ, the reason behind Christ-mas. He will never fail nor forsake you. This is true love.

May you know true love this Christmas,

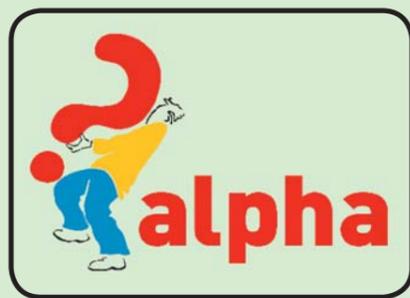
With love and blessing  
Amanda Johnson Your Vicar



We would love you to come and join in the celebration based at St Mary's, your parish church, in Canning Road. Come and join in other events throughout the coming year. You are always most welcome.

Open to questions about the Christian faith.

Find out more about God - we will be running **Alpha** in 2019. You are invited to come for something to eat after work early evening and we spend time discussing our views and answering questions.



.... to understand more about God

Come and meet other parents and children at **Messy Church** and explore bible stories through messy crafts, games, story and songs ending with a sit down meal. This happens on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 4 pm. Dates for next term are 20th January, 17th February and 17th March.

We would love you and your family to join us.



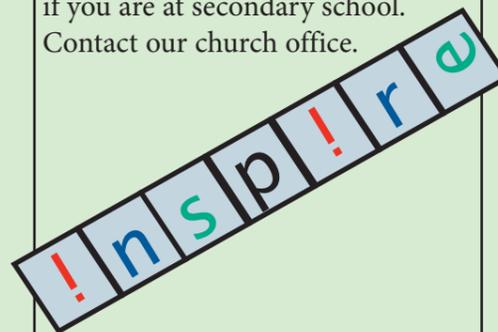
### 11am worship

Come along and join us at 11am at St Mary's and meet a mixed bunch of all ages, backgrounds, interests, and talents from all over Croydon, learning about God. The kids have a great time in their groups while on the first Sunday of the month our all age service is full of fun with colouring, quizzes, great songs from our band, coffee and cake and lots and lots of love. The kids help out with it all and as you can see, we have great fun!



### INSPIRE Youth

We meet up on Sundays at 11am have drinks /chat /do the bible and talk a lot about life and what God has to say about it. It's run by two amazing youth leaders who organise social events regularly. You are very welcome to come if you are at secondary school. Contact our church office.



### 9.30 am Service

More formal in style with choir and music group; Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays, Morning Worship 2nd and 4th Sundays .

**REFUEL** is a Contemporary Service with Café. Come and be Charged up, Equipped and find space to connect with God and with others. All are welcome to this multimedia rich interactive and worshipful service.



Would you like to feel part of a small group of caring, supportive people? Do you like to discuss God's teachings? Then join one of our **Life Groups** that meet both during the day and in the evenings in the homes of the members, over a cup of coffee. Contact the Office for more details. You'd receive a very warm welcome.



### Sunday School

#### Bubbles (ages 3-6 years)

The aim is to introduce the children to Jesus in a welcoming and secure atmosphere, using stories, colouring and games. The group meets in a small room in the Magdalene Centre.

#### Rapids (ages 6-11 years)

Each week the group looks at a Bible story in a fun way and tries to get to know Jesus better. The children enjoy games, crafts, singing and other activities

.... to find more activities for my children

### Are you home alone with an under 5 child?

St Mary's has a popular Wednesday afternoon club for parents and carers of 0-5's from 2.00pm - 4.00pm during term time. In our large Hall we welcome guests from many different cultures to experience unlimited refreshments, the use of toys and play equipment both inside or out in our enclosed large garden, a supervised craft session, and we round the afternoon off with music and song. It's all great fun and for only £2 per family. Why not come along and make new friends? You would be most welcome.



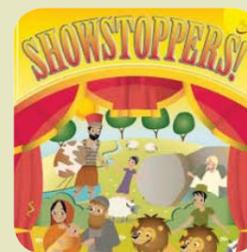
### Uniformed Organisations

The church has a **Rainbows** group attached (for girls ages 5-7 years) which meets in the Magdalene Centre on Wednesday early evenings and a **Brownie** pack (for girls ages 7-10 years) which meet on Fridays (Magdalene Centre). In July a new programme was launched for Guiding which we will introduce in the New Year with six programme themes - Know Myself, Express Myself, Be Well, Have Adventures, Take Action and Skills For My Future.



### At Showstoppers Holiday Club

in July over 70 children each day joined in challenges, games, a bouncy castle, singing, stories, jokes and crafts and heard stories of Creation, Daniel and the Lions' Den, David, Christmas and Easter. On the final day children dressed up and paraded on stage showing the collages they had worked on during the week.



**Magdalene Preschool** (rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted) operates from the Magdalene Centre during term time. We offer free 2, 3 and 4-year-old funding and, since September 2017, have 30 hour places for eligible working parents.

2017-2018 was a busy year for us! It started in September with the annual Teddy Bears' Picnic in Lloyd Park. We raised money for Children in Need in November by painting our faces and all enjoyed singing in the church with our Nativity play in December. Our year ended in July with a fabulous party and balloon race to say goodbye to all our children moving on.

Please see our website: [magdaleneschool.com](http://magdaleneschool.com) for more information.



### Mothers Union

The Mothers' Union is a World Wide Organisation and there has been a branch at St. Mary Magdalene with St. Martin for one hundred years.

It was started in January 1918, in all probability to support families who had lost loved ones in the 1914-18 war.

We meet on the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month, in the crypt, at 2 pm and would welcome anyone who would like to join us. The picture shows us celebrating our 100th Anniversary on the 27th January, 2018.



.... to meet more people

### Pilates

Interested in improving your mobility and flexibility? Join Stephen's Pilates classes on Tuesdays in the church crypt. "Regular Pilates can be the most empowering form of rehabilitation for anyone with back or postural problems".

Complete beginners at 5.15, 6.30 mixed ability and improvers at 7.45. Contact Stephen by text to book your initial consultation on 07734083257. First class is £10 which will be discounted from block payment plans for regular attendance.



### World Café

In September we once again opened the doors of our Wednesday lunchtime World Café, welcoming in parents and children from the preschool and wider community. We love seeing familiar faces and enjoy meeting new families, all who enjoy cake, crafts and the space to chat and play. Come and join us each week from 12 until 1pm.



An afternoon at the movies. **Café Matinee** brings the cinema to you in St Mary's Church on the 4th Thursday of each month (except December). Come along and watch a popular film in comfortable seats on our BIG screen and enjoy free refreshments on arrival and in the interval. Doors open 2.00 pm and the film starts at 2.30 pm. There's no admission fee and you could make some new friends.



This year, **Café Creative** has provided a friendly and encouraging atmosphere to co-operate on a variety of projects. In addition to a range of baby clothes for two local hospitals, we produced a banner to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the church building and a display of approximately 300 poppies for the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Armistice.

