



Confirmation Sunday 8th Feb

St Mary's 10am

This is a special service of confirmation, where candidates will join together in renewing their baptism vows and affirming their desire to follow Christ.

We look forward to extending a special welcome to the Bishop of Oxford who will conduct the service and preach, and to family and friends of all the candidates.

Open Space Service Feb 15th St Mary's 10am

The Bible is full of women of all sorts: courageous, challenging, making choices, oppressed and abused, powerful, wise, faithful, and sinful.

They are all there if you look for them.

This service will be on the theme of Shiphrah and Puah, the Hebrew Midwives - The Soft Power of Women Resisting an Evil Regime.

Sunday 8th Feb
2nd before Lent

8am Holy Communion (St Mary's)

10am Joint Parish Service with Confirmation
(St Mary's and livestream)

NO Service at St John's this week

Mon, Weds and Fri
10am Pause for Prayer online

Tuesday 10th Feb
7.30pm Iona Service (St John's)

Weds 11th Feb
11am Holy Communion (St Mary's)

Sunday 15th Feb
One before Lent

8am Holy Communion (St Mary's)

10am Open Space Service (St Mary's)

10am Holy Communion (St John's and
livestream)

10am Holy Communion (Hampton Poyle)

5.30pm Evensong (St Mary's)

All livestreams are here:
www.youtube.com/@KidHPChurch

Don't forget our service sheets are downloadable
and online. Feel free to bring a tablet to the
service to help the environment.

Parish Office: 01865 375611
office@kidhp.org.uk

Lent 2026



Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday 18th February there will be said services with ashing at 10am at St John's and 11am at St Mary's Kidlington. At 8pm in St Mary's Kidlington we have a sung service with ashing.

'Come and See'

This Lent, we're inviting you to *Come and See* - an opportunity to explore the profound meal at the heart of Christian life. Whether you're new to faith, returning after a break, or have been part of church for years, this is a chance to pause, reflect and explore what the Eucharist might have to say to you. In addition to the group, you can also sign up to receive free daily Lent emails with short reflections, plus a weekly video from Bishop Steven. You do not need to sign up to take part in the group, but if you wish you can sign up here: <https://oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see>

We'll be running *Come and See* at St Marys on Mondays from 2:30pm - 4pm, starting on February 23rd, in a discussion group similar to previous years. We would love to run a second group on Monday evenings, either at 6pm or 8pm. If that would work better for you, then please email Felicity (felicity@kidhp.org.uk) and tell her your time preference.

Youth Lent Group

This year we will also be running a special Lent group for all the young people of secondary school age who have some connection to, or relationship with, the church. It will be on Wednesdays from 6-7pm, starting on Ash Wednesday (Feb 18th) and running for a further five weeks (so six in total).

Each week we'll look at one of Jesus's parables and see what the group makes of it. The parable will form a starting point from which they can raise or explore ideas and issues, ending with a short and simple time of prayer. The group will be led by the TIG leadership team (Scott, Diana, and Oliver)

The venue will be St John's Vicarage (16 Broadway OX5 1EF, next door to St John's church) and the first parable we'll look at will be The Workers In The Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16.) There's no charge or cost, and no resources to buy. The only prior preparation will be to read – and ideally think about – each parable beforehand; Oliver will email and/or give hard copies of the following week's parable at the end of each session. However, places are limited and after the first week we will be asking for a commitment to the rest of the course for the sake of cohesion and continuity.

To book a place for your child, find out more or if you have any questions feel free to email Oliver or call / text / whatsapp on 07787 991320.

"The Making Group: Lent 2026"

The Making Group is convening again to respond to the Diocesan Lent Course "Come and See" in our own unique way. The group will meet on Friday afternoons in Lent, on the following dates:- Friday 20th and 27th February, 6th, 13th, 20th March, with 27th March as the day to put it all together. The Refectory, 2:30-4:00pm. All are welcome, and no particular skill is required. Just bring your imagination, an open mind, and a willingness to use your hands to create something special for Lent.

Please let Rosemary Meara know if you would like to join the group. Rosemary.meara@gmail.com

Compline Services and Talks – St Mary's Kidlington 8.45-9.15pm

On each Sunday evening during Lent and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, starting at 8.45pm, there will be a short talk followed by the service of Compline (starting at 9pm).

The ancient office of Compline is a service of quietness and reflection at the end of the day.

Taking Hold of our Finances in Lent

As well as focussing on the Eucharist in our Lent course and Compline addressees, this Lent we will also be talking about our parish finances and our personal giving. Jesus talked about money all the time: Money is a gospel issue and how we handle money is important for people of faith. Jesus saw that the rich young man's money was blocking him from truly following God, and in the parable of the talents he taught about accountability and the responsible use of all that we have been given. He recognised true generosity in the widow's mite, spoke of money / wealth / riches in 11 of the 36 parables, and constantly reiterated the scriptural bias towards the poor and needy. How we use money is definitely a question for each of us to ask ourselves as part of our following of Christ so it's appropriate to think about finance in the season of Lent.

All ministry costs money - some things are exciting to fund (special events, equipment....) other things are less exciting (the gas bill, salary costs....) but all are equally needed for a healthy ministry. Right now we have a £20,000 deficit so we really need to address this. There will be information packs available for everyone through Lent and we will be thinking about this in 3 topics on Sundays in each of our churches and across all our varieties of worship:

1. Who are we and what do we do? Are we even worth funding?
2. What is our financial situation?
3. What can I best do?

If you are not able to be in church during Lent we can also hand deliver or post the pack to you if you would like to receive one.

Thank you in advance for considering and praying about this.

Did you know?

- that church members also manage the Almshouses opposite church as a separate charity? There are three flats and Anne Whitford is the almoner who keeps a pastoral contact with the residents. There are currently two vacancies for residents who should be from Kidlington and unable to afford housing on the open market. Residents do not need to be elderly and might be keyworkers.

Marie-Claire and Richard Haines-Pelly are fundraising this Ukraine Charity, and they'd really appreciate your support.

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to Ukraine Charity, so it's the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

You can donate to their JustGiving page by clicking here

https://www.justgiving.com/page/marie-claire-and-richard--ambulance-delivery-to-ukraine?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EM

JustGiving sends your donation straight to Ukraine Charity and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more.

Thank you for your support!

Pub night this Friday - Kings Arms from 7.30pm

Serving the Community

Dates for your diary :

Funerals:

17th Feb, 11am St Mary's
Mr Michael Harry Willoughby

In our Prayers this Week

Peter, Eirian and James
Sheila
Sarah and Vassilis
David and Tricia
Jane, Pat, Pam, Diana
Tracey
Andrew
David and Joan T
Graham Bullock

We continue to pray for all where there are wars
and that the cease-fire in the middle east will hold.

Love your Yew week 9th to 15th February 2026

How often do you notice the yew trees in the churchyard?
Do you know how many there are?
How old do you think they are?

Last year, the Caring for God's Acre charity decided to devote a week each year to focusing on caring for these beautiful, and sometimes ancient trees, often found in churchyards, that have stood in witness to so much church and community life, and been havens for wildlife of many kinds through the centuries.



This year St Mary's Eco Team have decided to mark Love your Yew week on Sunday 15th February, focusing on the two biggest and oldest ones by the main gateway. The suggestion by Caring for God's Acre for the week is to clear the ground under the canopy. Unfortunately that would mean clearing some graves, so we won't do that! Instead, we will decorate the trees and measure them to estimate their age. There will also be a display in the church giving information about yew trees with some photos.

If you have any information, knowledge or stories about the trees then we would love to hear them. But, most of all, take time to look at the trees and appreciate them, think about all they have seen, maybe even give them a hug! They are amazing!

Guess the girth

The age of yews is estimated by measuring their girth (round the trunk about 1½ metres from the ground). How big do you think our biggest yew is? We are inviting you to have a guess – you can use feet and inches or metric measures. There will be a chart for you to enter your name and your guess at the back of the Church. There will be a prize (a jar of local honey) for the guess that comes closest to the measurement we make on 15th.

Speak to Andy or Penny Pedley, Liz Brandom or Steve Handsley. (St Mary's Eco team)

Parish Fete 4th July 2026, HELP!

Due to some wonderful news, our Fete planning team has shrunk. We urgently need one or two additional people (more would be wonderful) to help with the planning. Much of the workload can and is handled by individuals not part of the planning team, but we need a dedicated group to bring it all together and make sure things happen when they need to.

Can you help?

We meet about once a month between now and July 4th when the fete is.

If we have the team, it works well and is fun. Can you be part of that team?

Please contact Tilly on 07957 331 885, or email tilly.evershed@gmail.com



DIALOGUE
SOCIETY



Scriptural REASONING

Scriptural Reasoning aims to bring together Muslims, Christians & Jews to reflect on short passages from their scriptures together as they discuss particular topics, with a view to fostering friendships

MEETING MONTHLY– NEXTDATE:

Wednesday 11th of February,

"Fasting"

7-8pm at St Mary's Church,

Church Street, Kidlington, OX5 2AZ

If you'd like to join please email
oxford@dialoguesociety.org

Open to all

Saturday Night Live (ish) - Praise, Prayer and Worship (and hopefully a bit of fun and a cuppa) at KBC on February 28th at 7.00 pm.

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE (ish)



Praise, Prayer and Worship at
Kidlington Baptist Church

Saturday February 28th at
7.00pm

Tea Talk at St Mary's Church

Church St, Kidlington, OX5 2AZ

Sunday 8th February 2026 at 3pm

Who am I really?

Challenges and opportunities of retirement

Henrietta Batchelor, Retired Consultant

Psychotherapist



Henrietta will explore the impact of retirement on individuals and their families. Letting go of employment can be liberating, but the loss of identity associated with work can produce uncertainties.

She will address how people best adapt from 'what I do' to 'who I am'.

Tea will be served after the talk.

Donations in aid of Church Funds

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES THIS SEASON

All services in the parish for January to April 2026 will be shown on the website (kidhp.org.uk/onsite-services) and will be announced in news-sheets, but here is a simple list of where to find the regular Sunday services each week. Please do come even when the service is not in your "regular" church building.

4 January (Epiphany)	St Mary's K	10am	Holy Communion
	St John's	10am	All Together
	St Mary's HP	10am	Holy Communion
11 January	St Mary's K	10am	Holy Communion
	St John's	10am	Holy Communion
18 January	St Mary's K	10am	Open Space
	St John's	10am	Holy Communion
	St Mary's HP	10am	Holy Communion
	St Mary's K	5.30pm	Choral Evensong
25 January	St Mary's K	10am	Joint Parish Communion
1 February (Candlemas)	St Mary's K	10am	Holy Communion
	St John's	10am	All Together
	St Mary's HP	10am	Holy Communion
8 February	St Mary's K	10am	Joint Parish Communion with Confirmation
15 February	St Mary's K	10am	Open Space
	St John's	10am	Holy Communion
	St Mary's HP	10am	Holy Communion
	St Mary's K	5.30pm	Choral Evensong
22 February	St John's	10am	Joint Parish Communion
	St Mary's K	9pm	Compline
1 March	St Mary's K	10am	Holy Communion
	St John's	10am	All Together
	St Mary's HP	10am	Holy Communion
	St Mary's K	9pm	Compline
8 March	St Mary's K	10am	Holy Communion
	St John's	10am	Holy Communion
	St Mary's K	9pm	Compline
15 March	St Mary's K	10am	Open Space
	St John's	10am	Holy Communion
	St Mary's HP	10am	Holy Communion

‘But Who is my neighbour?’: Engaging with Other Faiths in Kidlington

Kidlington is changing in many ways and one of these is the greater diversity of faiths among our neighbours. We also live in challenging political times at home and abroad.

The war between Israel and Palestine affects Jewish, Muslim and Christian relations in our own country, and the handling of legal and illegal immigration and asylum applications influences popular political thought. The Reform party now have a vocal branch in Kidlington.

It was a good question that the lawyer asked Jesus in Luke 10: ‘but who is my neighbour?’, and it prompted Jesus to tell the parable of the good Samaritan. We might ask the same question about those who live in our village and follow other faiths. Who is he really? What does she believe? What does he hold sacred? How does their family live? What is challenging for her? Do we believe the same things or not? Could he be a friend?

An important way of meeting and deepening our understanding of our neighbours of other faiths is through **a local Scriptural Reasoning Group**. These groups are an established way for people of different faiths to come together for friendship, dialogue, and to learn through engaging with each other's scriptures. A small group will meet each month, with a moderator, for 75 minutes and will focus on a topic common to the different scriptures. Together the members read the scriptures and then there is time for discussion and deepening understanding in an atmosphere of respect.

There is no desire here to evangelize or persuade people to change faith, and neither is this a group for the academic study of scripture. Rather this is about building and strengthening community, understanding and trust. In these groups we hope to get to know our neighbours at a deeper level and so play our part in building a positive local community where we know each other and support each other and stand together as people of faith. Where groups become established the bonds of trust and friendship can be immeasurably strong and precious.

You can find out more about scriptural reasoning groups at the web site: www.scripturalreasoning.org or groups have started in Littlemore and Cowley and we are going to trial a new group in Kidlington starting with just two sessions on

1. **Wednesday Jan 7th - Topic: The Hospitality of Abraham**. 5 Muslims and 5 Christians met together for friendship and to read how our scriptures spoke of Abraham and hospitality. This is not about academic dialogue, but about building understanding and community binds of fellowship. We were blessed by everyone's contributions and went away thinking this could be the start of some important friendships. We also learned more about Islam. We will meet again next month on Wednesday Feb 11th at 7pm in the refectory when our topic will be the practices and traditions of fasting. As this is straight before both Lent and Ramadan the topic will be timely. There is room for more people to join so please contact Felicity if you would like to come and see what it is like. These are trial sessions and we will decide together how or if we want to continue.

2. **Wednesday Feb 11th 7pm** in St Mary's refectory

Topic:(In the week before both Ramadan and Lent), **The Practice of Fasting**

If you are interested in exploring being part of this trial group please contact Felicity in the first instance. Official publicity will follow.

PARENTLINKS



Free Parent Support Groups

Parent-focused groups, facilitated by professionally accredited therapists (UKCP/MBACP)

Providing a safe and supportive space to share and talk through the challenges you may be facing with your child

For parents of children with **SEND** or mental health challenges

Mondays

6:30pm - 8pm

For parents of adult children

St Mary's Church
Refectory,
OX5 2AZ

Tuesdays

6pm - 7:30pm

For parents of secondary-school-aged children

St Mary's Church
Refectory,
OX5 2AZ

Thursdays

9:15 - 10:45am

For parents of primary-school-aged children

St Johns Hall,
OX5 1DD

Email Rachel at parentlinkspsg@gmail.com or send a message on our Facebook page



Because parenting with extra needs deserves extra support



www.facebook.com/parentlinkspsg

Generously supported by Oxfordshire County Council, The Diocese of Oxford, & The Joey Beauchamp Foundation

BENEFIT CONCERT

SUNG-WON YANG
ENRICO PACE

CELLO
PIANO

Johannes Brahms

sonatas for cello & piano

Johann Sebastian Bach

sonatas for viola da gamba 1 & 3



Monday 23 February 7:30PM Holywell Music Room

A rare occasion to hear two world-class artists

Free admission. A retiring collection will be made to benefit two Oxford charities:
Oxfordshire Fund for Music - assisting young people with the cost of music tuition
The Gatehouse Oxford - supporting Oxford's homeless community

With thanks to Wadham College and **SULL WON RYANG**
CULTURAL FOUNDATION 설원왕문화재단