



Wishing you a joyous Christmas!

Programme of events in December

Monday
2nd

Christmas Tree Lighting & Carols on the Village Green, 8:30pm

Join Weldon Parish Council, as we light up the Village Green and sing carols. Warm up later with a drink!

Friday
6th

A Celebration of Christmas at St Mary's Church, 7:00pm

The annual money raising Singlehurst Weldon Charitable Trust concert includes music, readings, a raffle and humour. Suitable for all ages.

Light refreshments included in the £10 ticket. Children under 15 free.

Tickets from Paul Kerfoot 01536 268358 or mobile 07436019653. Sue Singlehurst 01536 203649. <https://stmarysweldon.org/singlehurst-trust/>

The proceeds support local recreational groups.

Sunday
8th

Christmas Tree Lighting at Priors Hall Park, 4:00pm

St Mary's Church and Priors Hall Community Church are in partnership with Priors Hall Park Neighbourhood Association for the Christmas tree lighting at Town Gardens, by Sainsburys. Followed by the ever-popular Messy Christmas at Priors Hall Community Centre.

Saturday
14th

Christmas Memory Tree, Weldon Parish Church, 9:30am–4:00pm

Golden cards will be available to remember your loved ones and hang on the tree. There will also be an envelope for your gift for the upkeep and work of the Church. If you would like a card delivered to you, please contact Sandra Whitlam on 01536 265004. **Tea and coffee available.**

The tree will be in church until Sunday 29th December.



Surprised by Christmas

What has been the biggest and best surprise of your life? It seems that in today's world surprises are something to be avoided. We know the gender of a child before it is born, we now tell each other what to get us as presents to avoid getting something wrong. But has that sort of safe living limited our experience of spontaneous joy?

Some 2023 years ago, there was a group of shepherds sitting around a fire, no doubt talking about the hardships they faced under Roman occupation. In a small moment something surprised them – angels appeared, proclaiming “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.” (Luke 2:10).

Surprised and bemused, the shepherds follow the angel's instructions and they find things as they had been told. Suddenly their daily struggles are set aside by the new hope they have found through the child they had visited. This child has given their life in a new and exciting perspective.

The lenses of pessimism are replaced by the spectacle of hope and after such an incredible experience it is hardly surprising. It is recorded that “the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen.” (Luke 2:20a).

Maybe the biggest surprise this Christmas is still waiting for you to discover. If you feel you are missing the joy and wonder of Christmas this year, remember the story of the shepherds. Maybe it is time to reacquire yourself with the Christmas story, so you too can be surprised by Christmas joy. Come and find out why Christmas is cause for celebration in one of our Christmas services, who knows it might be the beginning of the adventure of a lifetime.

I wish you a transformative Christmas.

Blessings

**Vicar Kane,
Rector St Mary's and
Priors Hall Community Church**

**01536 626361
kane@stmarysweldon.org**

ST MARY'S CHURCH
CHRISTMAS SERVICES

8th	4:00pm	Priors Hall Christmas Tree lighting & messy church
15th	10:00am	Nativity
15th	5:00pm	Lessons & carols
22nd	4:00pm	Christingle
24th	11:00pm	Christmas Eucharist
25th	10:00am	Christmas Day Celebration

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas services are held at the Chapel in December at 10:30am	
1st	Advent: Linda and Paul Kerfoot
8th	Joy of Christmas: Reg Darby
15th	Ruth Groome
22nd	Communion
29th	Choose a carol reading for Christmas

