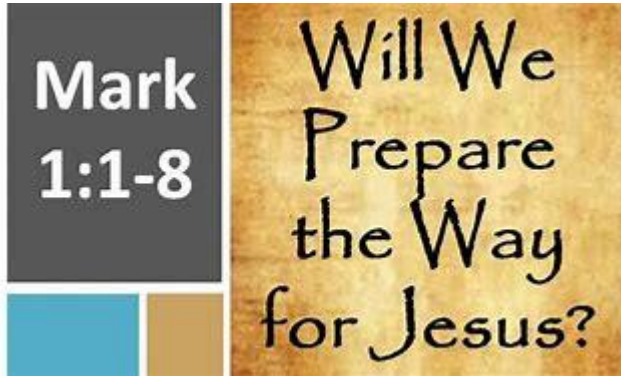




## Reflection



This Sunday, we hear about John the Baptist and how he was a messenger for God, preparing people for the coming of Jesus.

When John the Baptist began to prepare the way for Jesus, it wasn't just for his friends and family. His message was for everyone who would listen.

Prayer is a way that we can prepare for Jesus too. We can also try to be kind and generous to other people and say sorry for all the things that we've done wrong.

We can say sorry in prayer to God, and also we can say sorry to the people we have hurt by our actions.

We can get ready to welcome Jesus by making sure our hearts are full of love and care for other people and by not doing things that hurt others. Whether that's not saying unkind things or making sure we share. We can also make sure that we don't hurt others by taking care of the world so that it's a nice place for everyone to live. We can make sure that we only buy what we need so that there is enough for others. And we can make sure we pay a fair price so that those who grow our food, or make our clothes, or our toys, can earn enough money for themselves and their families.



When you are preparing for Christmas this week, why not think about all the other people around the world who are also getting ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

## Prayer

God of truth, help us to prepare for the coming of your Son and to share the message of your love with others. Amen.

## Family Mass

It was so lovely to see so many of our families at family Mass for the first Sunday of Advent. The church was full and the children read beautifully and brought the gifts and collection very reverently. A lovely start to Advent.

## Advent Workshops

It has been so lovely to see so many family members at our advent workshops so far. Year 1 and Year 2 will have their Advent workshop on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm.**



## NEWSLETTER – 8 December 2023

### Refugee presents and Woolly Hat donations

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December** is the last day for donating presents for refugees and items for the Woolly Hat campaign. The hats are being packed in the morning so if you are able to donate any items, please do so by 9am. We have been asked to collect new; men's socks, men's gloves, shower gel, shaving gel, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, lip balm, disposable razors, small comb, small notepad, pens and chocolate (either a small bar or handful of small chocolates). Any toys for refugees should be wrapped and labelled with the suggested age and gender of the child. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### Nativity tickets

Reception and Key Stage 1 nativity tickets are still on sale at £2 each. All proceeds go towards paying for the cost of the productions. The nativities will be recorded and shared with Reception and Key Stage 1 parents too.

Key Stage 1 Christmas nativity - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/758940259747?aff=oddtcreator>

The Key Stage 1 nativity is on **12 December at 2.15pm.**

Reception nativity - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/758943870547?aff=oddtcreator>

The Reception nativity is on **14 December at 2.30pm.**

### Christmas jumper day



A huge thank you to all the children who brought in £1 and wore their Christmas jumpers today for Save the Children. If you forgot your £1, please bring it in on Monday so we can send the money to this very worthy charity. The children and staff looked very Christmassy!

### Christmas fair

We are looking forward to seeing our parents and family members on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm to attend our Christmas fair. For those who are able to attend, please collect your child from their normal classroom door at **2.25pm**. The entrance to the fair will be through the front hall entrance. Wherever possible, please bring change to play the games and buy the crafts. Everything will start at 50p.

Please indicate by completing this link by **9am on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December** whether you will be collecting your child for the Christmas fair at 2.30pm on 15<sup>th</sup> December in the school hall. This allows us to arrange to take children to the fair who will not be collected. If you do not complete the link, we will assume you are collecting your child. We do appreciate some of our parents are unable to attend due to work commitments. We look forward to seeing you there! <https://forms.office.com/e/vjFq177x2y>.

If anyone has had a clear out of good quality toys, the Mini Vinnies would love to sell these at the Christmas fair. Any donations by **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 9am.**

### Reindeer Run

Your child has already brought home a letter and sponsor form for the Reindeer Run on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Please help us to raise as much money as possible for St George's Crypt. Money should be brought into school by Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, all classes should come to school in their PE kit with antlers!



St.  
George's  
Crypt

## NEWSLETTER – 8 December 2023

### Busy 2 weeks

It is a very busy time over the next 2 weeks so please be aware of the diary dates below.

We look forward to welcoming our Reception and Key Stage one parents for the nativities on 12<sup>th</sup> (KS1) and 14<sup>th</sup> December (KS2) as above. The PTA will be serving hot drinks following the nativities.

We also look forward to our annual Key Stage 2 carol service, led by Year 5, on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm in St Mary's church. All members of our community are warmly invited. Key Stage 2 children are asked to return to school by 4.40pm to their normal classroom doors. Key Stage 2 children should wear their school uniform. If your child is in Dawn til Dusk, you will need to advise them of the above details. Children will then be collected after the carol service from their normal classroom doors. The PTA will be serving hot drinks in the school hall following the carol service.

**There will be a collection at the nativities and the carol service for St George's Crypt. Please bring spare change if you are able to donate to this special local charity.**

### St Mary's Menston

St Mary's Menston has been named among the UK's highest-ranking achieving secondary schools in the Sunday Times Parent Power Guide.

Helen Davies, editor of Parent Power, states, 'The guide showcases academic excellence....this year Parent Power includes details on extracurricular clubs and wellbeing initiatives...'. Schools are ranked academically by performance at A level and GCSE in summer 2023.

St Mary's is listed as 8<sup>th</sup> out of hundreds of secondary schools in the 'Top State Secondary Schools in the North' of the country category. St Mary's is also listed as 5<sup>th</sup> in the 'Top Comprehensive Schools' in the North. We are ranked higher than local secondary schools in our geographical area.

St Mary's Menston are obviously delighted for our staff and students that their hard work has been recognized in this way, along with the high ranking achieved in the DFE School Performance Tables. The hard work and constant striving for excellence which started at primary school and continued into secondary school opens up life chances and allows our BWCAT students to flourish, which is wonderful.

#### Headteacher Awards

Reception – Kara H & Matthew H

Year 1 – Maeve P & Daisy L

Year 2 – Elsie CB & Zena G

Year 3 – Georgie M & Jesse V

Year 4 – Charlotte F & William S

Year 5 – Delia P & Clíodhna KE

Year 6 – Alex G & Mehrsam M

#### Virtue Awards – Hope

Reception – Orla V

Year 1 – Leo A

Year 2 – Maisie D

Year 3 – George T

Year 4 – Freya C

Year 5 – William F

Year 6 – Thomas O'R





## NEWSLETTER – 8 December 2023

Please note changes or additions in red. \*denotes parents welcome

### December

Monday	11		Refugee presents donations close
Monday	11		Woolly Hat Appeal closes
Tuesday	12	2.15pm	Year 1 and Year 2 nativity* collection for St George's Crypt
Wednesday	13		Flu vaccines
Thursday	14	9.15am	Year 6 lead Jesse Tree worship* please note change in year
Thursday	14	2.30pm	Reception nativity* collection for St George's Crypt
Friday	15	2.30pm	Christmas Fair*
Monday	18	5.00pm	Key Stage 2 Carol Service led by Year 5* collection for St George's Crypt
Tuesday	19		Reindeer Run – sponsored event for St George's Crypt – wear PE kit
Tuesday	19	2.00pm	Year 1 and Year 2 Advent workshop*
Wednesday	20	9.15am	Year 3 lead Jesse Tree worship*
Thursday	21		Christmas party day – wear party clothes
Friday	22		Non uniform day – thank you for all charity donations
Friday	22	9.30am	Whole School Mass led by Year 4*
Friday	22	2.30pm	Carols in the hall
Friday	22		School closes

### Parish News

#### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Everyone is welcome to donate towards the Christmas flowers in any of our churches. Offerings can be placed in the collection baskets or poinsettias, plants/flowers can be left in all 3 churches from Monday 18th Dec.

#### CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA!

Father Melaku from the Comboni Missionaries (Verona Fathers) will be talking at all Masses this Sunday 10th December about the development of Nekemte Primary School in western Ethiopia which will provide high quality education to disadvantaged primary and, eventually, high school pupils. The first phase of the building is complete, but the classrooms need to be furnished for the first intake in September 2024. Gifts to help this happen can be purchased for family and friends – see the poster at the back of church. Please pick up an order form or contact Fr Melaku (07572 626887 or melakutafessea@yahoo.com).

#### CHRISTMAS CARDS

Sylvia Wright Christmas Cards are available again this year, at the back of our 3 churches. The cards are £5 for a pack of 10. All proceeds go to support her schools for deaf and disabled in India. Just take whatever cards you want and put the money in one of the envelopes provided and put it on a Saturday or Sunday collection - or just pay online to the account shown on the display. St Mary's piety stall have a selection of boxed or singular cards & small gifts. These can be viewed when the church is open for Mass.

#### SUNDAY MASSES (Saturday Vigil)

Holy Name	6.30pm
St. Mary's	8.15am
Holy Name	9.00am
Assumption	9.45am
St Mary's	11.00am
Holy Name	11.15am