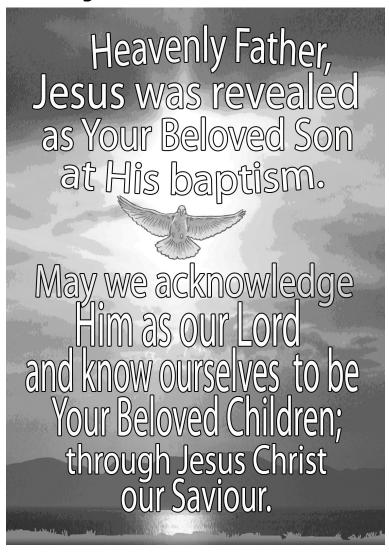
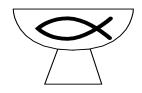
January 2022 30p Upton-cum-Chalvey Parish News

St Mary St Laurence St Peter





Parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey

The Anglican parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey includes St Mary's, St Laurence's and St Peter's churches.

Revd Scott Lamb (Team Rector)	01753 529988
Revd Alistair Stewart (Team Vicar)	01753 520725
Revd Linda Hillier (Associate Minister)	0208 8645728
Parish Churchwarden: Andrea Sparrow	07446 187762
Parish Churchwarden: Lynda Bussley	01753 573614
District Churchwarden (SM): Jean Smith	01753 862357
District Churchwarden (SM): Derek White-Taylor	Ex-dir
District Churchwarden (SL): David Kill	01628 776856
District Churchwarden (SL): Richard Emerson	01753 526325
District Churchwarden (SP): Peter Clarke	07464 718909
District Churchwarden (SP):	
Verger (SL): Allan James	01753 532425
Organist (SM): Malcolm Stowell	01628 660651
Mothers' Union: Julie James	01753 532425

Clergy days off:

Revd Scott Lamb Friday Revd Alistair Stewart Tuesday

Magazine Editor: David Kill

Tel: 01628 776856 E-mail: david.kill@btinternet.com

Web-sites:

https://stmarys-slough.org.uk

https://www.saint-laurence.com

https://www.stpetersslough.org.uk

Fr Alistair Writes:

I write in Advent, and by the time this magazine comes out it will be Christmastide. However, I want to hark back to the period before Advent, the Kingdom season.

In a bit of a departure, but one which might become a tradition, we marked the season with a course, like a Lent course... called the "Kingdom season course" We followed a course from USPG on the five marks of mission.

The five marks of mission derive from various meetings of Anglican theologians and bishops, and define what the mission of Anglican Christians is and should be. These are:

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

To respond to human need by loving service

To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

We read about how the church in Myanmar (which used to be Burma, in case you were wondering) is putting these marks into effect through various projects. Christians in Myanmar are very much in a minority, but they are very active, and pro-active, in seeking to present the Gospel. The course ended by asking us how we might discern and adapt these five marks to our own church context.

The last USPG course we undertook, in Lent, has led us to put climate justice on every agenda for every meeting. I wonder whether we will be doing the same, as meetings of DCCs and PCC start up again after Christmas, this time with a new team rector in post. Looking at the list I think these are all things that we do within our churches, although, as always, there is always room for doing these things better than we do at present...

At Christmas we are reminded that the Word is made flesh. This is a reminder that doing is always more important than talking about doing, but that most important is being... being people for whom the five marks of mission are five marks of character.



JANUARY SERVICES & EVENTS

Regular services at the three churches are listed on the back page

Sun 2nd	4.00pm	Parish Epiphany Carol Service (SP)
Tue 4th	7.30pm	St Mary's DCC Meeting (SM)
Wed 5th	8.00pm	St Peter's DCC Meeting (SP)
Mon 10th	7.30pm	St Laurence's DCC Meeting (SL)
Mon 17th	7.30pm	PCC Meeting (SL)
Sun 30th	11.00am	Christingle Service (SL)

God's fragrance - do people catch a whiff of it on you?

"...and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume." John 12:3

A story runs of how a lady was having tea outside a tea shop late one afternoon, when she became aware of a pleasant scent filling the air. She asked the waiter the source of the scent and was told that it came from the people passing by. He explained that they worked in a perfume factory down the street and were on their way home. When they left the factory, they always carried with them the fragrance that had permeated their clothes during their day's work.

As the perfume workers leave the factory full of the fragrance of where they have been, so we, as we leave our churches and chapels and wherever we spend time with God, are meant to carry the perfume of His presence with us. We are called to spread everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him (2 Corinthians 2:4). If we allow ourselves in worship to be permeated with Christ's love and the sweetness of His presence, then we will be able to take the Jesus in us out into the world.

St Mary's News

News from St. Marys

Life at St Mary's had started to move on very slowly following the easing of restrictions but sadly now since the arrival of the new variant this has not progressed as we had hoped. December is usually our busy month welcoming various schools using the building to host their Carol Concerts but only Long Close have been able to come. Their risk assessment meant that the event was reduced to the recording of the various groups which was then going to be edited and sent to parents. As I am writing this we are expecting Slough Music Service to hold their Carol Concert which will involve various schools and groups attending. However it remains to be seen whether this will actually take place.

We are working with the Community Engagement Group to use the building for an Arts and Crafts Class which they hope to start in January.

Start the Week Mother/carer toddler group is still very active and we have been able to welcome more families each week.

Jean

St Mary's Lunchtime Concerts

Due to the coronavirus pandemic there will be no Saturday Lunchtime Concerts until further notice.

With Epiphany in mind...

I was telling my three boys the story of the Nativity and how the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for the infant Jesus. Clearly giving it a lot of thought, my six-year-old observed, "Mum, a Wise Woman would have brought nappies."

St Laurence's News

We were fortunate that our successful Santa's Special FUNdraising event took place before the Government decided to implement Plan B. Our Gift Day on 5th December raised additional much-needed funds and we ended the year in a better state financially than we could reasonably have hoped for. I would like to thank our loyal group of pledged givers who have maintained their contributions throughout the year.

Children from St Mary's School's Nursery visited the church to sing Christmas songs in two groups on 13th and 14th December and it was great to see so many parents with them.

Our Christingle Service will be held at Candlemas on 30th January 2022

Dave

Remembering Ralph Vaughan Williams

One hundred years ago, on 16th January 1922, Ralph Vaughan Williams' *A Pastoral Symphony* was performed for the first time, in London.

Later designated Symphony No. 3, it was said to be inspired by the composer hearing a bugler practising and is frequently thought of as a memorial for the fallen of the First World War, many of whom Vaughan Williams knew. He later said he saw music as an antidote to a war-torn world.

He was born in 1872: his father was vicar at Down Ampney in Gloucestershire, but he died two years later. His mother, an evangelical Christian, was also the niece of Charles Darwin. This combination of events may have led to his uncertainty in questions of faith: his second wife Ursula said he "drifted into a cheerful agnosticism, but he was never a professing Christian".

Nevertheless, Vaughan Williams frequently attended church, where he found musical inspiration. His first job after graduation was as a church organist, and he wrote many compositions for the Anglican Church, including well known hymn tunes. He edited *The English Hymnal* in 1904 and wrote an opera of *The Pilgrim's Progress*. But he said there was "no reason why an atheist could not write a good Mass".

A Pastoral Symphony received some criticism at first but was later regarded as stunningly beautiful, combing the grace of the wildly popular *The Lark Ascending* with the deep sadness of war.

St Peter's News

November brought our Christmas bazaar... although some much-needed funds were brought in, it was nonetheless disappointing to see how few even of our congregation attended, let alone bringing friends and neighbours. Once again the faithful (and ageing!) few battled on. St Peter's really needs to raise funds constantly, having no historical funds or endowment. We rack our brains for something that will appeal... do you have any ideas.?

Looking ahead, we host the Epiphany service on behalf of the whole parish, including, once again, the blessing of chalk. If you don't know why we bless chalk you will have to come along to find out! 4pm on the 2nd January!

Fr Alistair

Dr Barnardo's Forgotten Children.

In Tower Hamlets Cemetery London, a sculptor, Tom Nicholas, carved a memorial of hands together opening and letting a cockney sparrow fly away freely in honour of 513 of Dr Barnardo's children who died and have unmarked graves. They all had proper funeral services though. The statue was unveiled on December 5th 2016. It cost £10,000, which was raised by one person, Jean Clarke, a former Barnardo's resident.

Alice Sanders

Name a heatwave

The Met Office is considering whether to begin naming heatwaves, as they are becoming more dangerous. Naming them will make the public pay more attention to them, and take them more seriously.

The Met Office says that as the climate warms, so heatwaves will become increasingly likely. Since 2015, storms have been named in alphabetical order between September and August of the next year, based on names submitted by the public.

The record high UK temperature is 38.7C, recorded in Cambridge in 2019. 2020 was a record year for heat-related deaths. In future, 40C heat may become the norm. And the record-breaking 50C heatwaves seen in southern Europe in 2021 would have been 'almost impossible' to have happened without climate change caused by humans.

What the Archbishops say about the C of E

The current state of the Church of England – and its future – was the subject of the joint presidential address to the recent General Synod, delivered by both the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, considered the historical context: "Numerically, the number of regular church goers has shrunk in absolute terms every year since around 1952, 70 years next year. As a percentage of the population of England, the Church of England was at its high point, when there were accurate records, in the 1851 census when we were about 20% of the population. We are today a little less than 2% of the population."

But the picture is not entirely bleak. "The reality is that a huge amount of work is being done at every point of this extraordinary Church for England ... People talk too easily of decline but miss the energy that is spurring us on.

"Internally, we will be looking at reforms and changes aimed at focussing resources where they are most needed, at enabling support for anywhere and everywhere that shows signs of the blessing of the Holy Spirit...

"We have gone through the greatest peacetime challenge in 400 years and emerged forging ahead. Effectiveness is being transformed, training is being rethought to work well in the very different patterns of population that we see today, and even more different that we see in the future.

"The way in which dioceses work together and share resources is being challenged, and will change slowly and gently and consensually.

"Our failures in safeguarding, in racism, in the way we treat those with disabilities ... are being tackled... We are a church that can admit it is wrong, say sorry and try – at least try – to do better."

As for externally the church is not only still educating a million young people across the UK, it is also planting churches in new places, and putting fresh resources into traditional parishes.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, continued the theme.

"Our vision and strategy is for growth. It is not about managing decline gracefully. We want the Church of England to grow. Let us declare the good news of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ and do everything we can to align all of our resources, to make that happen in our local churches, whatever that local church is."

David Bowie and God

It was 75 years ago, on 8th January 1947, that David Bowie, pop/glam rock singer, songwriter and actor, was born in London. He became one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century, dying in 2016.

Born David Robert Jones, he studied art and design before transforming himself into an enigmatic and exploratory singer, specialising in songs about being a misfit and an outsider - sometimes literally, as when, early on, he became Ziggy Stardust - a gender-bending role some Christians found threatening.

But he was always interested in spirituality, though he questioned organised religion. Towards the end, when he had liver cancer, he found comfort in God: the day after he died his wife Iman posted an Instagram message: "The struggle is real, but so is God."

One of Bowie's definitive acting roles was as *The Man Who Fell to Earth*, during which he experienced an occult incident that led him to wear a Cross afterwards. He also collaborated in a kind of sequel, *Lazarus*. He once said: "Searching for music is like searching for God."

Bowie became a musician in 1963, his first major hit being *Space Oddity*, in 1969. He moved into glam rock in the early 70s. His record sales were estimated at over 100 million during his lifetime: he was one of the best-selling artists of all time and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996. After his death the magazine *Rolling Stone* called him "the greatest rock star ever".

Tim Lenton

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Please let me have articles for the February 2022 issue by **Sunday 16th January** at the latest!

Dave

Synod calls on politicians to reduce wealth gap between the rich and the poor

The General Synod has recently called for the Government to reduce the gap between rich and poor after members heard of the 'scandal' of inequality.

The Church of England's national assembly approved a Leeds Diocesan Motion calling on all political parties to adopt an 'explicit policy' of reducing the gap between rich and poor.

Synod members further voted to redouble efforts by the Church of England both at national and local level to respond to need through social action and to tackle 'unjust structures' that contribute to the wealth gap.

Speaking to the General Synod, Father Paul Cartwright, from the Diocese of Leeds, said living costs were rising and real terms disposable income decreasing for the poorest families.

"We cannot expect to be able to write social or fiscal policy on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, or even eradicate the wealth gap," he said. "But what we can be is that genuine voice which speaks about the injustice of such a gap, a gap that leads to reduced opportunity for so many in our country."

The Leeds Diocesan Motion was approved by 342 members with three recorded abstentions and two objections.



General Synod backs moves to allow dioceses more freedom to share historic wealth with poorer dioceses

The General Synod has voted to back moves to lift a restriction on allowing wealthier dioceses to share their historic wealth with poorer dioceses after hearing about inequalities in finances within the Church of England.

Members approved a request to begin the process of drawing up legislation that would give dioceses more freedom to be generous with historic wealth held in Diocesan Stipend Funds (DSF) to help other less well-off dioceses.

Currently, dioceses can only use the funds for certain specified purposes within their dioceses.

The Bishop of Sheffield, Pete Wilcox, Chair of the Church of England's Mutuality in Finances Group, described the move as the 'first step' towards a conversation about the full extent of the inequalities in financial resources between dioceses.

He said: "The legislation we are proposing today would remove an existing restriction on how particular historical endowments in dioceses can be used, giving dioceses more ability, but no obligation, to be generous."



Breathe

You show your majesty In every star that shines, And every time we breathe. Your glory, God revealed From distant galaxies To here beneath our skin.

These words from the song *Magnificent* by Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin speak volumes to me as a scientist. Redman is an astronomy geek who has 'an appreciation for the universe that surrounds us, particularly its unique ability to lift our hearts to see how massive and mysterious God truly is'.*

The microscopic level on the other hand – what goes on 'beneath our skin' – is less available to ordinary people. I have had the privilege of exploring this world to my heart's content, and what I've seen has given me such a sense of awe that I want to share with others.

Every time you breathe, a series of air pockets with a combined surface area the size of a tennis court is bathed with oxygen. These minute air pockets are covered with blood vessels. The boundary between air and blood is so thin that oxygen and carbon dioxide can diffuse freely from one to the other.

When your heart beats at a normal rate, a single red blood cell takes about three quarters of a second to travel through the small blood vessels in your lungs. But in just one third of that time, a quarter of a second, that cell has already received all the oxygen it needs from the air. So, when you exercise, causing your heart rate to increase and the blood to flow faster, you're still getting plenty of oxygen — as long as you keep breathing!

Redman and Myrin wrote in their song, "You are higher than we ever could imagine, And closer than our eyes could ever see." The universe demonstrates God's awesome power. This is a place made by a being whose imagination is not limited by time and space.

Biology, on the other hand, helps to remind me of God's creativity and closeness. I am a product of a long and painstaking process of continued development over aeons of time. Beneath my skin are incredibly detailed, beautifully regulated processes that give me life. Jesus said that 'even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.' The knowledge that God intentionally made me and knows every detail of my physiology is both amazing and humbling.

*Indescribable: Encountering the Glory of God in the Beauty of the Universe, Matt Redman & Louis Giglio (David C. Cook, 2011)

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz

Church carbon footprint tool data update

One in 14 Church of England churches are now reporting 'net zero' carbon emissions, according to the latest data from the Energy Footprint Toolkit (EFT).

The number of churches edged upwards from 4% to 7% between 2019 and 2020.

General Synod has committed the Church to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. The scope of this aim was detailed in 2020, and the EFT enables measuring the emissions of all buildings in scope.

Dr John Thompson, Bishop of Selby and chair of the Net Zero Carbon Subcommittee group, said:

"The rise in numbers of net zero churches reflects that more and more parishes are utilising pre-approved renewable suppliers and addressing the big and small measures which can be taken to reduce carbon impacts.

"This is a positive early step in our ambitious journey to a wholly net zero carbon Church by 2030.

Among the churches with net zero carbon, just under 80% were using wholly renewable electricity tariffs.

Animals vanishing from literature as well as nature

How many works of literature still contain references to animals? A study of 16,000 works, written between 1705 and 1969, and including books such as Goethe's *Faust* and Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, has found that even in literature, animals are fading towards extinction.

Professors at Leipzig's Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research found that 1830 was the high point for biodiversity in literature. They believe that the steady decline since then is due to a "consequence of humans increasing alienation from nature."

Authors such as William Makepeace Thackeray and Robert Louis Stevenson were found to have the richest vocabulary when referring to nature. But after 1830, there was a marked decline in the description of animals, with usually only basic words like 'horse' or 'dog' to be found. After 1955, there is an especially sudden decline in references to nature, and especially any linguistic richness.



On parish accounts, teapots and Labrador retrievers

The Rectory St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Your annual accounts – all 146 pages, bound in their plastic covers and laid out in faultless detail – really are most impressive. I was rather envious to note you have a clergy 'discretionary fund'; if I were to be given such a thing, my cellar of claret would improve immeasurably – although that is perhaps the reason why I am not given one.

The size of your office expenses makes me wonder if you have a staff rivalling that of the European Community. I suppose that at least you are doing your bit for job creation. Our dear Miss Marigold, who spends two hours a week randomly filing pieces of paper, mistyping rotas and failing to re-order stationery, is only rewarded by being the first to find out who are booking marriages and having their babies baptised – and if they do not happen in that order, that will be another piece of information remembered for future use. All this is information beyond the price of jewels in village communities.

Our accounts have more by way of charm than they do of accuracy, generally consisting of one sheet of handwritten paper. There are only ever three copies for circulation, as that is the limit of Colonel Denster's carbon paper. It seems to be an unalterable tradition that they never balance, until we find the following year that the missing £20 was found months later under the teapot on the mantelpiece. One footnote to this was the occasion when the Colonel suspected an unaccountable £5 had been eaten by his Labrador. Our greatest expenses by far are categorised as 'miscellaneous', which is a catch-all for everything that our treasurer is unable to recall where it really went.

The thousands paid on church maintenance and diocesan fees are nodded through without comment – but if the money spent on Easter lilies or packets of tea for the Summer Fete increases by anything more than 50 pence, there will be much agonised debate and speculation about whether this is an indication of money laundering.

I see that your accounts were professionally audited. Fortunately, it does not matter too much about the accuracy of our own, as I have an arrangement with our auditor who lives in the village: if he refuses to sign them off, then I refuse to baptise his grandchildren.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



"We're looking for something to help us survive our church's early morning Winter sevices"

19th January: Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester 1095

Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester from 1062 to 1095, occupies a unique place in British church history.

He was the last surviving pre-Conquest bishop, the first bishop to pay homage to William the Conqueror after the battle of Hastings, and one of the few Saxons to keep high office to the end of William's reign. On top of that, he seems to have been a truly good and holy man.

Wulfstan was born about 1008 at Long Itchington, Warwickshire. His uncle was Archbishop of York, and through his help, Wulfstan studied at the monasteries of Evesham and in Peterborough. Because of his Christian dedication, his superiors recommended him for the priesthood. Wulfstan was ordained in 1038 and joined a Benedictine monastery at Worcester.

Wulfstan was appointed prior of the monastery and from 1034 also served as the parish priest of Hawkesbury, Gloucestershire. He was made bishop of Worcester in 1062.

As a bishop, Wulfstan made some significant contributions to the English church. He had a passion for pastoral care and was the first English bishop to be known to have made a complete visitation of his diocese. He was a gifted administrator, increasing the effectiveness of his archdeacons.

He was highly influential in monastic reform, overseeing laws and canons to reform the role of the clergy.

He was a powerful preacher – with a great gift for explaining the teaching of Christianity. He encouraged a wider understanding of public penitence and taught against the many pagan customs throughout the land.

He had a strong social conscience, and soon became a bitter opponent of the slave trade. Together with Lanfranc, Wulfstan was mainly responsible for ending the slave trade in Bristol, and also for abolishing the slave trade between Worcester diocese and Ireland.

He had a passion for buildings, and founded Great Malvern Priory, as well as overseeing the large-scale rebuilding of Worcester Cathedral, Hereford Cathedral, and Tewkesbury Abbey.

Wulfstan died in January 1095, apparently during his daily ritual of washing the feet of 12 of his parishioners.

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Mt 14:13-22, Mk6:45-52, Jn5:16-21 After Jesus had fed the crowd, hesent his disciples off in their boat and the crowd away. He went up the mountain to pray.





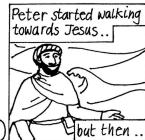


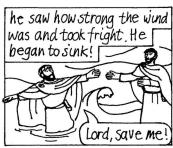




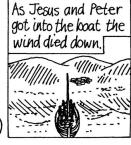


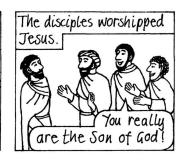


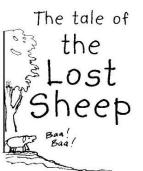












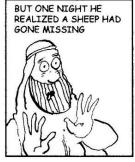




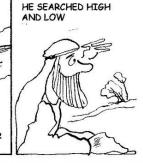


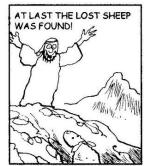


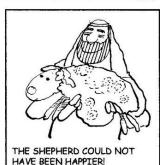


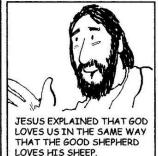






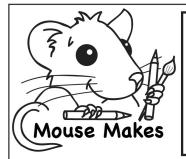






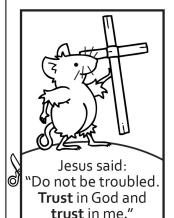
17

CHILDREN'S PAGE



But I **trust**in you,
O Lord;
I say,
"You are
my God."

Psalm 31:14



Cut out and colour these cards to help you to remember to trust in God.

John 14:1

When I am afraid I will **trust** you, I praise God for His word, I **trust** God, so I am not afraid. Psalm 56:3-4



The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who **trust** in Him. Nahum 1:7



Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways **submit** to Him and He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6



Jan22 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk



UPTON-CUM-CHALVEY / LANGLEY BRANCH PROGRAMME

All are open meetings and are joint meetings unless otherwise stated

Meetings with a talk, either:

Third Wednesday of the month at St Laurence's Upton. Coffee and chat at 10.15am. A short service at 10.45am. Talk at 11.00am followed by a light lunch. **OR**

Third Monday of the month at St Mary's Church Centre, Langley, 2.00pm

First Tuesday of the month: 2.30-4.00pm "Mulling It Over": Tea, Study and Prayer Group led by Revd Linda Hillier (see notice sheet for venues), open to all.

Second Thursday of the month at St Laurence's: 10.00am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion

Due to the coronavirus pandemic there will be no meetings until further notice.





Here to take away the worry of finding the right care

Hub Care Support is here to help you find the best care and support by introducing you to high quality, approved, Personal Assistants (PAs). We are not an agency, we're a free service that supports you to have choice and control over your care.



01628 272 327 | www.hubcaresupport.co.uk

E Sargeant & Son Funeral Directors

Serving families in Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead since 1712.

Slough

01753 520 081 40 Church Street SL1 1PI

Maidenhead

01628 783 738 118 High Street SL6 1PT

Windsor

01753 865 982 61 St Leonards Road SL4 3BX

Call us for immediate support, advice or a home visit. We are here to help 24 hours a day.





21



Arnold Funeral Service

273 Farnham Road

Slough

01753 535556

Offices also in Loudwater, Marlow, Gerrards Cross & High Wycombe

- Traditional and Alternative Funerals
- 24 Hour Attendance
- Pre-Payment Plans



www.arnold-funerals.co.uk

SERVICES IN THE PARISH

St Mary's Church, Church Street, Slough, SL1 1PJ

Sunday: 9.30am Family Eucharist with children's groups.

6.30pm Evensong/Evening Prayer (BCP)

Tuesday: 10.00am Eucharist Wednesday: 12.30pm Eucharist

St Laurence's Church, Upton Court Road, Upton, Slough, SL3 7LU

Sunday: 11.00am Family Eucharist with children's group.

Thursday: 10.00am Holy Communion

St Peter's Church, Church Street, Chalvey, Slough, SL1 2NL

Sunday: 9.30am Family Eucharist with children's groups.

Wednesday: 9.30am Holy Communion

Websites:

https://stmarys-slough.org.uk

https://www.saint-laurence.com

https://www.stpetersslough.org.uk