



To give to  
St Mary's

# St Mary's Link



ST MARY'S  
SHIREHAMPTON

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023

“ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you? “

## Upcoming Diary

**TODAY**



**8.30am** – Rise & Shine – breakfast and short service for families

**10.30am** – Holy Communion  
Rev Alison Sowton

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup>**

**9am** - Morning Prayer

**10am – 12pm** Coffee Morning

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>**

**10am – 12pm** Coffee Morning



**7.30pm** – Shirehampton Area Choir rehearsal for Christmas performance

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>**

**10am – 12pm** Coffee Morning

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>**

**11am** Holy Communion Service  
Rev Duncan Jennings

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**10 – 11am** Coffee Morning (*early finish*)

**12.30pm** Funeral of Edward Pritchard

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**10am – 12pm** Coffee Morning

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>**



**9.45am** – Combined Family Service with Holy Communion  
Rev Alison Sowton  
Amy Boucher

## Save the Date – at St Mary's Shirehampton

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September** – Autumn Fayre, including barbecue, cakes, jams, crafts, knits, raffle, tombola, books and games. If you are able to help in any way, please talk to Mary Powell.



**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Fayre - more details will follow.



On **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 10am**, we will hold our combined Harvest Festival at St Mary's, so please note the different start time of 10am.

Donations of non-perishable items for the Bristol North West Foodbank would be most welcome, or cash donations towards a discretionary fund to support families in crisis.



**The Bereavement Journey** returns in October and is a course led by Alison. This time it will take place on **Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 to 4.30pm from October 10<sup>th</sup> at St Andrew's Church, Avonmouth.**

This is a 6-week course with an optional 7<sup>th</sup> week added on at the end. The course is free to attend and is for anyone who has been bereaved at any time and in any way. If you would like to find out more or to book your place, please contact the church office – you can leave a phone message or email [office@stmarysshire.org](mailto:office@stmarysshire.org)

If you feel this would be helpful to someone you know, please pass on our details to them. Topics include: impact and pain in bereavement; anger and guilt; coping with others' reactions; delayed & suppressed grief; adjusting to change.

## ALFA Christian Community

**Every Wednesday afternoon, 2.30-4.30pm** Drop-in for cream tea and a chat at Fullgrove House/Garden. All welcome.

**For your prayers:** Janet S, Maureen M, Sheila S, Julie M, Alexandra, Logan, Solveig G, Ron B, Cora H, Vicki C, Sue S, Janet C, Maureen G, Graham.

**From our Parish Prayer list for September** – Home Ground, Broadleaze, Penpole Lane, Penpole Close.



**Vicar:** Revd Alison Sowton – 330 3452 / 0773 971 2548 – [revalison@stmarysshire.org](mailto:revalison@stmarysshire.org)  
**Churchwardens:** Mrs Anne Ford – 982 1675; Mr Richard Powell – 07929 028 777  
**Head Verger:** Mrs Jill Eynon – 982 4349  
**Church Office:** 9077026 **email:** [stmarysshirehampton@outlook.com](mailto:stmarysshirehampton@outlook.com) **Organist:** Mr Tim Forder 923 5895  
Work hours: Mon to Thurs 9.30am – 2.30pm

**Voluntary**

Fantasia on I will lift up mine eyes  
M Archer

**Hymns**

A new commandment  
Faithful One, so unchanging  
Jesus Christ is waiting

**Communion**

Loving shepherd of thy sheep P Ledger  
Shout to the North

**Voluntary**

A Thornbury fanfare M Archer

**Collect**

Lord God,  
defend your Church from all false teaching  
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,  
that we may enjoy eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Post Communion Prayer**

Lord God,  
you feed us with the living bread from heaven;  
renew our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen  
our love.  
Teach us to hunger for Christ who is the true and  
living bread,  
and to live by every word that comes from your  
mouth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Romans 14: 1 – 12**

<sup>1</sup> Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. <sup>2</sup> Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup> Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup> Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup> We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup> Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. <sup>11</sup> For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.'

<sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

**Matthew 18: 21 - 35**

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

<sup>23</sup> 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup> and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." <sup>29</sup> Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." <sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" <sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

**Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Epistle: Philippians 1: 21 - end

Gospel: Matthew 20: 1 - 16