



To give to St Mary's

# St Mary's Link



ST MARY'S  
SHIREHAMPTON

**First Sunday of Lent**

"It is not just bread that keeps people alive. Their lives depend on what God says."

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026**

## This week



**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**10:30am** – Worship for All with Holy Communion  
Rev Alison Sowton

**9:30am** Morning Prayer

**10am – 12pm** Coffee Morning

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>**

**10am – 12pm** Coffee Morning

**PCC MEETING**

**7pm** PCC meeting at the Tithe Barn

**Wed'sday 25<sup>th</sup>**

**10am – 12pm** Coffee Morning

*Lent Course*

**7:15 – 9:15 pm** 'The Chosen' film with related Bible Study at the Vicarage  
(please let Alison know if you intend coming to this session)

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>**

**11am** Holy Communion Service  
Rev Alison Sowton

*Lent Course*

**2 – 4pm** 'The Chosen' film with related Bible Study at St Mary's Shire

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup>**

**WELCOME**

**10am – 2pm** Hot Drinks & Welcoming Space with food available (grant-funded).



**6:30pm** Shirehampton Area Choir rehearsal

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>**

**10am – 12pm** Coffee Morning

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>**



**10:30am** – Sung Eucharist  
Rev Alison Sowton



**5 – 6pm** St Edyth's, Sea Mills



**AVONSIDE MISSION AREA**

Avonmouth - Lawrence Weston - Sea Mills - Shirehampton - Stoke Bishop

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 5-6pm @ St Edyth's Sea Mills

Worship and prayer to the Lord in an informal setting.

## ASMA Lent Course 2026 – 'The Chosen'

The ASMA Churches are following the same material throughout Lent, giving everyone the flexibility to attend whichever sessions suit them best.

St Mary's Shire is hosting 2 sessions each week, featuring episodes from the film "The Chosen" along with related Bible study. These sessions start on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 7:15 – 9:15 @ the Vicarage** and for the following 4 Wednesdays & Thursday, and you can choose which day you would like to attend.

Please check the websites of the other ASMA Churches to find out when their sessions are running. If you are planning on attending the Wednesday session, please let Alison or the office know so that we ensure there is enough space for everyone.

**The Bereavement Journey**, a course led by Alison, will take place on **Thursday afternoons at 2 to 4pm from April 30<sup>th</sup> at St Mary's Church, Shirehampton**. This is a 6-week course with an optional 7<sup>th</sup> week added at the end. The course is free to attend and is for anyone who has been bereaved at any time and in any way. To find out more or to book your place, please contact the church office – you can leave a phone message on 0117 907 7026 or email [office@stmarysshire.org](mailto:office@stmarysshire.org) Please share details with those you think will be interested.

Please note that we will be **closed from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March** for maintenance work on our floors ahead of delivery of our new chairs. There will be no coffee mornings on those days, but we aim to minimise any disruption. We will open for our service on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March and Welcome Space will take place as usual on 13<sup>th</sup> March.

**For your prayers:** Maureen M, Muriel V, John C, Peter L, Ian H, Genevieve, Dot, Sue S, Owen T, Paul, Jean E, Kate, Pam, Marilyn, Ron B, Claire B.

## From our Parish Prayer list for February

Dursley Road, Coaley Road, Hung Road, Churchdown Walk, Charbury Walk, Stroud Road, Kemble Gardens, Winchcombe Grove, Woodwell Road, Valerian Close, The Cotswold Community Centre.



**Vicar:** Revd Alison Sowton – 330 3452 / 0773 971 2548 – [revalison@stmarysshire.org](mailto:revalison@stmarysshire.org)  
**Churchwarden & Safeguarding:** Sharon Viney 0779 5800 366 [safeguarding@stmarysshire.org](mailto:safeguarding@stmarysshire.org)  
**Youth Worker:** Amy Boucher [youthminister@stmarysshire.org](mailto:youthminister@stmarysshire.org) **Ops Manager:** Gosia [ops@stmarysshire.org](mailto:ops@stmarysshire.org)  
**Head Verger:** Jill Eynon – 982 4349 **Organist:** Tim Forder 923 5895  
**Church Office:** 9077026 email: [stmarysshirehampton@outlook.com](mailto:stmarysshirehampton@outlook.com) Work hours: Tues to Thurs 9.30am – 4pm

**Songs**      Before the throne of God above  
The Spirit lives to set us free  
How great is our God

**Prayer after Communion:**

God has called us to journey for a season  
through the wilderness places;

**And so, as Jesus did before us,  
we will set out once more to wander in an uncomfortable landscape  
and wrestle with its challenges,  
that through the tempering action of the Spirit,  
we may emerge ready to do the work of the Kingdom. Amen**

**Matthew 4: 1 - 11**

<sup>4</sup> Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert. He was taken there to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> Jesus ate nothing for 40 days and nights. After this, he was very hungry. <sup>3</sup> The devil came to tempt him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these rocks to become bread."

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, "The Scriptures say,  
'It is not just bread that keeps people alive.  
Their lives depend on what God says.'"

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil led Jesus to the holy city of Jerusalem and put him on a high place at the edge of the Temple area. <sup>6</sup> He said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, jump off, because the Scriptures say,  
'God will command his angels to help you,  
and their hands will catch you,  
so that you will not hit your foot on a rock.'"

<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"

<sup>8</sup> Then the devil led Jesus to the top of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and all the wonderful things in them. <sup>9</sup> The devil said, "If you will bow down and worship me, I will give you all these things."

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Get away from me, Satan! The Scriptures say,  
'You must worship the Lord your God.  
Serve only him!'"

<sup>11</sup> So the devil left him. Then some angels came to Jesus and helped him.

**Second Sunday of Lent – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March**