



To give to St Mary's

# St Mary's Link



ST MARY'S  
SHIREHAMPTON

Second Sunday of Lent

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026

“ so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life “

## This week



10:30am – Sung Eucharist  
Rev Alison Sowton



5 – 6pm St Edyth's, Sea Mills

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>

9:30am Morning Prayer

10am – 12pm Coffee Morning

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

10am – 12pm Coffee Morning

Wed'sday 4<sup>th</sup>

10am – 12pm Coffee Morning

1pm Funeral of Marilyn Green

*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 5<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 6<sup>th</sup>

**WELCOME**

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



6:30pm Shirehampton Area Choir rehearsal

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>

10am – 12pm Coffee Morning

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>



8:30am Rise & Shine 'Mary's Munchies' Breakfast



10:30am – Holy Communion  
Rev Alison Sowton  
*If you can stay and help move chairs and tables after the service, that would be appreciated.*



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 will be on

**Wednesdays** 7:15 – 9:15 @ the Vicarage

**Thursdays** 2 – 4pm @ St Mary's Shire throughout Lent, 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.

To help us manage rising costs, we've made the difficult decision to increase the suggested donation for hot drinks and a biscuit to £2. We know this is a change, and we want to reassure you that we remain committed to offering a warm, welcoming space for everyone. Your contribution helps us continue providing a friendly place to gather, chat and enjoy some refreshment together. If you're able to support us at this new level, we're truly grateful. Thank you for your understanding and for being part of our community.

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 hope to 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 Owen T, Paul, Jean E, Kate, Pam, Marilyn, Ron B, Claire B.

**From our Parish Prayer list for March**  
The Portway



**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

**Voluntary Hymns** Lenten Litany Andrew Moore  
All my hope on God is founded  
I give You all the honour  
Jesus Christ is waiting

**Communion Hymn** Be thou my vision Bob Chilcott  
Stand up stand up for Jesus

**Voluntary** Prelude on Ps 137 vs 1 A Fletcher

**Collect**  
Almighty God,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent  
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,  
and by following in his Way  
come to share in his glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**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**

**Psalm 121**

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?  
2 My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.  
3 He will not suffer your foot to stumble; he who watches over you will not sleep.  
4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.  
5 The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand,  
6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, neither the moon by night.  
7 The Lord shall keep you from all evil; it is he who shall keep your soul.  
8 The Lord shall keep watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth for evermore.

**John 3: 1 – 17**

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**Third Sunday of Lent – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March**