



To give to  
St Mary's

# St Mary's Link



ST MARY'S  
SHIREHAMPTON

Fourth Sunday of Advent

"She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus"

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025

## This week

No 'Rooted' service this morning



**10:30am** – Holy Communion  
Rev Alison Sowton  
*If you can, please stay after the service to help set up for this evening's service*



**7pm** – Longest Night Service

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**9:30am** Morning Prayer

**10am – 12pm** Coffee Morning

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**10am – 12pm** Coffee Morning

**Christmas Eve**

**10am – 12pm** Coffee Morning



**4pm** Crib Service combining the joy of the Nativity with the fun of the zoo!  
*Come dressed as a Nativity character to join the fun.*



**11:30pm** Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day**

**10am** Holy Communion for Christmas  
Rev Alison Sowton  
*Please note earlier start time*

**Church closed from Friday 26<sup>th</sup> except for**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>**

**10:30am** ASMA Service – Communion for Everyone  
Rev Duncan Jennings



**Church closed – re-opens 3rd Jan**

**New Year's Day**

**Church closed today**

**2 – 6 pm** - Drop in at the Vicarage (8 Priory Gardens, BS11 0BZ), where Alison & Derek would love to welcome you for soup, cake and company.



**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**10am – 12pm** Coffee Morning

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>**

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



## A Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone

Rev Alison and our warden, Sharon would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who has given their time and commitment to various roles and tasks throughout the year. Your efforts and support are very much appreciated.



We hope you all have a restful time over the Christmas period.

**Please note the church is shut from Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December and will reopen on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January for our Coffee Morning.**

**We will be open for Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December for the ASMA service taking place here.**

**Welcoming Space resumes from Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Please bring any flowers for the Memorial Chapel by Christmas Day.**



**ALFA Christian Community**

**Wednesday 2:30-4:30 drop-ins** continue apart from Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

**1<sup>st</sup> January – ALFA Gathering – 2pm** at Fulligrove House, BS11 9UG for a walk, 4pm tea & cakes, 5pm prayer, 6.30pm meal. Please let them know if you like to join them for tea & cakes and/or prayer. Tel 01179826455 or email [info@alfacc.org.uk](mailto:info@alfacc.org.uk).



Donations have been made to Alive Activities, The Children's Society and UNICEF (Gaza Fund) as part of our 2025 giving. Thanks for all your suggestions.

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

**From our Parish Prayer list for December**

Penpole Lane, Shirehampton Road,  
and all our Churches



**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 **Lay Worker:** Nat Clark – [nat@stmarysshire.org](mailto:nat@stmarysshire.org) **Organist:** Tim Forder 923 5895  
**Church Office:** 9077026 email: [stmarysshirehampton@outlook.com](mailto:stmarysshirehampton@outlook.com) Work hours: Tues to Thurs 9.30am – 4pm

<b>Voluntary Hymns</b>	Pastoral symphony from Messiah G F Handel Crown him with many crowns Infant holy, infant lowly Tell out my soul
<b>Communion Hymn</b>	This is the truth sent from above From the squalor of a borrowed stable
<b>Voluntary</b>	1st of two Christmas pieces F Mendelssohn

### **The Collect:**

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this present  
age to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Post Communion Prayer:**

**Almighty God, by whose command time runs its course;  
forgive our impatience, perfect our faith,  
and, while we wait for the fulfilment of your promises,  
grant us to have a good hope because of your word;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## **Isaiah 7: 10 – 17**

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup> The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.’

## **Matthew 1: 18 - 25**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel’,  
which means, ‘God is with us.’ <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**Midnight Mass: Isaiah 52: 7 - 10 & John 1: 1 - 14**  
**Christmas Day: Isaiah 9: 2 - 7 & Luke 2: 1 - 14**  
**28<sup>th</sup> December: Isaiah 9: 2 & 6, Luke 2: 15 - 20**  
**4<sup>th</sup> January: Isaiah 60: 1 – 6 & Matthew 2: 1 - 12**