



To give to St Mary's

St Mary's Link



ST MARY'S
SHIREHAMPTON

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday 22nd March 2026

" And everyone who lives and believes in me will never really die "

This week



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

Monday 23rd

Church closed for service

Tuesday 24th

10am – 12pm Coffee Morning

Wed'sday 25th

10am – 12pm Coffee Morning

Lent Course

7:15 – 9:15 pm 'The Chosen' film with related Bible Study at Church
(please note change of venue this week)

Thursday 26th

11am Holy Communion Service
Rev Duncan Jennings

Lent Course

2 – 4pm 'The Chosen' film with related Bible Study at Church

Friday 27^h

WELCOME

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



6:30pm Shirehampton Area Choir rehearsal

Saturday 28th

10am – 12pm Coffee Morning

Sunday 29th



10:30am – Holy Communion for Palm Sunday
Rev Alison Sowton

Our Holy Week and Easter Services and Events

Stations of the Cross on Monday 30th March, Tuesday 31st March, Wednesday 1st April 11am

Maundy Thursday 2nd April – there is no Holy Communion service here as we join the 10:30am service at Bristol Cathedral

Good Friday 3rd April 2pm – Last Hour Service
(No Coffee Morning and no Warm Space today)

Holy Saturday 4th April 2:30pm – Shirehampton Area Choir presentation for Passiontide and Easter, based on 'The Cross of Christ'. Includes music and readings.
(No Coffee Morning today)

Easter Sunday 6th April

6:20am Easter Sunrise Service in Churchyard with fire pit. This will be followed by breakfast butties.

10:30am Family Friendly Easter Service with Easter Egg Hunt afterwards. Don't forget to bring your entries for the Easter Sunday Bonnet decorating competition to this service for a chance to win a prize! Categories for young children, older children and adults too!

Easter Monday – Church closed for the Bank Holiday

The Bereavement Journey, a course led by Alison, will take place on **Thursday afternoons at 2 to 4pm from April 30th at St Mary's Church, Shirehampton**. This is a 6-week course with an optional 7th 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 Please share details with those you think will be interested.

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, Lucy.

Recently bereaved:

Please pray for the family and friends of Claire Bush. We have not heard any details of her funeral yet.

From our Parish Prayer list for March

The Portway



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

John 11: 1 - 45

11 There was a man named Lazarus who was sick. He lived in the town of Bethany, where Mary and her sister Martha lived. ² (Mary is the same woman who put perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) Mary's brother was Lazarus, the man who was now sick. ³ So Mary and Martha sent someone to tell Jesus, "Lord, your dear friend Lazarus is sick."

⁴ When Jesus heard this he said, "The end of this sickness will not be death. No, this sickness is for the glory of God. This has happened to bring glory to the Son of God." ⁵ Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days ⁷ and then said to his followers, "We should go back to Judea."

⁸ They answered, "But Teacher, those Jews there tried to stone you to death. That was only a short time ago. Now you want to go back there?"

⁹ Jesus answered, "There are twelve hours of light in the day. Whoever walks in the day will not stumble and fall because they can see with the light from the sun. ¹⁰ But whoever walks at night will stumble because there is no light."

¹¹ Then Jesus said, "Our friend Lazarus is now sleeping, but I am going there to wake him."

¹² The followers answered, "But, Lord, if he can sleep, he will get well." ¹³ They thought Jesus meant that Lazarus was literally sleeping, but he really meant that Lazarus was dead.

¹⁴ So then Jesus said plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ And I am glad I was not there. I am happy for you because now you will believe in me. We will go to him now."

¹⁶ Then Thomas, the one called "Twin," said to the other followers, "We will go too. We will die there with Jesus."

¹⁷ Jesus arrived in Bethany and found that Lazarus had already been dead and in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was about two miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Many Jews had come to see Martha and Mary. They came to comfort them about their brother Lazarus.

²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to greet him. But Mary stayed home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you anything you ask."

²³ Jesus said, "Your brother will rise and be alive again."

²⁴ Martha answered, "I know that he will rise to live again at the time of the resurrection on the last day."

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection. I am life. Everyone who believes in me will have life, even if they die. ²⁶ And everyone who lives and believes in me will never really die. Martha, do you believe this?"

²⁷ Martha answered, "Yes, Lord. I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God. You are the one who was coming to the world."

²⁸ After Martha said these things, she went back to her sister Mary. She talked to Mary alone and said, "The Teacher is here. He is asking for you." ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she stood up and went quickly to Jesus. ³⁰ He had not yet come into the village. He was still at the place where Martha met him. ³¹ The Jews who were in the house comforting Mary saw her get up and leave quickly. They thought she was going to the tomb to cry there. So they followed her. ³² Mary went to the place where Jesus was. When she saw him, she bowed at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³ When Jesus saw Mary crying and the people with her crying too, he was very upset and deeply troubled. ³⁴ He asked, "Where did you put him?"

They said, "Lord, come and see."

³⁵ Jesus cried.

³⁶ And the Jews said, "Look! He loved Lazarus very much!"

³⁷ But some of them said, "Jesus healed the eyes of the blind man. Why didn't he help Lazarus and stop him from dying?"

³⁸ Again feeling very upset, Jesus came to the tomb. It was a cave with a large stone covering the entrance. ³⁹ He said, "Move the stone away."

Martha said, "But, Lord, it has been four days since Lazarus died. There will be a bad smell." Martha was the sister of the dead man.

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said to her, "Remember what I told you? I said that if you believed, you would see God's divine greatness."

⁴¹ So they moved the stone away from the entrance. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you heard me. ⁴² I know that you always hear me. But I said these things because of the people here around me. I want them to believe that you sent me." ⁴³ After Jesus said this he called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out. His hands and feet were wrapped with pieces of cloth. He had a handkerchief covering his face.

Jesus said to the people, "Take off the cloth and let him go."

⁴⁵ There were many Jews who came to visit Mary. When they saw what Jesus did, many of them believed in him.

Palm Sunday – Sunday 29th March

First Reading: Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-end

Gospel: Matthew 21: 1 – 11