



To give to St Mary's

# St Mary's Link



ST MARY'S  
SHIREHAMPTON

Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026

“ those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty “

## This week



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

**10:30am** – Holy Communion  
Rev Alison Sowton

*Please stay and help move chairs & tables after the service if you can.*

**4.45-5.30pm** Songs of Praise Café at the Community Centre, Dursley Rd BS11 9XH. *Trevor Hearn will talk about his work in the Mission to Seafarers.*

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Church closed** for replacing chairs and floor maintenance

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Church closed** for replacing chairs and floor maintenance

**Wed'sday 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Church closed** for replacing chairs and floor maintenance

**Mothers UNION**

**2pm** Mothers' Union at the Tithe Barn

*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 12<sup>th</sup>**

**11am** Holy Communion Service  
Rev Tina Hodgett

*Lent Course*

**2 – 4pm** 'The Chosen' film with related Bible Study at the **Vicarage**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**

**WELCOME**

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



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

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>**

**10am – 12pm** Coffee Morning *with informal crafting group*

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>**



**10am** – Mothering Sunday Café Service for all ages to celebrate all the women who have shaped our lives. **Please note the earlier start time.**

## ASMA Lent Course 2026 – 'The Chosen'

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.

If you are planning on attending the Wednesday session, please let Alison know.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 12 – 2pm** Global Bring & Share Community Feast:

Bring a family favourite go-to dish or try your hand at a recipe from a different country and join us for food, warmth, social time, a global quiz & children's activity area. Please help us spread the invitation far and wide.

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.

## ALFA Christian Community

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 10.30am-12.30pm** Quiet Garden Morning at Fulligrove House, Woodwell Road, BS11 9UG. The theme is "Wisdom and humility". All welcome.

**Drop-ins** – every Wednesday, 2.30-4.30pm at Fulligrove House, Woodwell Road, BS11 9UG. All welcome.

**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 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

**Collect:** Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in 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 95

1 O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.  
2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving and be glad in him with psalms.  
3 For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods.  
4 In his hand are the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains are his also.  
5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have moulded the dry land.  
6 Come, let us worship and bow down and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
7 For he is our God; we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.  
8 O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, on that day at Massah in the wilderness,  
9 'When your forebears tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my works.  
10 'Forty years long I detested that generation and said,  
"This people are wayward in their hearts; they do not know my ways."  
11 'So I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter into my rest."

#### John 4: 5 - 42

<sup>5</sup>So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.  
<sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.  
<sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. <sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'  
<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.'  
Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'  
<sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' <sup>28</sup>Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup>'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' <sup>30</sup>They left the city and were on their way to him.  
<sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' <sup>32</sup>But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' <sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup>Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup>The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'  
<sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

### Mothering Sunday – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Gospel: Luke 2: 33 - 35