



To give to
St Mary's

St Mary's Link



ST MARY'S
SHIREHAMPTON

Third Sunday of Advent

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

Sunday 14th December 2025

This week



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



10:30am – Holy Communion
Rev Alison Sowton



6pm – Candelit Carol Service – mince pies, mulled wine & hot chocolate available after the service. All welcome.

Monday 15th

9:30am Morning Prayer

10am – 12pm Coffee Morning

Tuesday 16th



10am – 12pm Coffee Morning

4pm Christmas Movie Pop Up for children, with an adult per family please. Christmas movie, popcorn & snack bar, board games. Free event

Wed'sday 17th



10am – 12pm Coffee Morning

6-7pm Carols by Disco Light – sing along & dance to remixed versions of carols. Refreshments. Suitable for all

Thursday 18th

11am Holy Communion Service
Rev Duncan Jennings

Friday 19th



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

Saturday 20th



10am – 12pm Coffee Morning
with carol singing from 10:30 am,
all proceeds to Christian Aid

Sunday 21st



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

Some Advent & Christmas Dates

Sunday 14th Dec 6pm - Carol Service

Tuesday 16th Dec 4pm – Christmas Movie Pop Up

Wednesday 17th Dec 6 – 7 pm – Carols by Disco Light

Saturday 20th Dec 10:30am – Carol singing for Christian Aid

Sunday 21st Dec 7pm – Longest Night Service

Christmas Eve 4pm – Crib Service 'Zootivity'

Christmas Eve 11:30pm – Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10am – All Age Service

Sunday 28th Dec 10:30am – Communion for Everyone – ASMA service here

New Year's Day – Wednesday 1st January

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

Flowers – if you would like to make a donation for Christmas flowers, please speak with Jill. Thank you.

Cotswold Christian Community

14th December 5-6pm, Christingle Service followed by refreshments. All welcome. Cotswold Community Centre, Dursley Road, BS11 9XH.

ALFA Christian Community

Tuesday 16th December 12:00 - 12.45pm ALFA Carol Service at Shirehampton Baptist Church, Arrive from 11.30am for coffee and mince pies – all welcome.

Drop-in on Wednesday 17th December 2:30 – 4:30pm but **NOT** on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve.

The fantastic sum of £870 was raised in the 3 collection tins for the Poppy Appeal recently, in aid of the Royal British Legion. Many thanks to Steve Simmons for arranging the collections, and for the generosity of everyone who donated.

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, Claire B, Kate, Pam.

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

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|------------------------|--|------------|
| Voluntary Hymns | Herr Christ, der einige Gottes Sohn - J S Bach Lo he comes with clouds descending Be the centre Make me a channel of your peace | |
| Communion Hymn | The angel Gabriel You are the King of glory | |
| Voluntary | A trumpet Gavotte | C Tambling |

The Collect:

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way
of your Son: give us courage to speak the
truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for
the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Post Communion Prayer:

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Isaiah 35: 1 – 10

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Matthew 11: 2 - 11

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Sunday 21st December

First Reading: Isaiah 7: 10–17

Gospel: Matthew 1: 18 - 25