



St Mary's Church, Portchester

Sunday 21st December 2025



4th Sunday of Advent

At St Mary's we are a people of Prayer, learning and growing in faith together. Our vision is to be a caring and welcoming church family who reach out with the love of God into our local community and the world

The Clergy

Vicar

Rev Canon Dr Ian Meredith
02392 375422 / irev@ymail.com
Vicar's day off: Monday

Curate

Rev Elizabeth Pearn
curate@stmary-portchester.org.uk

Honorary Assistant Priests

Rev Anne Boggust	Rev Adam Gay
Rev Phil Hiscock	Rev Canon Trevor Hubble
Rev Philip Parker-Osler	

Contact details for all assistant clergy are in the Parish Directory or via the Parish Office

For Churchwardens, Readers and other contacts see 'About Us' on our website

PARISH OFFICE

Parish Administrator

Chris Hayes

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www.stmary-portchester.org.uk

www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Church-Portchester

[Instagram @stmaryschurchportchester](https://www.instagram.com/stmaryschurchportchester)

St Mary's Tea Room

[facebook.com/stmarystearoom](https://www.facebook.com/stmarystearoom)



St Mary's Church, Portchester

This Sunday



8.00am Holy Communion

Celebrant & Preacher: Rev Phil Hiscock

9.30am Parish Eucharist

Celebrant: Rev Adam Gay
Preacher: Carol Gay

11.30am Later Morning Informal Carol Service

Leader: Carol Gay
Preacher: Rev Ian Meredith

6.30pm Christmas Carol Service (1)

The lit Menorah is to celebrate Hanukkah, the eighth and final day of which is tomorrow, and to remember those who lost their lives or were injured in the recent attack at Bondi Beach.

Collect for 4th Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
Amen

SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 7: 10-16
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Jeremiah 31:15-17
1 Corinthians 1:26-29
Matthew 2: 13-18

Dates for This Week

St. Mary's will be open daily from 10am –4pm



Monday 22 December

MPR: *Psalm 124/Malachi 1:1,6-end*
7.30pm Christmas Carol Service (2)

Tuesday 23 December

MPR: *Psalm 130/Malachi 2:1-16*

Wednesday 24 December - Christmas Eve

MPR: *Psalm 45/ Malachi 2:17-3.12*
4.00pm Children's Nativity
11.00pm Midnight Mass

Thursday 25 December - Christmas Day

MPR: *Psalm 110/Matthew 1:18-25*
10.00am Christmas Day Eucharist

Friday 26 December

MPR: *Psalm 13/Acts 6*

Saturday 27 December

MPR: *Psalm 21/1 John 2.1-11*

Sunday 28 December - Holy Innocents

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Parish Eucharist

Morning Prayer will re-commence on Wednesday 7 January
2026

This Week's Prayers

Please remember the following in your prayers:



For this parish: Give thanks to all involved who give their time to help get St Mary's ready for all our Christmas services and to welcome the many new people who will visit us during this time.

For other churches in the Fareham Deanery: this Sunday, we will be praying for the parish of **St John's Fareham**.

For our Parish (Portchester and Port Solent) – Coverack Way, Hill View Road, The Queensway, Nyewood Avenue and Cooper Grove.

For the world around us:

Pray for the Jewish community in Bondi Beach affected by the recent killings. Pray for an end to violence and for protection of civilians in regions where war and civil unrest continue. Pray for wisdom for world leaders, restraint from escalation and comfort for those grieving loss

For those who are ill or recovering – Shirley Stewart, Eileen Parker, Thelma Lewis, Ethan Smith, Caroline Cosgrove, Peter Battley, Kate Hanley, Stuart Tyler, Hazel Young, Malcolm Greenall, Gwen Meatyard, Julian Cole, Sophie Carnaghan, Baby River Fry, Jackie Scadden and Paul Wallen.

For those who have died - Janet Lynn



News and Notices



This Morning - Following its success last year we will again be having our 'Informal' Carol Service at the 11.30am service today.

This Evening - 6.30pm The first of our Carol Services, these are very popular so come early to get a seat. The theme this year is 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens.

Monday 22nd December - 7.30pm The second of our Carol Services.

Tuesday 23rd December - 2.00pm If you are free and able to join some of us singing carols for the folk at Woodlands Court, please contact Eric Standen.

Christmas Eve - Our popular Children's Nativity starts at 4.00pm, come dressed as characters from the Nativity story. Spare costumes will be available. This is followed by Midnight Mass which will start at 11.00pm.

Christmas Day - 10.00am Holy Communion service finishes at 11.00am, not 11.30am as misprinted in the Parish Christmas Card

Sunday 28th December - There will be two services today, 8.00am & 10.30am

Sunday 4th January - Feast of the Epiphany, we return to our normal three services today, 8.00am Holy Communion, 9.30am Parish Eucharist and 11.30am Later Morning Service

Saturday 3 January - New later time of 9.00am start for 2026, Ladies Breakfast at The Parish Hall. Guest speaker will be Eric Standen on the subject of Oswald Chambers. All Ladies are welcome.

Friday 9th January - Skittle Evening - Tickets are now on sale for our first social event of the new year. Starting at 6.00pm, enjoy an evening of skittles. with a bring & share buffet. Just £5 a ticket, available from the Tea Room, Parish Office or the QR code on the poster.

Saturday 10th January - Men's Breakfast, starting at 8.00am in church,. Guest speaker will be Ian Millet. All Men are welcome.

Friday 23 January - Burns Night Supper. Join us for a celebration of Robert Burns, 6.30pm in church. 3 Course meal with wine or soft drinks. Please see Richard Andrews for more information.

Alpha Course - The next Alpha course will start on Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 6.45pm in the church. Please contact Jeff Gennings for further information or to book a place ~ jeffgennings@gmail.com

Distribution of personal Christmas Cards - Please don't leave cards for church members on the welcome table or any other surface, but give them directly to the person concerned. We are not able to distribute them or post them on your behalf if they are not collected.

News and Notices



"Word for Today" the popular daily devotional booklet is available free of charge on the welcome table, and includes a copy of the sermon preached by the Vicar to introduce this on Sunday 7th December.

Parish Office Christmas Closure - The Parish Office will be closed from 1.00pm 24 December until 9.00am 2 January. Emails and answerphone will be checked during this time. Anything urgent please phone 07999 818966

St Mary's Christmas Card - Our St Mary's Christmas Card, beautifully made by our Sunday School groups and located on the notice board, is ready for you to sign! Please write your own greeting on the card, or on a bauble, sending Christmas wishes to everyone in the Church. Instead of buying each other lots of cards, make your donation to Tearfund, either in an envelope from the table or by using the QR code. Envelopes can be securely put in the Donation Station Box or in weekly collections. Let's do this!

Support St Mary's and the Environment! We're excited to share that St Mary's is now part of Recycle4Charity. By bringing your empty printer cartridges to the Parish Office, you'll be helping to protect the planet while also raising funds for the church. Every box of returned cartridges generates valuable income for our parish. We have already received £25 from Recycle4Charity.



Want to make a donation? You can now [click here](#) to make an online donation to St Mary's Church.