St Mary's Church, Portchester

Sunday 29th November 2026

Advent Sunday

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 Phil Hiscock
Rev Celia Jones
Rev Adam Gay
Rev Canon Trevor Hubble

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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Instagram @stmaryschurchportchester
St Mary's Tea Room
facebook.com/stmarystearoom

St Mary's Church, Portchester

Sunday 29th November

8.00am Holy Communion

Celebrant & Preacher: Rev Phil Hiscock

9.30am Parish Eucharist

Celebrant: Rev Adam Gay Preacher: Rev Ian Meredith

11.30am Later Morning Service

Service Leader: Carol Gay Preacher: Rev Ian Meredith

6.00pm Evening Service - Parish Hall

Collect for Advent Sunday

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and
to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on
the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
Amen.

SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 64.1-9
1 Corinthians 1.3-9
Mark 13.24-end

9.30am Service

Leviticus 19:11-18
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
John 13:31-35

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-11
2 Peter 3: 8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

9.30am Service

Nehemiah 8:9-10
Philippians 4:4-14
John 16:16-24.

Dates for This Week

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

Monday 30 November
MPR: Psalm 47/Ezekiel 47:1-12
7.30pm Hand Bells Group Rehearsal
7.30pm Spinnaker Brass Rehearsal

Tuesday 1 December
MPR: Psalm 80/Isaiah 43:1-13
9.00am Prayer Meeting @ Joe & Kathy Snowden's Home
10.00am Staff Meeting (Office Closed During This)
1.30pm Jennifer's House Group
5.30pm Tea Room Volunteers Christmas Meal

Wednesday 2 December
MPR: Psalm 7/Isaiah 43:14-end
9.00am Morning Prayer
10.30am St Mary's Lambs
6.30pm Holy Communion
7.30pm The Gateway Sessions

Thursday 3 December
MPR: Psalm 42/Isaiah 44:1-8
9.30am Contemplative Prayer Group
11.30am Funeral of Sandra Cleife
1.30pm Women's Bible Study - The Hub
5.00pm Young Disciples - Parish Hall
7.30pm AA Meeting - Tea Room

Friday 4 December
MPR: Psalm 25/Isaiah 44:9-23
9.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion - Parish Hall
2.00pm Friday Friends
7.00pm St Mary's Youth Group - Parish Hall

Saturday 5 December
MPR: Psalm 9/Isaiah 44:24-45:13
9.00am Ladies Breakfast - Parish Hall
10.00am Advent Quiet Day - St Andrews, Hayling

Sunday 6 December - 2nd Sunday of Advent
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Eucharist
11.30am Later Morning Service
2.15pm Tea & Company - Parish Hall
6.30pm Portchester Christians Together Advent Service - Parish Hall

This Week's Prayers

Please remember the following in your prayers:

For this parish:

Please pray for Rev Ian, our clergy team, our readers, the PCC, and all our church staff. Pray also for everyone who generously gives their time, gifts, and energy to support the ministry and mission of our church, and for all who serve so faithfully in our Tea Room. May God strengthen, guide, and encourage them in all they do.

For other churches in the Fareham Deanery: we will be praying for the parish of **St Peter & St Paul, Fareham.**

For our Parish (Portchester and Port Solent) — Kenya Road, Olive Crescent, Portsview Avenue, Coverack Way and Conifer Mews

For the world around us:

Pray for more talks and cooperation among world leaders following the failure of COP31 UN Climate change Conference to agree on many of the issues relating to world environmental issues. Thank God for the progress that was made and for the good will to work together. Pray that each individual values and sustains God's world becoming involved on a day-to-day basis that ensures sustainability for the world about us.

For those who are ill or recovering – Lorna Irwin, Rev Sally Davenport, James Foster, Calvin O'Clee, Stephanie, Julian Cole, Carol Farmer, Russell Ferne, Thelma Lewis, Richard Burgess, Marilyn Nash, Ethan Smith, and Sophie Carnaghan.



News and Notices

This Evening - The Evening Service at 6.00pm at The Parish Hall. This week is the last service in the series on Daniel. All are welcome.

Saturday 5th December - 9.00am Ladies Breakfast at the Parish Hall. There will be Christmas activities with carols. All ladies are welcome.

Advent Quiet Day - Saturday 5th December to be held at St Andrew's Hayling Island and will be led by Rev Celia. There is one space remaining. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to go.

Sunday 6th December - 6.00pm Portchester Christians Together will be holding their Advent Service at The Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Saturday 12th December - 8.00am Men's Breakfast at church. The guest speaker will be Mick Mellows (Ex Portsmouth FC) on the 'Faith of a Footballer'. All men are welcome.

Sunday 13th December - Christingle Services, 11.30am & 4.00pm. All are welcome to attend either service which supports the work of The Children's Society.

Saturday 19th December - Carols in the Churchyard, starting at 5.30pm, soup will be served from 5.15pm.

Informal Carol Service - will be on Sunday 20th December at 11.30am . All are welcome.

Parish Carol Services - will be on Sunday 20th December starting at 6.30pm and repeated on Monday 21st starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Family Nativity Service - Christmas Eve starting at 4.00pm. Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus with music, storytelling and a re-enactment of the Holy Night. All are welcome.

Midnight Mass - Christmas Eve starting at 11.00pm, service will finish at 12.15am.

Christmas Day - Our Christmas Day Parish Eucharist will start at 10.00am.

Sunday 27th December - We will be holding two services, 8.00am Said Holy Communion & 10.30am Parish Eucharist.

Readers for 8.00am & Prayers of Intercession for 9.30am services - We are looking for more members of the these services to read the lesson and lead the intercessions on a rota basis. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested.

News and Notices

St Mary's Christmas Card to raise money for Tearfund. We are thrilled to announce the launch of the 2026 Church Christmas card on Sunday 22nd November. We invite you to sign the card from yourself to all at St Mary's which means you won't need to buy boxes of cards to send to each other. To make a donation to Tearfund, you can either place it in one of the specific marked envelopes or pay by using the QR code. Thank you for joining with us in this exciting venture! Sally Nguyen & Amy Sparks.

2027 - Tickets are now on sale for the Skittles Night on Saturday 9th Janaury starting at 6.30pm in church.

Congregation Christmas Cards - Please collect your Christmas card from the table next to the font and please deliver any to your neighbours if they are not in church.



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.

Click Here for St Mary's Church Website Home Page