



St Mary's Church, Portchester



Sunday 30 November 2025

1st 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 Phil Hiscock

Rev Adam Gay
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
Portchester Parish Hall, Assheton Court PO16 9PY
02392 321380 / office@stmary-portchester.org.uk
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



St Mary's Church, Portchester



This Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion

Celebrant & Preacher: Rev Phil Hiscock

9.30am Parish Eucharist followed by Interment of Ashes of Mary Heather

Celebrant: Rev Adam Gay

Preacher: Rev Elizabeth Pearn

11.30am Later Morning Service

Leader: Joe Snowden

Preacher: Carol Gay

6.00pm Evening Service - Parish Hall

Christian Celebration of Hanukkah followed by
final talk on "Revival"

Collect for 1st Sunday of Advent

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 2: 1-5
Romans 13: 11-14
Matthew 24: 36-44

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 11: 1-10
Romans 15: 4-13
Matthew 3: 1-12



Dates for This Week



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

Monday 1 December

MPR: Psalm 47/John 12:20-32

10.00am Pastoral Visitors Meeting (The Hub)

7.30pm Hand Bells Rehearsal (Tea Room)

7.30pm Spinnaker Brass Rehearsal

Tuesday 2 December

MPR: Psalm 80/Isaiah 26:1-13

9.00am Prayer Meeting @ Joe & Kathy Snowden's Home

1.30pm Jennifer's House Group (North Transept)

Wednesday 3 December

MPR: Psalm 7/Isaiah 28:1-13

9.00am Morning Prayer

10.30am St Mary's Lambs

6.30pm Holy Communion

Thursday 4 December

MPR: Psalm 42/Isaiah 28:14-end

9.30am Contemplative Prayer Group

10.30am Castle Primary Visit to Church

1.30pm Women's Bible Study (The Hub)

7.30pm AA Meeting (Tea Room)

Friday 5 December

MPR: Psalm 25/Isaiah 29:1-14

9.00am Morning Prayer

10.00am Holy Communion (Parish Hall)

2.00pm Friday Friends

6.15pm Connect & Momentum Youth Group (Parish Hall)

Saturday 6 December

MPR: Psalm 23/Isaiah 29:15-end

8.30am Ladies Breakfast (Parish Hall)

4.00pm Christmas Lights Switch On (Portchester Precinct)

Sunday 7 December - 2nd Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Eucharist

11.30am Later Morning Service

2.15pm Tea & Company (Parish Hall)

6.00pm Portchester Christians Together Advent Service (Parish Hall)

This Week's Prayers

Please remember the following in your prayers:



For this parish: As we prepare for Christmas, we pray for strength and patience for all those in ministry for whom this time brings extra demands. Pray for God's blessing on the Christmas services and events.

For other churches in the Fareham Deanery: this Sunday, we will be praying for the parish of **Holy Trinity & St Columba, Fareham**

For our Parish (Portchester and Port Solent) — Skew Road, Cannon Barn Close, The Keep, Tintagel Way and Castle View Road.

For the world around us:

Pray for continued progress in the Ukraine/Russia peace plan talks. Pray for an end to the war. For continued support and aid in Gaza, and for the suffering and starving in Sudan. Pray for the return of the abducted school children in Uganda and for persecuted Christians there. Pray for rain in Tehran where drought is leading to famine and hunger. Pray for environmental progress through the Cop30 meetings.

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

For those who have died - Patrick Quinell





News and Notices



TONIGHT—Our Final Evening Service tonight will be a Christian Celebration of Hanukkah, followed by the final talk on “Revival” Everyone is welcome.

Saturday 6 December - Unfortunately we have to cancel the Advent Quiet Day at St Andrew's Hayling Island.

Saturday 6 December - Ladies Breakfast, 8.30 in the Parish Hall. Join us for our Christmas Fun Morning. All Ladies welcome

Saturday 6 December - Rev Ian will be leading the celebrations in the Precinct for the Christmas Lights switch on. Starts at 4.00pm.

Sunday 7th December - Tea & Company, at 2.15pm in the Parish Hall.

Sunday 7th December - Portchester Christians Together will be holding an Advent Service at St Mary's starting at 6.00pm. All are welcome.

Saturday 13 December - Men's Breakfast, 8.00am in the Church. Join us for a talk from Andy Economides on his mission work.

Sunday 14th December -Christingle Services will be held at 11.30am and 4.00pm today

Saturday 20th December -Carols in the Churchyard starting at 5.30pm.

Rev Ian's book on the Creed. The last few remaining copies are on sale at the back of the church. We need to sell all the 100 copies printed in order to cover costs and make a small profit. If you are paying by card or have paid by card, please write your name on the sheet beside the books.

Christmas Hampers the Pastoral Team and Friday Friends are once again preparing hampers for those spending Christmas alone. To help, please: Take a white ticket from the box on the prayer board table—each ticket represents an item to donate; Place your contributions in the 'Items for Hampers' box nearby; If you'd prefer to give financially, use an envelope marked 'For Hampers'. All donations needed by 30th November. Thank you for supporting this.

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!

Men's Diners – Bryan Jerrard shares that since 11th September, they've enjoyed nine wonderful evenings of food and fellowship at The Delme Arms, with 37 men joining in over the weeks. These much-valued gatherings will return on 5th February 2026.

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.