



Pew Sheet for 21 December 2025

A warm welcome to everyone attending today's services

Fourth Sunday after Advent

Please come into the hall for refreshments after the 9:30 service.

Collect:

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns:

CP44	Angels from the realms of glory
CP521	May the Mind of Christ My Saviour
CP432	From Heaven You Came
CP242	The Angel Gabriel
MP41	Do not be Afraid
CP362	Tell Out my Soul

Although there is no formal collection during the offertory hymn, please feel free to make a contribution to the work of St. Mary's either in the Treasury box at the back of church, or using the card reader, also at the back of church. Thank you.

Readings:

Romans 1 1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit¹ of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name,⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1 18-end

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah¹⁰ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital

relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Post-communion prayer:

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Dates for your diary

ADVENT 4, SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER

6.30 pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

CHRISTINGLE WORKSHOP - TUESDAY 23RD DECEMBER 10am in the church - all are welcome to join this festive occasion and help prepare the Christingles for Christmas Eve. Plenty of volunteers required!

CHRISTMAS EVE, WEDNESDAY 24TH DECEMBER

4.00 pm Christingle and Crib Service, especially for families and children. Children are encouraged to dress up in nativity costumes.

CHRISTMAS EVE 11.30 pm Christmas Midnight Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY, THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER

10.00 am Christmas Family Communion Service

I was overwhelmed by all the love and support for Charlie, me and the family at Charlie's service on Tuesday. It was wonderful to see so many friends from St Mary's, and also to know of the kindness, love and prayers of those who were unable to be there but who sent so many messages of support. I hope I managed to speak to everyone, and I hope not too many had to stand during the service. I feel surrounded by a 'big hug' from you all and I cannot put into words how much that has meant, but I will treasure it always. **Maggie**

WOMEN'S GROUP – Christmas meeting - Saturday 20th December -annual
Christmas Coffee Morning in the church hall with Christmas readings, poems, stories and some games. We will also have mince pies with our coffee - we start at 10am and finish by 12 noon.

The small candle burning at the high altar this week is the International Peace Light from Bethlehem..

Each year since 1986, a Christian Scout from Upper Austria travels to the grotto in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. There the Scout, together with a Moslem and a Jewish Scout, collects a flame, which is carried in two blast proof miners lamps by Austrian Airlines from Israel to Vienna. There it is distributed at a Service of Dedication to Scouts and Guides who take it back, with a message of Peace, to pass on in their own countries. Today the flame is passed by Scouts from candle to candle across the world - to over 30 European Countries, the USA, Canada and Mexico. It is received in the Vatican by the Pope, by the President of the European Parliament at Strasburg, at Ground Zero in New York and by President Zelensky in Ukraine as well as to our own Guildford Cathedral. More importantly the Scouts and Guides take the light to other churches, hospitals, schools, old peoples homes, prisons, places of public importance and to anybody that appreciates the significance of the gift. **On Thursday 2nd Cuddington Scouts collected the flame from the Peace Light when it arrived in Surrey and brought it to St Marys.** The light is passed with the message: "We gladly receive the light as a sign of our willingness to be channels of peace, by our words and actions"

CHRISTMAS CARDS: pigeonholes are available on a table near the back of church in case you would like to send cards to other church members.

NEW YEARS DAY - 1ST JANUARY 2026 - CHURCH WALKING GROUP - is organising a New Years Day walk around Ham and Richmond Park. Meet in the church car park at 11.00am and car share to the Ham Street CP. We expect to lunch (bring your own) at Pembroke Lodge before returning to Ham Street via Ham Gate. All church members and friends welcome.

Saturday 3 January at 7pm at All Saints Weston. Hey for Christmas! The Ripieno Choir collaborates with professional group Siglo de Oro and the Spinacino Consort in a reimagining of the Christmastide revelry at a 17th century London house party. Tickets from www.ripienochoir.org.uk.