

Diary of Events at St Mary's week commencing 15th December

Monday	2.00pm	School visit
Tuesday	10.00am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Tilgate
Wednesday	1.30pm	Cake & Company
Thursday	9.30am-1pm	The Gate Café
	9.45am-11.30pm	The Upper Room in use
Friday	10.30am	St Mary's Weekly Prayer Meeting (in Upper Room)

Prayer meetings take place every week for St Mary's. Please feel free to join us at 8.30am in church Tuesday to Thursday each week (access via the rear door) and Friday morning at 10.30am in the Upper Room (access via the front of the building).

The Gate is open every Thursday morning from 9.30am to 1.00pm.

Taking a break for Christmas and New Years Day!

We offer a varied selection of snacks and some toasted products, such as tea cakes or crumpets, alongside cappuccinos, filter coffee, a variety of different teas and hot chocolate.

A friendly, sociable atmosphere for meeting friends, making new friends, or just enjoying a hot drink. Where possible we use Fair Trade products for our drinks. **If you have not been** to the café before, please tell our counter staff that you have seen our notice **and your first tea of filter coffee is on the house**. Please feel free to bring a friend or two.



10.30am

Theme:

Reading:

Leader:

Preacher:

Sunday 21 December 2025

Morning Prayer

Mary and Elizabeth

Luke 1:39-56

Hebrews 10:5-10

Gwilym Richards

Andrew Davies

WHO'S WHO

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Janet Kensey

01293 547261 saintmaryssouthgate@gmail.com

The Parish Office operates 10am-1pm
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

This may be via remote working - the office may not be open, emails will be read.

Pastoral Care Team

Lead contact:

Louise Cook

Sylvia Brophy

Clare Hiley

Liz Hunter

Pat Miller

To speak to a member of the team, please contact
Clare Hiley 01293 534733

PRAYER CHAIN

Peter and Elizabeth Wigglesworth 01293 409339
pswigglesworth@gmail.com or emwatkinsl@gmail.com

Please submit your notices, for
Family Matters to the Parish Office, by
Wednesday 17 December

St Mary's Church, Wakehurst Drive, Southgate, Crawley RH10 6EH

www.stmaryscrawley.org

| South Crawley Team Ministry is

| St Mary's Southgate | Holy Trinity Tilgate | Christ the Lord Broadfield |

St Mary's Southgate family matters

Worshipping Jesus, Sharing His love, Making Him known

Sunday 14 December 2025

10.30am

Theme:

Reading:

Leader:

Preacher:

4.00pm

Morning Prayer

John the Baptist's Mission

Luke 3:7-18

Isaiah 12:2-6

Graham Piper

Philippa Piper

Carol Service

Welcome to St Mary's

How are you doing this Advent as we reach the third week? We will be thinking of those who prepared the way for the coming of Jesus over the centuries, and particularly John the Baptist with his message to the people.

The carol service will be a time to reflect further on the wonderful story of Christmas as we all rejoice and prepare our hearts to welcome Him afresh.

**'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.
And all mankind will see God's salvation'**

Isaiah 3:4-6 NIV.

Christmas Events

14th December	4.00pm	Carol Service TODAY
24th December	11.00pm	Christmas Communion at Holy Trinity Tilgate
25th December	10.30am	Family Communion

New Rector Update - Mark Davy Licensing

We are very pleased to announce that the Licensing service for Rev Mark Davey to start in his new role as Rector of South Crawley Parish will be on Tuesday January 6th 2026 at 7.30pm at St Mary's. This will be conducted by Bishop Martin.

Licensing Event Planning

Mark Davy's licensing is on Tuesday 6th January. We are planning to provide cake and savoury snacks afterwards in celebration. There are lists of suggestions on the table at the back, please could you sign up with anything you can contribute. There is also a list for volunteers to help set up, serve tea and coffee and clear up. Any help will be very gratefully received. Thank you in anticipation! Clare Hiley

Ron Ford died last week at home. He always seemed so full of energy and activity that this news may come as a surprise. His Power of Attorney is in contact with Claire Jordan and will share details of funeral arrangements when known.

Cake & Co

The last Cake & Co of 2025 is this Wednesday 17th December
There is no Cake and Co on December 24th and 31st
Contact Claire Jordan 07948969986 for more information

Phoenix Choir FREE Charity Christmas Concert

Thursday 18th December, 8pm at St Andrew's Church, Furnace Green

This traditional event will have performances from Phoenix Choir of Crawley and Crawley Handbell ringers, carols for choir and audience to sing together, and festive refreshments. There will be an opportunity to donate to The Golden Lions Children's Trust, a local charity supporting children with special needs. Not ticketed, no need to book, just turn up.

Winter viruses and looking after ourselves and others

There's a higher level of winter cold and flu viruses at the moment and a number of St Mary's folk have already been affected. If you do feel unwell please do ask for help with shopping if needed. Please can you also help reduce the spread of viruses around our church community by following NHS advice by staying at home when have cold/flu symptoms or wearing a mask if have to go out.

Flower Donation Rota - No flower arranging required!

Please see Ann Dutton if you are interested in joining the Flower Donation Rota - this rota allows you to pay towards the wonderful floral decorations that our talented florists create to decorate the church every week. Each week a different person contributes to this fund - there are around half a dozen spaces if this is something you'd like to give towards. Sit back and relax whilst our talented team do the arranging knowing you played your part.

The Easter Team
A CRAWLEY FOOD BANK PARTNER

Easter Team Appeal - Extra Special December Requests

We are blessed with your generous giving throughout the year as a donation box for The Easter Team is available in church and by the Rectory door throughout the week. These weekly donations are essential and very gratefully received.

The team would like to give their clients some special contents for the Christmas Day meal and in order to do so would appreciate gifts of money - please put these in a clearly labelled envelope in the collection box. The team would also appreciate non-alcoholic Christmas puddings, mince pies or treats.

Open House Special Collection for Christmas Thank you so much for your donations for food vouchers for open house. We raised an amazing £170.
'God loves a cheerful giver'.

The Bishop's Christmas Message 2025

Bishop Martin writes:

Knowing that we are loved:

A new generation attending Chichester cathedral have shifted the atmosphere. Buggies now take their place alongside the Zimmer frames, to the delight of everyone.

We are being reminded what it's like to be a baby. The needs are basic: warmth and security, food, sleep, and clean clothes.

In early childhood we need people to notice us, and we need one or two people who always do this. That's how we know that we are loved. We need things to play with, capturing our imagination and teaching us communication and how to work with what we see.

We never really grow out our earliest needs which guarantee our human dignity.

I was reminded of this at the joyful celebrations of baptism and confirmation just before Christmas. Candidates spoke of their need of being loved, feeling safe, finding kindness and knowing that you can be forgiven.

Some of the most moving testimonies came from our asylum seeker and refugee brothers and sisters. They spoke of how the local church has shown them the kindness of God our loving Father, which we see in the face of his Son, Jesus Christ.

This kindness has done much to restore their sense of dignity as the children of God. And because words can sometimes be a barrier, the symbolic gestures of worship become more important as a form of communication.

The washing with water in baptism, like the laying-on of hands and anointing in confirmation speaks powerfully. It says that the love of God is as tender and reassuring as the gentle touch of a parent is to a new-born child.

So, with Christians young and old we rejoice this Christmas that what God the Father sees and loves in the new-born Christ, he sees and loves in you and me.

The Virgin Mother looks on with love. Joseph is a friend and guardian. Angels enchant us with music promising peace on earth. And all for your sake.