



St Mary's Church, Portchester



Sunday 14th December 2025

3rd 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
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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 Ian Meredith

9.30am Parish Eucharist followed by the Interment of

Ashes of Ellis Wheatley

Celebrant: Rev Anne Boggust

Preacher: Rev Elizabeth Pearn

(Rev Ian is at St Peter's Titchfield this morning)

11.30am Later Morning Christingle Service

Leader: Amy Sparks

Preacher: Rev Elizabeth Pearn

4.00pm Children's Christingle Service

Collect for 3rd Sunday of Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom
of the just, that at your second coming to judge the
world we may be found an acceptable people in your
sight; Amen

SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

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



Dates for This Week



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

Monday 15 December

MPR: Psalm 40/Isaiah 38:1-8,21-22

7.30pm Hand Bells Rehearsal (Tea Room)

7.30pm Spinnaker Brass Rehearsal

Tuesday 16 December

MPR: Psalm 70/Isaiah 38:9-20

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

9.30am Rehearsal for Castle Primary Carol Concert

2.00 pm Wicor School Carol Concert Years 3 & 4

5.30pm Castle Primary School Carol Concert

Wednesday 17 December

MPR: Psalm 75/ Isaiah 39

9.00am Morning Prayer

10.30am St Mary's Lambs Christmas Party

2.00pm Wicor School Carol Concert Years 5 & 6

Thursday 18 December

MPR: Psalm 76/Zephaniah 1:1-2.3

9.30am Contemplative Prayer Group

7.30pm AA Meeting (Tea Room)

Friday 19 December

MPR: Psalm 146/Zephaniah 3:1-13

9.00am Morning Prayer

10.00am Holy Communion (Parish Hall)

2.00pm Friday Friends

6.15pm Youth Groups (Parish Hall)

Saturday 20 December

MPR: Psalm 46/Zephaniah 3:14-end

3.00pm Wedding of Jeremy Avery & Penny Bartlett

5.30pm Carols in the Churchyard

Sunday 21 December - 4th Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Eucharist

11.30am Later Morning Informal Carol Service

6.30pm Christmas Carol Service (1)

This Week's Prayers

Please remember the following in your prayers:



For this parish: As we prepare for Christmas, we pray for Rev Ian and the clergy team that their ministry is blessed as they share the Christmas message.

For other churches in the Fareham Deanery: this Sunday, we will be praying for the parish of **Hope Church, Whitely.**

For our Parish (Portchester and Port Solent) — Bryher Island, Buriton Close, Bayly Avenue, Cranleigh Road and Grove Avenue

For the world around us:

Pray for Japan where earthquakes threaten, following 7.5 level earth tremors. Give thanks for the progress in Syrian government following the one-year anniversary of the fall of the house of Assad. Pray for continued progress and peace. Pray for a resolution for Ukraine after four years of war.

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, Janet Lynn, Malcolm Greenall, Gwen Meatyard, Julian Cole, Sophie Carnaghan, Baby River Fry, Jackie Scadden and Paul Wallen.

For those who have died - Michael Devey





News and Notices



Today -Christingle Services will be held at 11.30am and 4.00pm today

Friday 19th December -10.00am service in The Parish Hall, followed by mince pies and tea/coffee. All are welcome

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

Sunday 21st December -Following it's success last year we will again be having our 'Informal' Carol Service at the 11.30am service today.

Sunday 21st December -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.

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 with be Ian Millet. All Men are welcome.

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!

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

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.