



Pew Sheet for 14 December 2025

A warm welcome to everyone attending today's services

Third Sunday after Advent

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

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns:

CP87	Hail to the Lord
EWS108	King of King and Lord of Lords
CP386	Be thou my vision
EWS109	King of Kings, Majesty
CP513	Lord the Light of Your love

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:

James 5 7-10

Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 11 2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

Jesus Praaises John the Baptist

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Post-communion prayer:

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Dates for your diary

Advent Bible Study, ‘Waiting in Uncertain Times’ 15th December

7.30-8.30pm (Church Hall). This is the last session of our Advent series. Course materials are attached to the Pew Notices email and hard copies will be available at the back of church. All are welcome.

Charlie’s Funeral - Tuesday 16th December at 11am at Randalls Park Crematorium followed by a reception at the Woodlands Park Hotel, a short distance from Randalls Park. Everyone is warmly invited. The service will also be available online for those unable to come in person.

AFTERNOON GROUP - Christmas meeting Thursday 18th December at 2.30pm in the church hall. Our favourite guitarist will be coming to play seasonal music. Everyone's very welcome. Any queries contact Judith via the Parish Office.

WOMEN’S GROUP – Christmas meeting - Saturday 20th December.

We will be having our annual Christmas Coffee Morning on the church hall with Christmas readings, poems, stories and maybe a game or two. We will also have mince pies with our coffee - we start at 10am and finish by 12 noon. We look forward to seeing you there!

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE, WEDNESDAY 24TH DECEMBER

4.00 pm Christingle and Crib Service, especially for families and children. **11.30pm Christmas Midnight Holy Communion.**

CHRISTMAS DAY, THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER

10.00 am Christmas Family Communion Service

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

CHRISTMAS CARDS: pigeonholes are available on a table near the back of church in case you would like to send cards to other members of the congregation. These are intended for people who are likely to be in church - please note that we do not deliver. Do have a look to see if there are any for you. There are also boards alongside in case you would like to send a card to the whole congregation.

STAMPS - if you have used stamps could you please place them in the RED BOX at the back of the church. They are then taken to The Princess Alice Hospice shop where they are sold on EBay with the proceeds going to the Hospice.

We say big thank you to everyone involved on Gift Sunday. We have received very positive support both for heating in the church and for activities in the church.