

## REGULAR WEEKLY CHURCH EVENTS

Monday	Songbirds Choir Rehearsals take a break until January 2026	
Tuesday	10.00am	Holy Communion at <b>Holy Trinity Tilgate</b>
Wednesday	Cake & Company back in January 2026	
Thursday	9.30am-1pm	The Gate Café
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).

### Thursday 25 December 2025

#### 10.30am Family Communion

Theme: Christmas Day  
Reading: Luke 2:1-20 & John 1:1-14  
Leader: Gwilym Richards

### Sunday 28 December 2025

#### 10.30am Holy Communion

Theme: Light and Darkness  
Reading: Luke 2:42-52 & 1 John 1:1-10  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Leader & Preacher: Gwilym Richards

### Sunday 4 January 2026

#### 10.30am First Sunday Celebration

Theme: Epiphany  
Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 & Ephesians 3:1-12  
Leader: Mark Hales

## 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: Clare Hiley  
Louise Cook Liz Hunter  
Sylvia Brophy 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 the New Year  
Family Matters to the Parish Office, by  
Wednesday 7 January

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

[www.stmaryscrawley.org](http://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 21 December 2025

### 10.30am

Theme:

Reading:

Leader:

Preacher:

### Morning Prayer

Mary and Elizabeth

Luke 1:39-56

Hebrews 10:5-10

Gwilym Richards

Andrew Davies

## Welcome to St Mary's

What a privilege it has been to be able to serve in preaching this last year. I've been especially conscious of that this December as we enter the home straight of our vacancy and I get something of a pulpit-view of Advent and Christmas, for a change. There are so many ways to view Christmas, and I pray we all get a fresh perspective this year. Luke 1:39-56 offers us the hope-filled view of two godly women, Elizabeth and Mary - as good a place to start as any!

Andrew

Luke 1:42 **Elizabeth:**

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!"

Luke 1:46-47 **Mary:**

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, ..."

## Christmas Events

24th December	11.00pm	Christmas Communion at Holy Trinity Tilgate
25th December	10.30am	Family Communion

**Rev Mark Davey Licensing Service  
Tuesday 6th January 2026 7.30pm**

We are really delighted to start the new year with a special service at St Mary's to Licence our new Rector. Please do come and join us as Bishop Martin officially authorises Rev Mark Davey to serve as Rector in South Crawley Parish.

As we are expecting a large number of people if you can help with refreshments, providing sweet or savoury finger food, setting up or clearing away please sign up.

Ron Ford died at home on 4th December. He always seemed so full of energy and activity that this news may come as a surprise. His Cremation service will be on Thursday 15th January at 2pm at the Crematorium followed by a wake nearby (venue tbc). If you are planning on attending please can you let Claire Jordan know as she has been asked to give a rough idea of numbers for the wake.

**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.

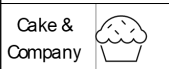
**Flower Donation Rota - No flower arranging required!**

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 Gate Café** will be taking a break for Christmas and New Years Day!

Back in the New Year on Thursday 8 January and every Thursday morning from 9.30am to 1.00pm.



**Cake & Co - There is no Cake and Co  
on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>**

Contact Claire Jordan 07948969986 for more information

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.**

**And into the New Year**

Please keep your regular giving of donations after Christmas and into the new year, for example cereals, tinned fish, meat and vegetables. Donations can be brought to St Mary's on a Sunday morning or left in the crate outside the rectory. Money donations are also very welcome for tins of essential food, if you are able, please put any donations in an envelope clearly marked for the Easter Team and place in the collection box.



**CRAWLEY  
OPEN HOUSE**  
helping the homeless and disadvantaged

**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' .

We are so fortunate to have such a strong, dedicated and excellent leadership team - our thanks to them all for their hard work, leading, preaching, support and smiles through this year of vacancy.

As this edition of Family Matters will be taking us through to the New Year some of the leadership team have added their thoughts this week:

Having recently overheard on the train or been part of conversations at work where people have said that they enjoy the preparation, but are not looking forward to Christmas Day itself, it caused me to realise how much some people miss out on Christmas if they don't understand why Christmas happens in the first place. So my resolution for this new church year is to be imaginative and bold in asking people to church to hear about why Christ is worth celebrating.

Helen

Advent this year is an extra special time for us as the St Mary's church family as we journey together in expectant waiting; in a way it's a culmination of times and experiences which, I believe, have brought us closer together and caused us to trust more in God's grace and enabling.

Graham