



Pew Sheet for 4 January 2026

A warm welcome to everyone attending today's services

The First Sunday of Epiphany

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

Collect:

God our Father,
in love you sent your Son
that the world may have life:
lead us to seek him among the outcast
and to find him in those in need,
for Jesus Christ's sake.

Hymns:

CP87	Hail to the Lord's Anointed
CP91	We Three Kings
CP59	Love Came Down at Christmas
EWS42	Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart
CP39	O Worship the Beauty of Holiness

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:

Ephesians 3 1-12

This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Matthew 2 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road

Post-communion prayer:

 All praise to you,
 almighty God and heavenly king,
 who sent your Son into the world
 to take our nature upon him
 and to be born of a pure virgin:
 grant that, as we are born again in him,
 so he may continually dwell in us
 and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven,
 now and for ever.

Dates for your diary

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 are welcome.

SATURDAY 3RD 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

SUNDAY 4TH & 11TH JANUARY 2026 - 8am services also.

THURSDAY 8TH JANUARY 2026 - AFTERNOON GROUP. (please note it is 2nd Thursday this month) at 2.30 in the church hall. We will have a slide show of a recent exhibition in Guildford Cathedral entitled "Threads through the Bible". Refreshments provided. Everyone very welcome.

SUNDAY 11TH JANUARY 2026 - BAPTISM OF CHRIST - On this day, we celebrate the Baptism of Christ. All those who have been baptised at St Mary's are warmly invited to bring their baptismal candle and take part in a prayer of baptismal renewal, using the Collect for the day, during the 9.30 am service.

SUNDAY 18TH JANUARY 2026 - The Listening Group of St Mary's will be introduced during the 9.30am service.

SUNDAY 25TH JANUARY 2026 - We will welcome a special guest speaker from the Prison Ministry at the 9.30am service.

Mrs Mildred Shultz has passed away at the age of 102. A thanksgiving service for her life will be held at St Mary's; the date will be announced.

If anyone has unwanted gifts or other useful items they would like to donate to charity, Revd Joshua would be happy to collect them at church and take them to the **Cancer Research Charity Shop**. Please contact him directly. This will be a one-off support for the Cancer Research Shop during January 2026.