

St Mary's : Church Diary

Mon - Sat (except Bank Holidays): 8.30 am Morning Prayer

Wed 19th Dec	10.00 am	Holy Communion
	2.00 pm	St Mary's School Communion Service
Fri 21st Dec	11.00 am	Holy Communion (at Horsham Hospital)
Sat 22nd Dec	7.00pm	Christmas Concert (with Horsham Sinfonia)
SUNDAY 23rd Dec	8.00 am	Holy Communion
4th Sunday of Advent	9.30 am	Parish Communion (with children's activities in the Leslie Room)
	4.00 pm	Candlelight Service and Blessing of the Crib (please bring your own candle, well protected in a jar or lantern.)

Christmas Eve: Monday 24th December

4.00 pm	Candlelight Service and Blessing of the Crib (please bring your own candle, well protected in a jar or lantern.)
11.15 pm	The Christmas Midnight Mass

Christmas Day: Tuesday 25th December

8.00 am	Holy Communion with Carols (Traditional Service)
9.30 am	The Christmas Celebration Communion with choir (for all the family)

St Mary's : For our Prayers

Sunday Intercessions & Prayer Focus for each day this week

In 2018 St Mary's is supporting in the wider world: World Vision & Teach Beyond

In the UK & Sussex we are supporting: HCT Projects & Anchor Ministries

In Horsham we are supporting the Horsham Churches Together Projects; Anchor Counselling & Therapy. For more information on these organisations please see the Serving and Transforming the Community noticeboard at the back of church.

At St. Mary's – Our Worshipping and Praying

The Wider World: We think of all who are homeless in Horsham and pray that they will be able to find long-term security through the support of the night shelter and its partners.

Special Daily Prayer Topics

Monday	Our ministry of intercession (HOPE Parish Prayer Meetings, Prayer Chain, Healing Prayer Team)
Tuesday	Our visitors prayers (votive candles, prayer fish etc.)
Wednesday	Our midweek services and home communions.
Thursday	Our intercession leaders, lesson readers, servers and vergers
Friday	Our choir and musicians.
Saturday	Our Sunday Services

Welcome to St. Mary's!

Especially if this is your first visit – we hope you will enjoy the service. If you are new to us please pick up information about all that St. Mary's offers from the Welcome Table near the Church door. Members of the welcome team will of course be delighted to answer any questions you may have.

We hope you will be able to stay after the 9.30 service, and join us for a cup of coffee. Please do introduce yourself to one of the clergy or a member of the welcome team, who would love the chance to get to know you better.

To find out MUCH MORE about life at St. Mary's please visit

www.stmaryshorsham.org.uk

(or contact the Church Office on 01403 253762)

Today at St Mary's

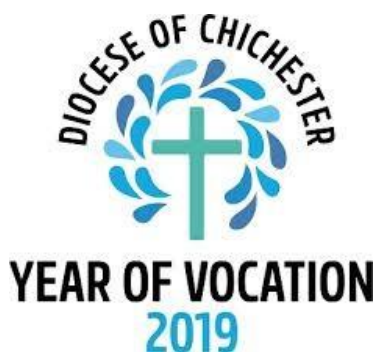
- 8.00 am** **Holy Communion (Reading Zephania 3.14-end & Luke 3.7-18)**
- 9.30 am** **Parish Communion (with the Lighthouse Children's Club)**
- 6.30 pm** **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**



This Christmas at St Mary's Key services and events are:
TONIGHT Sunday 16th December - 6.30 pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols and then **Sun 23rd December: 2.30pm – 3.30pm** Family Nativity Craft Party in the Church Centre and **4.00 pm** Candlelight Service and Blessing of the Crib; **Mon 24th December - Christmas Eve - 4.00 pm** Candlelight Service and Blessing of the Crib and **11.15 pm** The Midnight Mass; **Tues 25th December - Christmas Day: 8.00 am** Holy Communion (Traditional Service with Carols) and **9.30 am** Christmas Celebration Communion for all the family. **5pm Sun 6th Jan 2019:** Epiphany Carol Service.

St Mary's Church Family News

This Week



Ongoing Prayer 2019

Please continue to pray for the future of all at St Mary's as we seek God's calling and guidance through the coming year – we have produced a prayer card that you may wish to use to support your daily prayers - copies are available at the back of the church and from the church office...

TODAY St Mary's Christmas Card Delivery – please would you take a bundle or two and deliver our church Christmas cards to all the homes in the streets in our part of the parish? They are laid out at the back of church, along with map showing where the roads are. Thankyou so much for your help in this outreach to our town.

Chichester Diocese are running a 'Living Faith' course to help people find and grow in the discipleship to which God is calling them. It is a part time course run over three terms at Holy Trinity Church, Tilgate, Crawley on Wednesday's at 7pm on the following dates: Jan 16th, 23rd, 30th; Feb 6th, 13th, 20th; March 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th; April 3rd, 10th; May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th and June 5th. Further details can be found here:

<http://www.chichester.anglican.org/LivingFaithdiscipleship/>. Please speak to Rebecca Tuck if you are interested (the deadline for signing up is **17th Dec**).

Decorating the Church for Christmas: The flower arranging team will be grateful for any help and donations of foliage to decorate the church from **9.30am on Saturday morning 22nd Dec**. No experience is needed and all are welcome, women, children and men. Hope to see you there and thank you.

Sat 22nd Dec 7pm Christmas Concert for Kafusi High School, Zimbabwe in St Mary's Church: Tickets £5 (on the door or from <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-concert-at-st-marys-tickets-53222942253>) Programme to include Corelli's Christmas Concerto and Vivaldi's Winter, performed by Jacob Keet (Violin), Alex Hodgkinson (Piano) and the newly-formed Horsham Sinfonia. Kafusi High School in Zimbabwe aims to build a new boarding house for vulnerable girl pupils. All proceeds from the concert will go towards this project. The **Church Office** will close for Christmas at 12noon Friday Dec 21st Dec and will reopen 10am on Wednesday 2nd January.

Coming soon

Sunday 30th Dec at 11.00am here at St Mary's: NEW YEAR'S EVE UNITED SERVICE. Come and join together with members of all our Churches in Horsham Team Parish, in one joint service for all ages - as we share Communion and covenant to serve God together during 2019, our "Year of Vocation". (NB No other services at St Mary's that Sunday)



Sunday 6th January 2019 5.00 pm Epiphany Carol Service with readings, poems and thanksgivings which are reflections on the visit of the magi.

H.O.P.E. Parish Prayer Evening 7.30-9pm Jan 7th at St John's, Broadbridge Heath (Horsham Open Prayer Evening) We are encouraged to join with members of our 3 sister churches in Horsham Parish, in making this monthly prayer meeting a priority in our diaries.

St Mary's Book Club are reading two books this month: "Phoebe" by Paula Gooder, an imaginative narrative about Phoebe mentioned in Romans 16: 1-2 who delivers Paul's letter to the Romans, and "Have a little Faith" by Mitch Albom. Next meeting Thursday 10th January, St Peter's Chapel. All welcome. Just let the Church Office know.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

When are we getting a new Vicar?

As many people have been asking us, "when will we be getting a new vicar?", we thought that we must let you know what is happening behind the scenes.

Bishop Martin has asked for a Parish Review to take place. This will be conducted by Archdeacon Fiona and will happen in February and March next year.

The Parish review is expected to look at the current set up of the Team Parish of Horsham which is currently made up of four churches: St. Leonard's, Holy Trinity, St. John's and St. Mary's.

Any suggested changes from the review would then be considered by our parish Parochial Church Council before recommending a way forward. Currently our four churches work together and support each other in many different ways and we are blessed by our close working partnership. As far as we are aware there is no desire from any of the Churches in the team to break away. We have been told that a Parish Review is standard practice in the Diocese when a vacancy like ours arises.

As to our new vicar, well no appointment process can really be started until the Parish review is concluded. For the time being we are pleased to welcome Bernard Sinton who the Bishop has appointed as Interim Rector.

We will continue to let you know what is happening as and when we know.

Your Churchwardens

Nigel, Steve, Liz and Morag

During the current interregnum at St Mary's, Bishop Martin has asked Revd Bernard Sinton to act as Interim Rector during the vacancy. Bernard has worked in the Parish since 1990 and was our first SSM (Self Supporting Minister). He is based at Holy Trinity Church. Since retiring from a full time secular job, he has acted as Interim Minister during vacancies in Warnham, West Grinstead and Partridge Green and has just finished at Sullington and Thakeham with Warminghurst. Bernard's wife is the vicar of Shipley. Bernard can be contacted by post to the St Mary's church office or by direct phone on 01403 741238 or by email pa.sinton@outlook.com

Wintershall Nativity Play – Bethany Lickiss, a member of our church family, is playing Mary again this year. Tickets are available via www.wintershall.org.uk

This year our **Poppy Appeal** collection raised £108.13 – thank you everyone.

Taster session for Godly Play is open to all on **Saturday, 19th January, 10-12.30 in Lewes.** Godly play is a way of telling Bible stories and exploring the connection with our own lives. You are welcome into Southover Church's Godly play room to hear some stories and experience the technique. All welcome, contact Fiona or the office for further details.

Accommodation request: A team Wycliffe Bible Translators from Asia and the US is coming to visit Horsham in early January for a meeting and a visit. We have one couple and two ladies who are in need of a place to stay for about a week or so. If there is anyone who would be willing to consider hosting them, please contact Crystal at keet1066@gmail.com.
URGENTLY NEEDED : Have you any SPARE JAM JARS? ... that you might donate for us to make some more preserves so that we can produce more ready for the Christmas period? Jars can be left at the back of church (in the cupboard in the bell tower) or at the Church Office.

HORSHAM CHURCHES NIGHT SHELTER – 1st Dec 2018 TO 15th Mar 2019: Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help at the night shelters – we are now in a position to open on four nights. Please email emma.elnaugh@horsham-matters.org.uk if you can offer further help. Thank you.

Horsham Matters has set up a “GoFund” page to raise money for a new van to be used to transport furniture to needy families within the Horsham District. Please go to www.gofundme.com/new-van-for-horsham-matters if you are able to donate. Thank you.