



21st – 28th December

Advent 4

The Parish of Shirley

St James the Great and St John the Divine

The Parish Office

Church House, Church Road,
Shirley, B90 2AX

www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk
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0121 745 8896

Sun 21st	10.30am	Eucharist (St James)
Mon 22nd	8pm	Compline & Parish Prayers (Zoom)
Tues 23rd	10.00am	Welcome Café (Church House)
Wed 24th	4pm	Crib Service (St James)
	11pm	Christmas Eve Eucharist (St James)
Thurs 25th	10.30am	Christmas Day Parish Eucharist (St James)
Sun 28th	9am	Patronal Eucharist (St Johns)
	10.30am	Eucharist (St James) First Sunday of Christmas

Parish Notices

You are invited to celebrate Christmas at St James' Church, Shirley.
Join us for a series of services that mark the joy and wonder of the true meaning of the season:

Angels at the Crib – a joyful family celebration with drama, singing, and angel-making (**Christmas Eve, 4pm**) refreshments served afterwards.

Christmas Eve Holy Communion – reflective and reverent service on **Christmas Eve at 11pm** as we see the breaking in of Christmas Day.

Christmas Morning Holy Communion at 10:30am – a service of thanksgiving and joy as we celebrate the birth of Christ together.

All are welcome. We look forward to welcoming you.

Christmas Tree Festival – Thank you to everyone that participated in and visited our festival. The 'favourite tree' vote was won by the Mothers' Union, the Fairtrade hampers were won by Pat Coward and Wendy Carter. £100 has been donated to the Open Doors charity.

Mothers Union There will be no meeting in January. However, there will be the Wave of Praye. More details of this will follow. Our next meeting will be on 4th February 2026 which will be our AGM.

Pewslips for 28th December & 4th January

All notices for these pewslips need to be with Emily by Monday 22nd December. The Parish Office will be closed from 24th December, reopening Monday 5th January.

Annual Leave – Rev'd Richard Haynes

Please note that Richard will be on annual leave following the Christmas morning service returning on Saturday 3 January 2026



Vicar – in vacancy

Contact the Parish Office

Rev Richard Haynes - Curate

0797 253 0161

curate@shirleyparishb90.co.uk

(Rest Day is Friday)

FOR PRAYER

That our Christmas services would bring joy, peace and an encounter with God to all who attend.

YEARS MIND

Christopher Downing

THOSE TO BE BAPTISED

Tania West, Ella-Rose Powell & Archie Powell

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Neil Michael Henderson, Cheryl Yvonne Morton & John Howard Smith

Collect for 21st December 2025

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin
Mary

to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his
coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our
judge;

who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Donations During Services

↑ We do not pass an offertory plate around the congregation during our services. You can donate using the Parish Giving Scheme for regular donations or for one-off donations by using the Sum Up machine or the collecting plate at the back of the church. Thank you for your support ↑

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Romans 1: 1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus and an apostle chosen and called by God to preach his Good News. The Good News was promised long ago by God through his prophets, as written in the Holy Scriptures. It is about his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: as to his humanity, he was born a descendant of David; as to his divine holiness, he was shown with great power to be the Son of God by being raised from death. Through him God gave me the privilege of being an apostle for the sake of Christ, in order to lead people of all nations to believe and obey. This also includes you who are in Rome, whom God has called to belong to Jesus Christ.

And so I write to all of you in Rome whom God loves and has called to be his own people: May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

Matthew 1: 18-end

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Advent Prayer 4 - Love

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your Light has shown in our darkened world through the childbearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen your glory, may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your son, who is Lord and saviour of all. **Amen**