

About Us

The Parish of St Mary, Storrington, is in the Deanery of Storrington, the Archdeaconry of Chichester and the Diocese of Chichester. The church is a registered charity (No.1164989)

The **Rectory Office** is next to the Rectory (entrance in Rectory Road) and opening hours can be found on the website and notice sheet. The Office is your first point of contact for administrative information.

The main **contact details** can all be found on this website, and contact and other information is also listed in **3 Heralds Magazine** (the publication of Storrington, Sullington, and Thakeham Parishes) copies of which are uploaded here, but we would still urge you to buy a printed copy (£1) as it contains some wonderful articles on local rural and community life, as well as church life. We also suggest you click-on the latest **Church News Sheet** which provides details of services in the coming weeks, and information on church and social events.

[Click here to meet our Rector the REVD CANON KATHRYN WINDSLOW, Rupert, our Associate Vicar, and our retired clergy, who can be found officiating at services and assisting our mission.](#)



REVD CANON KATHRYN WINDSLOW, RECTOR



**REVD RUPERT TOOVEY
ASSOCIATE VICAR**

As well as the work undertaken by our retired clergy, a busy church like ours needs the support of many lay supporters, all volunteers, filling the many roles that combine to deliver our mission. These range from those in officiating roles, such as Churchwardens, Verger and Director of Music, to those who work in the background to keep our Church and activities functioning smoothly.

We are here for you with services every Sunday and at other times too.
[Click here for full details of upcoming services that can be found on this website.](#)

[Unable to join us in church?](#)

For those a little older, perhaps isolating or unwell, and unable to easily join us in church, or just needing company and comfort, then we can come to you. St. Mary's has an active Parish Visiting Team and also a Home Communion Team



Or you could join us at our Sunday Service via your computer, tablet or phone, by logging into **[our live-stream service](#)**. These Services are for everyone, you don't have to be older or immobile. Don't worry if you don't know how – we didn't until the lockdowns came, and we can come to you to help set you up. If you would be interested in joining in with this service please contact Val Rice, (contact details in 3Heralds page 6 or use the link on the '**[Contact](#)**' tab).

And if all you need is some assistance and a lift to get to the 10 A.M. Sunday Service in our lovely church, please get in **[contact](#)**.

Families

We welcome families to St. Mary's, including crying toddlers, and bored teenagers, whatever! We have a church where they can play, read, draw and make happy to invite children to the altar and attempt to de-rituals.



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We are also sometimes able to hold extra services especially for children, and would love to hear from you if you might like to explore options for your children to participate in church activities or teachings; please talk to Kathryn. Your children may already know her as we keep close links with the local schools, and run special events with them, both in-school and 'back at our place'!

We enjoy ourselves too

Something sociable is generally happening at St. Mary's. From coffee and biscuits after the Sunday service, a regular midweek Café in the Church, summer Tea with the Vicar, croquet on the rectory lawn, and many other occasions, we never need an excuse to eat cake! (This might be why the local slimmers club meetings are held in the church. 😊)

There are lunches too, including a monthly Sunday Lunch Club, organised jointly by the local churches, for those too often eating alone.

Many different types of concerts are held in the church, from professional musicians to more home-grown ones. There is the occasional interesting lecture too, but cake and a glass of wine are rarely far away!



For what is on offer, and when, look at the website, [News-Sheet](#) or 3 Heralds to see what is coming up, or look out for posters in the village.

These social events are a great way to visit and support the church, if you are unsure of joining us on a Sunday. These are village community events, and **everybody** is very welcome!

We are also here for You, when you want us and need us For Baptism, Weddings and End-of-Life services



You do not have to be a regular churchgoer to ask for one of these life-event services. Contact the Rectory Office or approach the Clergy for help and enquiries.

It is always joyous when the bells ring out for a wedding at St. Mary's. We have been conducting **weddings** here for centuries, and can provide church, choir, organ, bells, licence and a vicar for less than you probably think – maybe only

around £1,000.

There are fewer obstacles to a church wedding than is often the popular myth. If you have previously been married, or are a stranger to the Church, then please ask for a chat with the Rector, and she can advise you if we can conduct your wedding service for you.

Visit yourchurchwedding.org

Baptism has always been at the core of Christian life, and all are welcome to be baptised in our church, either at a Family Communion service, or at a separate **Christening Service**. Baptism, and subsequent Confirmation is not just for infants, a couple of years ago, five members of the congregation were confirmed in a special service, with an average age of about 65! You do not have to have been christened yourself to have your child christened in our church.

The Church provides comfort, prayers and ceremony at the end of life. For parishioners, we still have burial plots and a final resting place for ashes, and we

funeral and memorial services, either in the church or *guide to Church of England end-of-life services can be found at churchofenglandfunerals.org or talk with any of our clergy.*



can **hold** elsewhere. A

Joining in

Many just attend church services or social events, but some want to join in and help make those services and events run smoothly. We have lots of opportunities for you to join in, if you want to, and don't hold back just because you are new, or not even a regular churchgoer. We are always looking for new volunteers. Here is a taster of some of the ways you can join in, or learn.

Enthusiasm is all you need!

- Flower arranging in the church
- Sides-persons at services
- Join our fabulous choir
- Help keep the churchyard tidy
- Home visiting
- Mothers' Union members/helpers
- Coffee and lunch rotas
- Join the Eco-Church team



- Bell ringers and handbells
- PCC members
- Occasional organists
- Concert committee
- Help at fetes and events
- Crafting (S.P.A.C.E).

Please ask and we can direct you to the organiser for your particular interest, or refer to the 'What's happening at St Mary's Storrington' page in the 3 Heralds magazine



Young and old can also join in with us in our mission to make our church a more environmentally aware and responsive organisation, a challenge which we have adopted as a cornerstone of how we do things now and into all of our futures.

Giving



All churches are reliant on the giving of both time and money by their congregation, and St Mary's is no different. Our regular outgoings are only just covered by our income (and some months, expenditure exceeds income). Giving is a gift to the Church to enable it to carry on its work and message, and so is a gift for God. We look to spend this money wisely and cautiously.

There are a number of ways that you can give. Visitors may just leave money in the plate or box, but for churchgoers there are more effective ways to give money, through envelopes that enable us to reclaim the Gift Aid from HMRC, making both of us feel good! [Please ask for details.](#)

Even more effective, we encourage regular churchgoers, and supporters, to make use of the **Parish Giving Scheme**. This is a direct-debit payment to a Church of England approved scheme, who collect the Gift Aid and pass the money on to us. We do not see who is paying what amount, but we do see the total that is coming to us every month, which helps us plan our finances, and reduces collection costs. It is this scheme which helped us pay the bills throughout Lockdown.

[Please ask for details.](#)

You will have seen that much of the church has been built memorial legacies. Whilst you may not be thinking of stained-glass window, we understand that you may be more in your Will than you are able to afford from income, are vital to us in keeping the church alive into the next are thinking of leaving a legacy, but are unsure how, our Churchwardens will be happy to help you.



through leaving a able to leave and **legacies** centuries. If you Rector or

Accessibility

The Saxons built our church on a high mound, which means access from Church Street and School Lane involves climbing many steps. There is a [level access route](#) along a surfaced public footpath from outside the Rectory. We suggest those with impaired mobility park in Rectory Road and use this path.

Come inside!

If you are new to our church, please don't be afraid to introduce yourself. New people are constantly moving into the village, and even long-term residents of the Parish may only now be ready to start, or pick up again, a conversation with God. We try to get to know newcomers as quickly as possible and make them feel at home, amongst friends.

To stay in touch with us, the weekly [Church News Sheet](#) is a great place to start, and you can either pick this up in church, or find it here on the website (along with other useful stuff).

Supporting:

Family Support Work,
The Children's Society,
Christian Aid,
Turning Tides,
Storrington Food Bank,
Sussex Historic Churches,
Link to Hope,
Storrington Churches Sunday Lunch Club,
Royal British Legion,
Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund,
and Mission to Seafarers, amongst other causes.