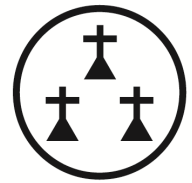


First Sunday of Advent 2 December 2018

Parish of
Harpenden



Services and Preachers in the Parish Today

St Nicholas Church - Celebrating 800 years of Worship on this site



8.00am Holy Communion	Revd Canon Dennis Stamps (Rector)
9.30am All Age Eucharist with Children's First Holy Communion	Revd Canon Dennis Stamps
11.30am Morning Praise	Alan Gilliam
4.30pm Christingle	
6.30pm Advent Carol Service	

All Saints Church

9.30am Communion Service	Revd Linda Williams (Associate Vicar, All Saints)
11.00am Worship Service with Children's First Holy Communion	Revd Linda Williams
6.30pm Advent Service	LMDT

St Mary's Church

9.30am Sung Eucharist with Holy Baptism of Thomas & Stanley Priggen and Children's First Holy Communion	Revd Sally Goodson (Associate Vicar, St Mary's)
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giftaid it



All our churches are fitted with an induction loop. Those wearing a hearing aid should switch to "T" in order to benefit from it.

A collection will be taken during the Offertory Hymn. If you are a UK tax payer, please use the white Gift Aid envelope in the pew, remembering to date it and print your details.

If you give by standing order or the like please put a token in the offering in the offering bags as they go around as an act of worship and as a token of what you give in thanks to God.

Children are welcome at every service. If your child becomes restless during the service, please feel free to go in and out.

You are warmly invited to join us for coffee, tea and biscuits after the morning services.



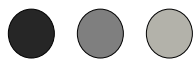
We are an inclusive church, called to be caring, loving and welcoming to all.

To be a lively community connecting with God's love in new and imaginative ways

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Monday - Friday
Saturday (Staffed by Volunteers)

10.00am—2.00pm
9.30am-12noon



Collects, Readings and Gospel

COLLECT

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God, now and for ever.

Or ADDITIONAL COLLECT

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

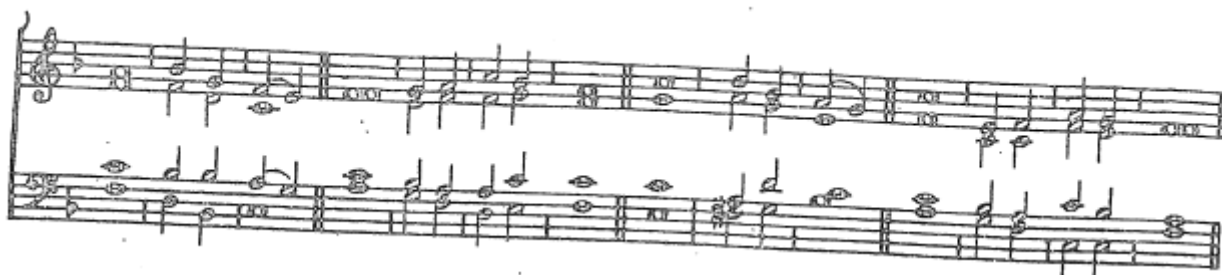
FIRST READING JEREMIAH 33.14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.

SECOND READING 1 THESSALONIANS 3.9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

PSALM 25.1-8



Unto thee O Lord will I lift up my soul, my God I have put my ' trust in ' thee ' O let me not be confounded, neither let , mine ' enemies ' triumph ' over me.

For all they that hope in thee shall ' not be a'shamed ' but such as transgress without a cause ' shall be ' put to con'fusion.

Shew me thy ' ways O ' Lord ' and 'teach me ' thy ' paths.

Lead me forth in thy 'truth and ' learn me ' for thou art the God of my salvation, in thee hath been my ' hope ' all the day ' long.

Call to remembrance O Lord thy ' tender ' mercies ' and thy loving-kindness, which ' have been ' ever of ' old.

Gracious and righteous ' is the ' Lord ' therefore will he teach ' sinners ' in the ' way.

Them that are meek shall he ' guide in ' judgement ' and such as are gentle ' them shall he ' learn his ' way.

GLORIA

GOSPEL LUKE 21.25-36

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

POST COMMUNION

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Parish Outreach: *Living God's Love: Making new Disciples:* For Christian Unions and other groups in schools.

The Sick: Simon Thomas, Harold Gill, Angela, Mary, Marjorie & Richard Sinfield

The Recently Departed: Frances Grainger

First Anniversary of Death: Jacqueline Fancett, Keith Gould & Doris Hyde

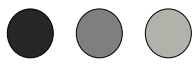
Those being admitted to First Holy Communion:

St Nicholas - Callan and Ruairi Anthony, Isabella and Summer Benson, Lauren Black, William Cooper, Emma and Lauren Daly, Jessica Davis, Christopher Fleming, Emily James, Annabel Neil, Amelie Odetti, Teddy (Theodore) Payne, Abigail (Abby) and Charlotte Simon and Alessandra Wegener,

St Marys - Alexandra and Jamie Cook, Stanley and Tommie Priggen,

All Saints - William Aidley and Martha Whale

PRAYER REQUESTS: If you would like prayer for yourself or someone you know, clergy pray daily for those who have asked for our prayers. Anyone may put a name on our prayer list by contacting the clergy, a Reader, or the parish office. If you wish to be prayed for publicly at our Sunday Services please say so, otherwise your name remains on the clergy daily prayer list.



Parish Notices for all three churches

CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES: Christmas Cards from over 35 charities are once again on sale at the Cards for Good Causes temporary shop in the United Reformed Church, Vaughan Road, Harpenden AL5 4ED. Open Monday - Friday 9.30 - 4.30 and on Saturdays 9.30 - 3.30 until Friday 14 December, the shop also sells small gifts, wrapping paper and postage stamps. These all help the charities involved. Helen Mellor 01582 762284 or 07761 720896

FREE LOCAL CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY FOR THE ELDERLY: Harpenden District Cubs are delighted to once again offer a free Christmas card delivery service for the elderly in 2018. This service allows elderly residents to post cards to others in Harpenden, Batford and Redbourn only. The post boxes available until 12 December in the Parish Office, St Mary's and All Saints. Please contact Jackie Agg (769680) or Caroline Martin (768044) if you have any questions.

ADVENT GROUPS: We are recommending this year for your home Advent groups:

The Art of Advent: A Painting a Day from Advent to Epiphany. There will be four groups open to anyone in the parish, meeting week of 2, 9, 16 December and week of 7 January (4 times).

Monday Evenings, St Nicholas, in Cornelia's, 8pm, led by D Stamps (starts 3 December)

Tuesday Evenings, St Nicholas Church Hall, 8pm, led by J Hadley (starts 4 December)

Wednesday afternoons, St Mary's Church, 2pm, led by S. Goodson (starts 5 December)

Monday mornings, All Saints Church, 10.30am, led by L Williams (starts 26 November)

PARISH OF HARPENDEN MOTHERS' UNION NEEDS A TREASURER. Our present Treasurer's term expires in February 2019 and we need to find a replacement. The job is not onerous and qualifications are not required. As a long-standing Branch of Mother's Union, we want to continue our work for the organisation, but to do so we must fill the position of Treasurer. Please consider whether you might be able to fill this role and if interested please have a word (without commitment) with Helen Mellor on 01582 762284.

FRIENDLY TEA GROUP FOR THE BEREAVED TODAY at 2.30pm in St Nicholas Church Hall. All welcome. The tea group will then next meet in the new year on 6 January 2019.

FOOD BANK: We love to bless our **FEED guests at Christmas** so please can you help us and donate one or more items? **SUGGESTED ITEMS:** Chocolate coins/chocolates, Cakes/biscuits/selection boxes, Nuts/crisps/cheese biscuits, Christmas crackers, Fizzy drinks (non-alcoholic), Coffee/long-life milk, Puddings, jams & spreads, Fruit juice/squash, Tinned meat/pies, Rice/noodles/cooking sauces, Household cleaning products, Washing detergents, Shampoo/conditioner, Deodorants/shower gel. During sound/light work in Church offerings can be left outside the Nativity Chapel at St Nicholas; usual arrangements for other churches. Many thanks for your support. **Please can you kindly make sure that the food is not out of date.**

VACANCY FOR A CLUBS AND APPEALS TREASURER to keep a record of the money the parish raises during the year from donations, activities and events and then make donations to individual charities. An hour or two a month is all it takes; no formal accountancy skills required. If you would like to find out more, please have a word with the Rector or either of the Parish Wardens.

PRE-NUMBERED ENVELOPES FOR 2019 are available to collect from the back of each church. If you regularly use the white Gift Aid envelopes laid out in the pews, now would be an opportune time to consider moving to the pre-numbered envelope scheme OR The Parish Giving Scheme. Note that you do not need to be a UK tax payer to use either scheme. For more details or if you have any queries/are unable to find your envelopes, please contact the Parish Giving Recorder, Claire Petevinos (giving.recorder@parishofharpenden.org or tel 768721).

**If you would like a Home Visit or Home Communion, please contact
Parish Clergy or the Parish Office.**

LISTEN TO A SOUP AND CAROL'S SERVICE AT HOME! On <http://www.nickeyradio.net>: 9pm on Friday 21 and Sunday 23 December. Then 11am, 3pm and 11pm on Christmas Eve. Lastly on Christmas Day 11am and 2pm.

SOUP AND CAROLS FOR THIS ADVENT. Come hear seasonal readings and sing some carols over warm soup and a roll. St Nicholas church, 1pm to 1.30pm, 7, 14, 21 December.

CONGRATULATIONS to George Richards who celebrates his 80th birthday on 4 December.

ST NICHOLAS FRIDAY MORNING HOLY COMMUNION will not go ahead in December and will restart on 4 January 2019.

SAS YOUTH GROUP for children in school years 6-9, new members welcome. Do join us for outings, discussion, games and food. For the final meeting in 2018 we will take part in the Christingle service at St Mary's, 4pm (service at 4.30pm) on Sunday 9 December. Contact Revd Sally Goodson if you need further information. (associate.vicar@stmarys.parishofharpenden.org).

CLERGY DAYS OFF: From the beginning of January the Rector's day off will change to Friday.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT + TEA CAKE & CHAT Thursday 20 December - All Saints Church Hall. 2.00-4.00pm. Lifts can be arranged - please contact Chris Powell 764930 or chris_powell51@hotmail.co.uk. Please take a leaflet and pass to a friend, who perhaps hasn't been to this much enjoyed event.

ST NICHOLAS PRIMARY SCHOOL in Harpenden is holding **Open Days for parents** whose children are due to start in Reception in September 2019 and you are most welcome to attend. The next open days will be on **Wednesday 5 December 2018 at 1.15pm, Saturday 8 December 2018 at 10.30am and Friday 11 January 2019 at 9.30am**. If you would like to visit the School then please contact the Office on 01582 623620 or admin@stnicholasce.org so we know to expect you.

PROPOSED CHANGE IN ADMISSION CRITERIA: The Governing Body of the School are also consulting on a proposed change in Admissions Policy from 2020-21 and details are available on the school website. Interested parties are invited to submit comments on the proposals by 6 January 2019 by writing to the Chair of Governors at governors@stnicholasce.org or by post to the School address. Thank you.

St Mary's Church Notices



WELCOMERS, with numbers increasing at Simply Worship, we would like some people to assist with welcoming at these services, once a month at 4.30pm. The service lasts less than an hour, please speak to Jenny Goulding or Sally if you could help with this.

FETE 2019: It might seem a long way off, but we need a team to take on the planning for our fete. This is a joint event with Scouts, Sue Grout is standing down from organising and new volunteers are needed. Please give this careful thought, it is our main fundraising event each year, could you be part of the team?

COFFEE ROTA: We would love more people to join the coffee rota please.

ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR will be singing at the Carol service at 6.00 pm on Sunday 16 December. The practices are on Wednesday evenings at 8-10 pm in the church. Dates are: 5, 12 December, and 4.30pm on 16 December.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE: Sunday 9 December at 4.30pm, in aid of the Children's Society, collection tubes available today to bring back next week. SAS are helping with the Christingle service, so they need to arrive at 4pm please.

FAIRTRADE orders to be collected today.

Please follow & interact with our Parish via twitter or facebook,

You can also access them all through the church website: www.parishofharpenden.org

If you have anything to go on our sites please email :

digital.media@parishofharpenden.org

All Saints Church Notices



ALL SAINTS' LOCAL MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT TEAM exists to support every member of our church family in:

- enabling people to encounter God in worship and prayer
 - encouraging and teaching people to grow as His disciples
 - equipping people to live as Christians in the community.
- Prayer ministry is available after the 10.30am Worship Service

LIFTS TO CHURCH: tel 01582 760752

RECORDINGS OF 10.30am SERMONS: www.blueskylark.org/all-saints

<http://parishofharpenden.org/all-saints/> & <https://www.facebook.com/all-saintsharpenden/>

WANTED:

1) a sidesperson to help at the Harpenden District Beaver Carol Concert on Monday 3 December at 6.15pm. Contact Revd Linda if you can help.

2) Sidespersons at 9.30am and 11am Services. We are desperately short of people to take on this small, but vital task for our church services. You are needed to come 15 minutes or so before the start of services to hand out books/service sheets, take the collections, collect in the books and generally make sure everything is tidied away at the end of our services. This would only be once a month-less if many people offer.

3) an All Saints Women's World Day of Prayer representative.

4) an All Saints prayer chain coordinator. See Revd Linda for details.

ADVENT:

Advent Observance There will be a day time group looking at Art in Advent as preparation and prayer during the Advent season. Mondays 3, 10 & 17 December at 10.30am in the Hall at All Saints. All most welcome. Refreshments served.

All Saints and Batford Methodist Church have come together to publish this year's district **Christmas Card. Please help to get these delivered before 15 December.**

Sunday 2 December 6pm **Advent Carol Service.** Everyone welcome at this service of songs and readings to begin our preparation for Christmas.

Sunday 16 December 6.30pm **100 years of Nine Lessons and Carols.** ~Come and sing all your favourite carols and enjoy mince pies and mulled wine after the service.

SERVICE TIMES: Following the trial period and church meeting on 4 November (& full consultation of all regular members and attenders) about the change to service times, please note; the vote came out to 60% Yes and 40% No to the question: 'Do you want the revised service times to continue as they have been during the trial'. So we continue with 9.30am Holy Communion Service and 11am Worship Service.

ALL CHURCH SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Children intending to apply to St George's Secondary School and St Nicholas Primary School are advised to submit a clergy reference form with their application. Both schools give priority to children with a clergy reference and to ensure this can be given a Record of Attendance should be completed. In the case of St George's this should be completed for 2 years before application and for 1 year prior to St Nicholas. The School websites provide further details of their admissions criteria. Both schools will consider applications without a clergy reference but through a separate admissions category. Based on current demographic trends in Harpenden there is greater pressure for entry at secondary school level than for the Primary school.

St Nicholas Church Notices

MUSIC TODAY

9.30am All Age Service

Anthems: *The Truth Above Vaughan Williams CFC2*

6.30pm Advent Carol Service



WEEKLY FAIRTRADE STALL after 9.30 service. Do come along and support Zac Smith who is running the stall as part of his volunteering for the Duke of Edinburgh award.

SOUND AND LIGHT UPGRADE AND MODERNISATION APPEAL: It is nearly finished! Just a few little odds and ends to finish off. Very grateful to Neil Hewitt and Dickie Marshall for project managing it so well. Good news is we raised all £76k. Thank you all very much for your generosity. BUT, the project did go over budget and we could use another £3k. Please consider another gift.

THE TRAVELLING KINGS will be making their way around the Parish, stopping at a new home each night, from Christmas Eve until Epiphany Sunday, 6 January. Please sign up as soon as possible if you would like the child-friendly, knitted, Three Wise Men and their Camel to rest for a night in your home. All ages/groups are welcome to host. Contact Pam Woodford-Smith, Tel.764368, pamelaws@btinternet.com or Jean McIntosh, Tel.761362, jeanmcintosh10@virginmedia.com

CHRISTINGLE: The Simply Worship Service on TODAY at 4.30 pm will be a **Christingle** service for children of all ages and their parents and carers. Each child will receive a Christingle, which is an orange, decorated with sweets, dried fruit, red ribbon and a candle. During the service there will be a collection for The Children's Society. House Boxes will be collected at this service so if you have one, please bring it with you.

ST NICHOLAS FESTIVAL: You are warmly invited to the **St Nicholas Festival on Saturday 8 December 10am -1pm** to enjoy fabulous festive fayre from our café, listen to live music and investigate the wonderful variety of stalls and crafts. The Church will be beautifully decorated and Father Christmas will be in his grotto. This year church groups and the congregations at different services are running stalls, but we would really value some additional helpers as well. If you are able to help set up on Friday 7 December 1.30-3pm, or help on the day, or bake a cake please let Rachael Threlfall, Liz de Jong or the Parish Office know or add your name and availability to the sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

CRIB SERVICES 24 DECEMBER 3.00PM AND 5.00PM. We need plenty of helpers at these popular services—to set up, help at the services and to clear up. Offers of help to Heather Richards please. (01582 767905). Thank you very much.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9 December - St Nicholas Patronal Festival, with Bishop Michael, Bishop of Hertford, preaching at our 9.30 and 11.30am services. Special refreshments. On the same date there will be said Evensong at 6.30pm.

16 December, 6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols service followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Please tell the Parish Office about meetings, events and notices by **12 noon on Wednesday** on 01582 765524 or office@parishofharpenden.org

Important
DATE!

What's on This Week

Monday 3

- 9.15am Morning Prayer at All Saints
9.00-11.45am Chat Monday in Cornelia's
5.00pm Evening Prayer at St Nicholas

Tuesday 4

- 9.15am Morning Prayer at St Mary's
10.00am Holy Communion at St Mary's
2.30pm Guild of Health Prayer Group at 6 Timbers Court
5.00pm Evening Prayer at St Nicholas
6.00pm Supper Club in Cornelia's for members

Wednesday 5

- 10.30am Holy Communion at St Nicholas
2.00pm Outreach Sewing Afternoon at 60 Willoughby Road. All welcome.
5.00pm Evening Prayer at St Nicholas

Thursday 6 **St Nicholas**

- 9.00am Toddler Time in St Nicholas Church Hall
9.30am Busy Bunnies in All Saints Church Hall
10.00am Holy Communion at All Saints Church

Friday 7

- 1.00pm Soup & Carols at St Nicholas
5.00pm Evening Prayer at St Nicholas

Saturday 8

- 10.00am-
1.00pm St Nicholas Festival

Sunday 9 **The Second Sunday of Advent**

St Nicholas Patronal Festival

- 8.00am Holy Communion Rt Revd Dr Michael Beasley (Bishop of Hertford)
9.30am Sung Eucharist Rt Revd Dr Michael Beasley
11.30am Morning Praise Rt Revd Dr Michael Beasley
2.00pm Holy Baptism of George and Harry Kelsall
3.00pm Holy Baptism of Archie Dennehy
6.30pm Choral Evensong

All Saints

- 9.30am Communion Service Revd Linda Williams (Associate Vicar, All Saints)
11.00am Worship Service Revd Linda Williams
with Children's First Holy Communion

St Mary's

- 9.30am Sung Eucharist Revd Sally Goodson (Associate Vicar, St Mary's)
with Holy Baptism and Children's First Holy Communion
4.30pm Christingle SAS

Readings:

MALACHI 3.1-4

PHILIPPIANS 1.3-11

LUKE 3.1-6