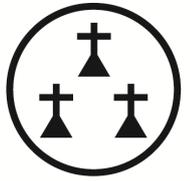


The First Sunday of Advent 3 December 2017

Parish of
Harpenden



Services and Preachers in the Parish

St Nicholas' Church

8.00am Holy Communion	Revd Canon Dennis Stamps (Rector)
9.30am Sung Eucharist	Revd Canon Dennis Stamps
11.30am Morning Praise	Rachel Wakefield (Reader, St Nicholas)
4.30pm Christingle @ Simply Worship	Revd Canon Dennis Stamps

All Saints Church

9.00am Holy Communion	Revd Linda Williams (Associate Vicar, All Saints)
10.30am Worship Service with Communion	Revd Linda Williams
3.00pm Holy Baptism of Hettie Rose Evans	

St Mary's Church

9.30am Family Worship	Revd Sally Goodson (Associate Vicar, St Mary's)
11.00am Said Holy Communion	Revd Sally Goodson

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

6.30pm Ecumenical Advent Carol Service

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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

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

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

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

digital.media@parishofharpenden.org



Collect, Reading, Psalm and Post-Communion Prayer

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 Isaiah 64.1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence – as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1.3-9

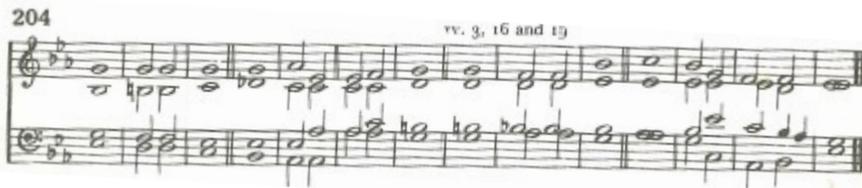
My brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Monday—Friday
Saturday (Staffed by Volunteers)

10.00am—2.00pm
9.30am—12.00noon

PSALM Psalm 80.1-7



HEAR O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph ' like a ' sheep : shew thyself also, thou that ' sittest up'on the ' cherubims.

Before Ephraim Benjamin ' and Ma'nasses : stir up thy ' strength and ' come and ' help us.

2nd Part Turn us a'gain O ' God : shew the light of thy countenance ' and we ' shall be ' whole.

O Lord ' God of ' hosts : how long wilt thou be angry ' with thy ' people that ' prayeth?

Thou feedest them with the ' bread of ' tears : and givest them ' plenteousness of ' tears to ' drink.

Thou hast made us a very strife ' unto our ' neighbours : and our ' enemies ' laugh us to ' scorn.

Turn us again thou ' God of ' hosts : shew the light of thy countenance ' and we ' shall be ' whole. **GLORIA**

GOSPEL Mark 13.24-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

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.

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



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

The Sick: Jean Harris, Lesley, Jim, Jennifer Rodway, Gwen Banks, John Martin, John Went

The Recently Departed: Margarita Powesland

First Anniversary of Death: Eric James, John Spicer



Prayers & Parish Notices for all three churches

ST PETER'S CHURCH, ST ALBANS seeks an experienced and flexible office assistant (part-time 17.5 hours) to support the wide-ranging work at this busy city-centre church. Must have good communication and organisational skills, IT knowledge and be able to work on own initiative. For more details, please email mail@stpeterschurch.uk.com or see website www.stpeterschurch.uk.com Application closing date Thursday 7 December 2017.

A FRIENDLY TEA GROUP FOR THE BEREAVED today at 2.30pm in St Nicholas Church Hall. All welcome.

THE CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES CHARITY CHRISTMAS SHOP is now open in the United Reformed Church, Vaughan Road. Do come along to purchase your cards, Advent Calendars, wrapping paper, small gifts and even Christmas stamps! We are open from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 3.30pm Saturdays.

FREE LOCAL CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY FOR ELDERLY: Harpenden District Cubs are pleased to once again offer a free Christmas card delivery service for the elderly in 2017. This service allows elderly residents to post cards to others in Harpenden, Batford and Redbourn only. The post boxes are available until this **Wednesday, 6 December** in the Parish Office and also at St Mary's and All Saints'. Please contact Jackie Agg (769680) or Caroline Martin (768044) if you have any questions.

SAS meets next Sunday 5.00 - 7.00pm in All Saints Church Hall. This group is for school years 6-9. Please contact Sally Hart, sallyhart11@yahoo.co.uk for details.

SOUP & CAROLS IN ADVENT: You and your friends and neighbours are invited to Soup & Carols on Fridays in Advent, (8, 15 & 22 December) 1pm to 1.30pm in St Nicholas' Church. Lovely service of readings and carols with bread and soup to share.

SUPPER CLUB: the next meeting is on Monday 11 December. We will have a Christmas Quiz and Charity Raffle - donations of prizes for the raffle would be much appreciated. To help with catering please will members let Brenda Elliott (766526) know by Friday if they will not be attending. We hope to start promptly at 6pm. Thank you.

1940s TEA DANCE: The year 6 class of Sauncey Wood are holding a tea dance as part of their World War 2 history learning. They have been learning to dance and will be leading a sing song of the popular tunes of the era. They would love to have some seniors join them to reminisce, take tea and just enjoy the occasion from 6 to 7pm on Friday 8 December, at Sauncey Wood Primary School. Please let Natalie (622862) know if you would like to attend. Lifts may be arranged.

REVD ATALIE GAINES will be licensed as the Vicar of King Charles the Martyr Potters Bar on Saturday 9 December at 3pm. All are welcome. King Charles the Martyr, Mutton Lane, Potters Bar, EN6 3AS.

ADVENT STUDY GROUPS: We encourage existing groups to consider using 'God With Us' from the Archbishop of Canterbury. (books will soon be available from Cornelia's). If you would like a list of other Advent Books, ask the Rector. There will be these Advent Groups open to any one: **Tuesday Evenings:** Dec 5, 12, 19 and Jan 2 at 86 Tuffnells Way at 7.30pm, 'God with us', led by Revd Sally Goodson. **Wednesday evenings:** Dec 6, 13, 20 and Jan 3 at St Nicholas Church, 8pm, 'God with us', led by Canon Dennis Stamps. **Thursday evenings:** Dec 7, 14 and 21, at All Saints Church at 8pm, Reflective service, 'Getting ready for Christmas', led by Revd Linda Williams. **Also,** Advent Themes from 'God with us', will also be used at the Tuesday morning communion, 10am, at St Mary's on Dec. 5, 19 and Jan 2. And at the Wednesday morning communion service, 10.30am, at St Nicholas, Dec 6, 13, 20.

CAN YOU COOK? Seniors in Harpenden can learn basic cooking skills or rejuvenate existing ones at The Kitchen Front's special Christmas cookery workshop. Following the success of our previous cookery classes, and with support from The Harpenden Trust, we are holding a seasonal class in St Nicholas Church Hall on Thursday 14 December from 1.30 – 4.00pm. Older men who are unused to cooking are particularly welcome. The cost is £10 per class, including all ingredients, equipment, & recipes. At this session we will teach you to make two seasonal dishes to feed at least 2 people, including a delicious Dundee cake which will easily last until Christmas day if you would like to surprise family or friends with your cooking skills! The dishes can be adapted for most food allergies and intolerances if we know in advance. To book onto the class, or if you have any questions, please call Sarah Cripps or Jane Todd at The Kitchen Front on 07899 751211 or 07973 383607 and leave your phone number or your email address or email us on hello@thekitchenfrontcookery.co.uk. We will then get back to you to confirm your place and details of how to pay. If you are interested but cannot make this session, we will be running further courses in the new year so do let us know so we can keep you informed.

HOMEDELL SONGS OF PRAISE FOR CHRISTMAS: Friday 15 December at 3pm, followed by tea. Do come along to help with the singing of carols, and enjoy a cup of tea.

MONDAY 18 DECEMBER at 7.30pm. The Hardyng Choir will be holding its Christmas Concert in St. John's Church, Southdown. This year it will be a traditional Nine Lessons and Carols festival with support for Rennie Grove Hospice Care. Mulled wine and mince pies, included in the ticket price, will be served in the church hall following the concert. Tickets (unreserved seating) £12, and £6 for under 18s and students. Telephone 0845 475 1664.

HARPENDEN CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS Carols for Choir and Audience Tuesday 19 December 2017 at 7.30pm High Street Methodist Church, Harpenden Tickets: £10 (adults), £3 (children and students), including programme and seasonal refreshments. Available at Creature Comforts, Vaughan Road, Harpenden or through Box Office Manager Tricia Beavis on 01582 419379 (email tickets@harpendingchoralsociety.org) Alternatively, book online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/harpendingchoralsociety.org

CHRISTMAS CONCERT & TEA, CAKE & CHAT take place on Wednesday 20 December at 2pm in All Saints. The concert is given by the talented bands and concert ensembles of Sir John Lawes School. For a lift please contact Chris Powell 01582 764930 email chris_powell51@hotmail.co.uk.

SCHOOL OPEN DAY on Tuesday 9 January at 9.30am. If your child was born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014 you will need to apply for a Reception class place by Monday 15 January 2018. For more information contact the school 623620 or admin@stnicholasce.org

ST NICHOLAS CE VA SCHOOL APPLICATIONS: Clergy reference forms will be signed by the Rector at 9.30am on **Saturday 13 January** at the Parish Office. Parents can collect forms from the school office in usual school hours.

A NEW ALPHA COURSE STARTS on 11 January, 8-9.45pm. Begins with a meal. If you wish to attend go to website: harpendingalpha.church **Helpers for Alpha needed**, see the rector or email: info@harpendingalpha.church

BURNS SUPPER - Saturday 28 January 2018, St Nicholas Church Hall - please save the date for our annual celebration of the life and poetry of the poet Robert Burns. Do let Sue or Gordon Bentley know if you would like to reserve a table. Details to follow.

ALL CHURCH SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

All children intending to apply to St George's and St Nicholas Schools need to complete a Record Of Attendance in order to assist with the preparation of clergy references. The Record of Attendance needs to be completed for the duration of the following periods **prior to date of application:** 2 years for St George's and 1 year for St Nicholas. Please see the schools website for further details of the schools' admissions criteria including both the relevant period of attendance and frequency of attendance required by both St George's and St Nicholas schools. Any queries regarding the admissions criteria should be directed to the schools' admissions officers.

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

BIBLE READING NOTES: Please order from Rosemary (761322).

ALL SAINTS EMERGENCY PRAYER CHAIN: Please call 622862.

LIFTS TO CHURCH: tel 01582 760752

RECORDINGS OF 10.30am SERMONS: www.blueskylark.org/allsaints

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

TODAY, SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER: 6.30pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, a Harpenden Churches Together Service for Advent. Many churches are taking part-come along and reflect on Advent season.

SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER: 10am-1pm - All Saints stall at St Nicholas' Festival, St Nicholas' Church. An opportunity to show and talk to people about our fellowship and activities at All Saints. Help devising the stall and manning it needed - let Rev'd Linda know if you can help

SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER 1-5pm - All Saints and Batford Methodist stall at Batford Christmas Wonderland - Marquis Lane park. Helping make crafts with children, sweetie tombola, giving out leaflets about services over Christmas. 1 hour slots (or 30 mins if we have sufficient people) - let Natalie know if you can help

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 3-5pm - Messy Christingle at Batford Methodist: Family crafts and service with pizza tea. Helping with craft tables, or preparing pizza tea served at 4.30pm - let Natalie know if you can help.

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 6.30pm Eight readers required to read the Bible passages in the Service of Nine Lessons & Carols. Offer to Rev'd Linda who will provide you with a script.

SERVICE TIME CHANGES; please continue to pray and reflect upon the movement of Sunday service times to 9.30am Holy Communion and 11am Worship before the introduction of a trial period in the New Year 2018. Any comments, questions or reflections most welcome. Revd Linda.

SACK TROLLEY/SMALL STEP LADDER both missing since August. If you have a post box red trolley and aluminium 4 step A frame ladder that you may have borrowed and not returned, please pop it back to church. No questions asked.

ADVENT There will be three special Advent services on Thursday evenings. These will be quiet, reflective hours to set apart from all the busyness of Christmas and come to pray at All Saints church-7, 14, 21 December at 8pm.

ALL SAINTS TRAVELLING CRIB: Sunday 3 to Sunday 23 December - Joseph, Mary and the donkey will be making their way around the District for three weeks from the evening of Advent Sunday, returning in time for our Crib Service on Christmas Eve. If you would like them to spend a night at your home sometime during Advent, please contact Tony Gilbert with a note of any dates that would particularly suit you (but hurry, as dates are available on a first come, first served basis!). Email would be best - tonyrgilbert60@gmail.com - otherwise call 762052 or see him on Sunday.

HELP NEEDED: One or two people needed on Monday 4 December at 6.30-7.45pm and also on Tuesday 19 December at 6.30-7.30pm to act as sidespersons/greeters from All Saints at Harpenden District Beavers Christmas Service and at Sir John Lawes School Christmas Concert. Rev'd Linda would appreciate help at these two events.

St Mary's Church Notices

TRAVELLING CRIB: Travelling Crib, the crib figures will begin their journey next week, if anyone else would like to host them during Advent please let Sally know.



LITTLE LUNCH: Monday 4 December at 12.30.

DCC meeting Monday 4 December at 7.45pm, please note earlier start time.

ADVENT GROUPS start this week, Tuesday evening, 7.30pm at 86 Tuffnells Way, please collect a book from Sally if you are planning to come along. We will cover the same material in discussion after the 10am Tuesday morning service also.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: there are a few bundles left, it would be great if these could be delivered this week to publicise our Christmas services and take our greetings to our local community.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE: Sunday 10 December at 4.30pm.

STALL FOR PAUL: £325 was raised, thank you for your support.

St Nicholas Church Notices

Sunday, 10 December is our Patronal Festival when we give thanks for our patron Saint Nicholas. Fr Alan Moses, Vicar of All Saints, Margaret Street, London will be our guest preacher.



Congratulations to Tim Halstead on the publication of his book of non-fiction history, **A SCHOOL IN ARMS. UPPINGHAM AND THE GREAT WAR** (Helion, 2017). Tim will have copies of the book in the Hall after the 9.30 service for you to see (and you can order if you wish).

FAIRTRADE STALL in the church hall, after the 9.30am service today.

ST NICHOLAS FESTIVAL:

- You are warmly invited to the **St Nicholas Festival on Saturday 9 December 10am - 1pm** where you will be able to enjoy delicious fayre from the breakfast café, listen to live festive music and investigate the many stalls. The Church will be beautifully decorated, Father Christmas will be in his grotto and Creation Station crafts will be joining us. 2 more people are still needed to help on the day, if you are able to spare an hour please let Rachael Threlfall know. And if you are able please stay for 30 minutes after the fayre has finished to help everything magically disappear, we would be incredibly grateful!
- If you would like to promote your church group/activity at the festival, please attach an A5 or A4 flyer to '**Life in Our Church**' board available at the back of church until the festival.
- Please help us **Turn Harpenden Gold** by delivering Christmas leaflets to a street inviting the whole town to the St Nicholas Festival and all the Christmas Services. A map and gold pen are at the back of Church for you to mark off the street you have chosen.

THE SIMPLY WORSHIP SERVICE today at 4.30 pm will be a **Christingle** service. Christingle was specifically created with children in mind. By taking part you help **The Children's Society** to support vulnerable children and young people. The Christingle service is the perfect event to take children along to, and can be enjoyed by people of all ages. Children's Society House Boxes will be collected at this service so if you have one please bring it with you.

THE TRAVELLING KINGS will be making their way around the Parish, stopping at a new home each night, from Christmas Eve until Epiphany Sunday, 7 January. Please sign up as soon as possible if you would like the child-friendly, knitted Three Wise Men and their camel (and Star) 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, or Katharine Tate, 620178, timandkattate@hotmail.com



What's on This Week

Monday 4

- 9.00am-11.45am Chat Monday in Cornelia's Coffee Shop. All welcome
- 9.15am Morning Prayer at All Saints
- 8.00pm St Mary's District Church Committee Meeting

Tuesday 5

- 10.00am Holy Communion at St Mary's with Advent Theme from study book 'God with us'
- 2.30pm Guild of Health Prayer Group at 6 Timbers Court
- 5.00pm Evening Prayer at St Nicholas

Wednesday 6 St Nicholas, Bishop of Myra

- 10.00am Morning Prayer at St Nicholas
- 10.30am Holy Communion at St Nicholas with Advent Theme from study book 'God with us'
- 2.00pm Outreach Sewing Afternoon at 60 Willoughby Road. All welcome
- 5.00pm Evening Prayer at St Nicholas

Thursday 7

- 9.00am Toddler Time in St Nicholas Church Hall
- 9.30am Busy Bunnies in All Saints Church Hall
- 8.00pm 'Getting Ready for Christmas' - A Series of Reflective Services in Advent at All Saints

Friday 8

- 8.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas
- 1.00pm Soup and Carols in St Nicholas' Church
- 5.00pm Evening Prayer at St Nicholas

Saturday 9

- 10.00am-1.00pm St Nicholas Festival in St Nicholas' Church
- 10.30am Holy Communion in St Nicholas' **Church Hall, Cunningham Room**

Sunday 10 The Second Sunday of Advent

St Nicholas Church - Patronal Festival

- 8.00am Holy Communion Father Alan Moses (Vicar at All Saints Margaret Street)
- 9.30am Sung Eucharist Father Alan Moses
- 11.30am Morning Praise Alan Gilliam
- 3.00pm Holy Baptism of Ralph Leo Lucas and Reva Lillian Lucas
- 4.00pm Holy Baptism of William Henry Tedder, Stanley Jeff Markham and Amy Springett
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong

All Saints Church

- 9.00am Holy Communion Revd Peter Crumpler (Associate Minister, Sandridge)
- 10.30am Worship Service Revd Peter Crumpler

St Mary's Church

- 9.30am Sung Eucharist Revd Sally Goodson (Associate Vicar, St Mary's)
- 4.30pm Christingle Revd Sally Goodson

Readings: Isaiah 61 .1-3 1 Timothy 6.6-11 Mark 10.13-16 (St Nicholas)
 Isaiah 40.1-11 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8 (All Saints & St Mary's)

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