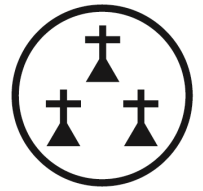


**We are an inclusive church, called to
be caring, loving and welcoming to all**

**Parish of
Harpenden**



The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity 17 September 2023

Services in the Parish

- 8.00am **Holy Communion at St Nicholas'**
President & Preacher - Revd Canon Dennis Stamps
- 9.30am **Sung Eucharist at St Nicholas'**
President - Revd Canon Dennis Stamps; Preacher - Gill White (Reader)
Live streamed on [facebook.com/StNicholasChurchHarpenden](https://www.facebook.com/StNicholasChurchHarpenden)
You can also join by telephone: 02034815240, enter ID#: 81402722773,
followed by # (no password needed).
- 9.30am **Family Communion at St Mary's**
President & Preacher - Revd Nick Goulding
Live-streamed on www.facebook.com/StMarysKinsbourneGreen
- 10.00am **Morning Worship at All Saints' and on Zoom**
Leader - Roy Mutlow; Preacher - Pauline Gilbert (Reader)
Zoom details available in the weekly email sending the pew leaflet or by
request from associate.vicar@allsaints.parishofharpenden.org
- 11.30am **Café Church in St Nicholas' Church Hall**
Suzanne Rose & Revd Cath Rindl
- 4.30pm **Simply Worship at St Mary's:** Jenny Goulding & Revd Sally Goodson
- 6.30pm **Choral Evensong at St Nicholas'**

CONNECT, BELONG, SHARE, GROW

Our mission is to build connections, encourage belonging, and share an appealing faith that grows a vibrant Christian community at every stage of life.

Please contact the parish office on
01582 765524 or office@parishofharpenden.org
You can also find information on www.parishofharpenden.org

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS THIS WEEK

MONDAY - FRIDAY

10.00am - 2.00pm

SATURDAY (staffed by volunteers)

9.30 - 11.30am

●●● | Collects, Reading and Gospel

COLLECT

God who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service ; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

ALTERNATIVE COLLECT

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING GENESIS 50. 15-21

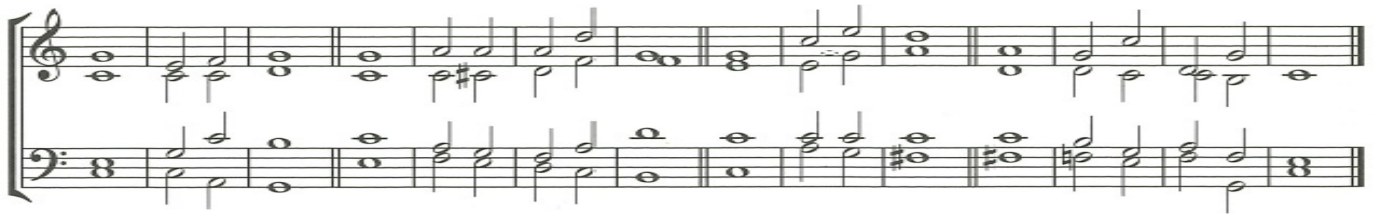
Realising that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

SECOND READING Romans 14.1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

CLERGY AND MINISTERS CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR YOU AND FOR THE PRAYER LIST for the parish. If you have anyone you would like to add to the prayer list, contact the parish office or the clergy.

PSALM 103.8 -13



The Lord is full of com/passion and / mercy, ♦ slow to anger / and of / great / kindness.

He will not / always ac/cuse us, ♦ neither will he / keep his / anger for / ever.

He has not dealt with us ac/cording · to our / sins, ♦ nor rewarded us ac/cording / to our /wickedness.

For as the heavens are high a/bove the / earth, ♦ so great is his / mercy · upon / those who / fear him.

As far as the east is / from the / west, ♦ so far has he / set our / sins / from us.

As a father has com/passion · on his / children, ♦ so is the Lord merciful to/wards those who /fear him.

GOSPEL Matthew 18.21–35

Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

POST COMMUNION

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Diocesan 'Living God's Love' Topic for the Week: *Making new disciples:* For all who lead and attend Youth Clubs

The Sick: Mike Clasby, Rosemary Hill, Kevin Gill

The Recently Departed: Philip Daggett, Jean Lale

First Anniversary of Death: Gavin Leek

● ● ● | Parish Notices

CHANGES IN MORNING PRAYER/EVENING PRAYER: see back page for the new pattern - All Saints morning prayer will resume on Wednesday 27 September at 9.00am.

INTERNATIONAL PRAYERS FOR PEACE (UN International Day of Peace) : with Harpenden Churches Together, Thursday, 21 September, 6pm at the War Memorial on the Green. Everyone welcome.

TIME FOR AFTERNOON TEA! Haven, a wonderful ministry to young people who need some support, is raising funds by holding a special AFTERNOON TEA, £20pp, Saturday, 23 September, 3.30pm at St Helen's Church, Wheathampstead. To book email: pa@the267project.com Do support them.

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT: The Rector is teaching this course at the Cathedral Study Centre, Tuesday evenings, 19 September to 28 November (excluding 24 October), 7.30pm online via Zoom. Cost £130, counts toward certificate in Theology. You may book by contacting: **01727 890212** between 9.30am and 3.30pm Monday to Friday or the Box Office on **01727 890290**. See also the Cathedral Website for Learning.

CORNELIA'S OPENING HOURS: Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 10am - noon, Wednesday 3 - 4pm. Please come and join us, alone, or with friends for a very friendly welcome in a beautiful setting

THE NEXT PARISH FIRST COMMUNION COURSE for children who will be over 7 years old before 1 September will commence on Sunday 1 October. If your child would like to attend please contact the Parish Office for details and an application form. Please approach a member of the clergy team if you would like more information. All application forms must be completed and returned to the Parish Office as soon as possible.

SAS YOUTH GROUP RESTARTS 17 SEPTEMBER - We welcome anyone from **year 6 to year 10** every Sunday in term time at All Saints. More helpers needed, even if only for one session. Please contact Revd Cath 07961 564385

PASTORAL CARE – Would you be interested in becoming involved with this important task in the parish? Please come along on Saturday 7 October to St Mary's 10am-12noon, to learn more and have a little training, along with the existing pastoral care teams. Coffee will be served from 9.45am. If you would like more information, please speak to a member of the clergy team.

WASTE NOT, CLOTHES SWAP - Saturday 7 October, 6.30-8.30pm in All Saints' Church Hall Tickets include a free drink £2 adults £1 under 18s Eventbrite for tickets: <https://shorturl.at/btvU2> A fabulous fusion of churches and community event for teenagers and adults. Bring clothes you no longer want; explore any new clothes you could walk away with over wine / soft drinks and good company. Organised by the Eco Church teams from four Anglican churches across the town.

HOLIDAYS ARE OVER - time to book for an autumn evening's entertainment: the CHILDREN'S SOCIETY QUIZ EVENING on Saturday 7 October, at St Nicholas church hall, 7 for 7.30pm, tables of 8, £10 per ticket. No supper will be served - bring your own refreshments (glasses provided). For tickets, call 01582 460100.

THE FUNERAL SERVICE for Wenna Taylor (who was involved with the Friendly Tea Group for the Bereaved at St Nicholas' for many years) is to be at 2pm on Tuesday 26 September, at Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans, with tea/coffee and cake in the church hall afterwards. (More details from Phillips Funeral Directors: 01727 812244)

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HOW SCIENCE AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH TOGETHER CAN BETTER EXPLAIN OUR WORLD? Try some fascinating science experiments and learn from the Bible all at the same time. We are running a small study group this autumn with the theme - "Let there be light!" This new course, developed within our Diocese will take place at St Mary's Church on four consecutive Tuesday evenings at 8pm beginning on 24 October. No previous science expertise is needed to enjoy this. For more information, and to book your place, contact Rev'd Nick Goulding at St Mary's. prof.goulding@gmail.com

JANE & JAMES JOHNSON CYCLED 51 MILES and visited 14 churches for the 2023 Bike & Hike, in support of the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust and St Nicholas Church. We would be very grateful for any sponsorship you are able to give, either through our Just Giving page, or in person to Jane. [Jane Johnson is fundraising for Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/Jane-Johnson)

VICKY PLATT CYCLED 40 MILES A WEEK AGO DURING THE BIKE 'N HIKE - sponsorship still welcome contact Vicky by email or phone 01582 468435. Anyone who would like an account of her cycle ride and some pictures - they will be available early next week.

BIKE 'N HIKE A big thank you to all those who participated in the Bike 'n Hike last Saturday in the heat. There is still time to give a donation to the Beds & Herts Historic Churches trust, so let Pete Lovell at All Saints, Olive Hayward at St Mary's or myself, Jean McIntosh at St Nicholas have a cheque or cash donation preferably before the end of September. Thankyou

CLERGY REFERENCES (CHURCH FORMS) FOR APPLICATIONS TO ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024. In order that the parish may deal with requests for clergy references in an efficient manner, we ask that parents / guardians send the following documents **by email** to the parish office - office@parishofharpenden.org - **by Monday 2 October 2023:**

1. completed 'Request for Clergy Reference Form' (available at the back of church OR for download from the Parish website OR from the parish office by email); and
 2. scanned colour copy of your child's completed record of church attendance ('passport').
- Clergy reference requests will be processed by the parish office during weeks commencing 2 October and 9 October 2023 and may be collected from the parish office by parents/ guardians on **Saturday 14 October 2023 between 10am and 12.00 noon**. Please contact the parish office by email at office@parishofharpenden.org or on telephone number 01582 765524 if you have any queries or any difficulties in sending the documents.

RECORD OF CHURCH ATTENDANCE FOR ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL APPLICATION

Please remember to bring your 'passport' to church and get it stamped at least one Sunday a month for the **duration of school years 4 and 5. Children in Year 6 will need a stamp for September.** There are new copies of the passport available from the back of church now. We do not stamp passports at Morning or Evening Prayer.

PARISH GIVING: If you do not already make a regular donation to the Parish, please consider doing so. It is now easier than ever to set up a Direct Debit with The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). Follow this link <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/harpenden-st-nicholas-st-albans/> or simply scan the QR code from your mobile device. Any queries can be sent to Claire Petevinos: giving.recorder@parishofharpenden.org



St Nicholas' Church Notices



MUSIC TODAY

9.30am **Sung Eucharist**

Setting: Thorne

Hymns: 385 Be thou my guardian; 311 Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour;
519 Make me a channel of your peace; 605 Through the night of doubt
and sorrow

Anthem: Surely the Lord is in this place (Honeyball)

6.30pm **Choral Evensong**

Responses: Brama **Setting:** Bairstow Eb

Anthem: My song is love unknown (Morrison)

OUR 9.30AM SERVICE IS NORMALLY LIVE STREAMED ON FACEBOOK (also available as a recorded service afterwards). We are a public page and you do not have to sign up to Facebook to access (just keep saying no to joining until you get to the page (<https://www.facebook.com/StNicholasChurchHarpenden>)). Any problems, do contact us.

SEEKING TEENAGERS FOR DofE VOLUNTEERING! The church is looking for a new Junior Warden to help with various events over the Autumn term leading up to Christmas. Please contact RachaelThrelfall@btinternet.com for details.

PASTORAL CARE – Would you be interested in becoming involved with this important task in the parish? Please come along on Saturday 7 October to St Mary's 10am-12noon, to learn more and have a little training, along with the existing pastoral care teams. Coffee will be served from 9.45am. If you would like more information, please speak to a member of the clergy team.

HALL BOOKINGS - the Parish Office has taken over the management of hall bookings at St Nicholas' as Marie Pinnington has now stepped down from this role. Thank you to Marie for all the hard work she has put in to ensure that all bookings ran smoothly during the many years she did this task. Jean McIntosh

St Mary's Church Notices



TIDYING UP OUTSIDE ST MARY'S: Saturday 16 September 10am -12.30pm.

Please come and help with a late summer tidy up outside St Marys, to get the garden and outside area ready for the autumn (this Saturday if you are reading this before the weekend). Coffee and snacks provided. Many hands will make the tasks easier; even if you can only come for a short while. Thank you.

UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE: Thursday 21 September at 6pm. Harpenden Churches are invited to gather at the War Memorial to pray for peace in the world. We plan to give out small prayer cards. If you would like to help to make those cards please contact Sally.

QUIET DAY FOR ST MARY'S: Saturday 18 November 10am-4pm at St Marys Redbourn
Why not put the date in your diary now as a gift to yourself of space, peace and quiet. You are welcome to come for all or part of the day. Our quiet day will be led by Revd Deborah Snowball.

TUESDAY 10AM HOLY COMMUNION - 19 September

SITUATIONS VACANT: we have a number of roles that need volunteers. Please consider whether you might be able to help St Mary's in any of these ways:

Putting out the banners at the front of church, Acting as keyholder for hirers of our hall, to show round potential hirers and organise locking and unlocking for their bookings. Driving for church services and events (DBS and Safeguarding training needed for drivers).

All Saints' Church Notices



Emergency Prayer Chain: jenny.britt@yahoo.com

HELP WITH TODDLER GROUP - would you be able to join the team that runs our lovely toddler group? We serve local parents and carers by holding this friendly space every Thursday morning but need some more help to keep it running. Tasks involve making people feel welcome, signing them in, setting up toys, reading stories / singing songs, making cups of tea, preparing a snack for the little ones. If you are interested to find out more or offer your time then please get in touch with James associate.vicar@allsaints.parishofharpenden.org. All of the appropriate safeguarding checks and procedures will of course be carried out.

CHURCH WEEKEND AT HOME : Detailed flyers and programmes are available at church about the weekend (29 September- 1 October). We are looking forward to this special time together to deepen our friendships and our faith. To help those who are preparing meals, please let us know if you are planning to be there for the ceilidh and fish and chips, also for the curry lunch on the Sunday. Sign up at church or email associate.vicar@allsaints.parishofharpenden.org.

HARVEST DONATIONS: We celebrate Harvest festival at our **Church** Weekend at Home. During the Sunday service (10.30am, 1 October) we will receive gifts for the King's Pantry food bank. Please bring any donations of non-perishable goods on that day, to be brought up during the service. There will also be the opportunity to make financial contributions towards the Bishops' Harvest Appeal. This year donations will go to Mission Direct' s work in Kumi, Uganda providing materially poor families with chickens.

REVISED VERSION OF ALL SAINTS' DIRECTORY has now been printed and named copies are available for all those included in it. Do keep an eye open for them. Donations towards costs would be appreciated - as a guide the Parish asks for £1 for copies of its directory. If / when enough extra people give their details to be included I will print off an extra sheet to be stuck in the back of your copies.

WORKING PARTY - INDOORS AS WELL AS OUT! You are welcome to come along on the first Saturday of each month when we get together to care for the grounds at All Saints and to dust, sweep and generally clean the church. We meet from 9.30 -11.30am or whatever time you can manage. Our next session will be on **7 October**. Coffee served, jobs done, fun had.



What's on This Week

Monday 18

9.15am Morning Prayer at All Saints'

Tuesday 19

9.00am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

10.00am Holy Communion at St Mary's

Wednesday 20

10.30am Holy Communion at St Nicholas'

5.00pm Evening Prayer at St Nicholas'

Thursday 21

9.00am Morning Prayer at St Nicholas'

Saturday 23 September

10.30am Holy Communion at St Nicholas'

Sunday 24 September - The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am **Holy Communion at St Nicholas'**

President - Revd Cath Rindl; Preacher - Revd Canon Dennis Stamps

9.30am **Sung Eucharist at St Nicholas'**

President - Revd Cath Rindl; Preacher - Revd Canon Dennis Stamps

Live streamed on [facebook.com/StNicholasChurchHarpenden](https://www.facebook.com/StNicholasChurchHarpenden)

You can also join by telephone: 02034815240, enter ID#: 81402722773, followed by # (no password needed).

9.30am **Family Communion at St Mary's**

President - Revd Sally Goodson; Preacher - Nina Featherstone

Live-streamed on www.facebook.com/StMarysKinsbourneGreen

10.00am **Morning Worship at All Saints' and on Zoom**

Leader - Tony Gilbert; Preacher - Revd James Brown

Zoom details available in the weekly email sending the pew leaflet or by request from associate.vicar@allsaints.parishofharpenden.org

11.30am **Morning Praise with Holy Communion at St Nicholas'**

Jacque Hibbert & Revd Cath Rindl

3.00pm **Civic Service at St Nicholas'**

President & Preacher - Revd Canon Dennis Stamps

Readings

Jonah 3. 10- 4.11 Philippians 1. 21-30 Matthew 20. 1-16