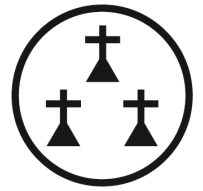


**We are an inclusive church, called to
be caring, loving and welcoming to all**

**Parish of
Harpenden**



The Second Sunday before Advent 19 November 2023

Services in the Parish

- 8.00am **Holy Communion at St Nicholas'**
President - Revd Canon Dennis Stamps; Preacher - Andrew Marsh, Reader
- 9.30am **Sung Eucharist at St Nicholas'**
President Revd Canon Dennis Stamps; Preacher - Andrew Marsh
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 Nick Goulding; Preacher - Hilary Pask, Reader
Live-streamed on www.facebook.com/StMarysKinsbourneGreen
- 10.00am **Morning Worship at All Saints' and on Zoom**
Leader - Revd James Brown; 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 **Morning Praise at St Nicholas'**
Leader - Chris Powell; Speaker - Richard Palmer
- 4.30pm **Simply Worship at St Mary's:** Jenny Goulding
- 6.30pm **Choral Evensong**

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

●●● | Collects, Reading and Gospel

COLLECT

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Or ADDITIONAL COLLECT

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING Zephaniah 1.7, 12–18

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5.1–11

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

PSALM 90.1-8



Lord, you have / been our / refuge ♦ from one gene/ration / to a/nother.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or the earth and the / world were / formed, ♦
from everlasting to ever/lasting / you are / God.

You turn us back to / dust and / say: ♦ ‘Turn / back, O / children of / earth.’

For a thousand years in your sight are / but as / yesterday, ♦ which passes / like a / watch • in
the / night.

You sweep them away / like a / dream; ♦ they fade away / suddenly / like the / grass.

In the morning it is / green and / flourishes; ♦ in the evening it is / dried / up and / withered.

For we consume away in / your dis/pleasure; ♦ we are afraid at your / wrathful / indig/nation.

You have set our mis/deeds be/fore you ♦ and our secret / sins • in the / light of your /
countenance.

GOSPEL Matthew 25.14–30

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

POST COMMUNION

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Diocesan 'Living God's Love' Topic for the Week: *Going Deeper into God:* all who pray at home

The Sick: Mike Clasby, Rosemary Hill, Kevin Gill, Peter Norwood

The Recently Departed: Coral Cox, Maureen Jack

First Anniversary of Death: Joan Gates, Ruth Gill, Derek White

Parish Notices

ADVENT PARTY ON SATURDAY 2 DEC, 10AM-12NOON. Fun, crafts, games and party food as we celebrate the beginning of Advent. £1 per child, payable on the day. All children are welcome and will need to have a parent or carer with them. St Nicholas' Hall. Places are filling up so book now! 0796 1564385 assistant.curate@stnicholas.parishofharpenden.org

DEANERY ADVENT QUIET DAY, SATURDAY, 2 DECEMBER, 10AM TO 1PM, ST MARY'S, KINSBOURNE GREEN: Join with others across the Deanery for an Advent themed quiet opportunity to make space for God. Input from a speaker, time for quiet and reflection, (if weather is good, space to wander around the Common), light soup lunch to end the morning. Please sign up by contacting St Nicholas Church parish office: office@parishofharpenden.org or ring 01582 765524. Alternatively you can sign up online via our website www.parishofharpenden.org

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE: The annual Christingle service organised by the Harpenden Committee of The Children's Society will take place at St Nicholas' on Sunday 3 December at 4.30 pm. The service is 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. There will also be a short talk about the work of The Children's Society, which is a national charity that runs local projects helping children and young people when they are at their most vulnerable, and have nowhere left to turn. It will last for approximately 50 minutes. Donations will be invited for the work of the charity. Additional services will be held at St John's Church, East Common, on Sunday 10 December at 3.00 pm and at St Mary's on 21 January at 4.30pm.

A WALK IN THE DARK - SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER, 6.30PM An atmospheric evening walk in the nature reserve. We will meet at All Saints' church and wander through Batford Springs, pausing to hear beautiful readings and prayers, before returning to church for a warming glass of port. Bring a torch and wrap up warm

ADVENT THROUGH ART - WEDNESDAYS 6, 13, 20 DECEMBER, 8PM - Revd James leads us as we explore Advent through scripture and great works of art from across the centuries. Join on Zoom via this link: <https://shorturl.at/IAQY6>

WEDNESDAYS 29 NOVEMBER TO 27 DECEMBER, 10.30AM - HOLY COMMUNION An Advent sermon series, *Lighten our Path*. Each week at St Nicholas, we will explore how Advent and the birth of Jesus brings light as we journey in faith

SAS YOUTH GROUP - 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

THE TRAVELLING CRIB will be making its way around the Parish, stopping at a new home each night, from Advent Sunday, 3 December, until Christmas Eve. Please sign up as soon as possible if you would like the child-friendly, knitted Mary, Joseph and Donkey to rest for a night in your home. All ages/groups are welcome to host.

Contact Pamela Woodford-Smith, Tel.764368, pamelaws@btinternet.com, or Jean McIntosh, Tel.761362, jeanmcintosh41@gmail.com

FREE LOCAL CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY FOR ELDERLY: Harpenden District Cubs celebrating 40 years of their free Christmas card delivery service in 2023. This service allows elderly residents to post cards for free to others in Harpenden, Batford and Redbourn only. The post boxes will be available from this week until Monday 11 December at St Mary's Church and All Saints' Church, and until Thursday 14 December in the Parish Office. Please contact Jackie Agg (tel 769680) if you have any questions.

CORNELIA'S will be CLOSED SATURDAY 25 November as the school are using the building for their Christmas Fayre.

CORNELIA'S will be OPEN SUNDAY 26 November noon till 5pm during Harpenden Lights Up. Please come and join us for warming drinks, soup & cake in a very welcoming atmosphere.

Members of **HARPENDEN CONCERT BAND** will be carolling at Cornelia's **each Saturday in December 10am - noon**. Please join us for some festive music while you enjoy your coffee and cake. If weather is good they will be outside, so wrap up warm, if raining/overly cold we will use the hall

SOUP AND CAROLS - FRIDAYS 1, 8, 15, 22 DECEMBER, 1PM-1.30PM - At St Nicholas Church - As we eat our soup and bread roll, we sing carols and hear humorous and inspiring vignettes

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. We recommend taking a photo of the card regularly in case you mislay it.

REQUEST FOR FOODBANK DONATIONS: Please leave your contributions at St Nicholas in the green crates next to the font, or in the porch, when church is open for services or private prayer. They will be collected for delivery to Salvation Army and FEED at the Vineyard Church as usual. Donations are still very much needed and your contributions are gratefully received. We would also appreciate any spare carrier bags for transporting the goods to the Food Banks. Thank you.

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://](https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/harpenden-st-nicholas-st-albans/)

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



TEXT GIVING is a simple, quick and convenient way to give on a one-off or occasional basis. From your mobile phone, just type CHURCH followed by an amount of up to £20 and text to 70085, to donate to the Parish. For example, text CHURCH 10 to donate £10. You can do this as many times as you wish. For every text sent, you will be charged the amount you have chosen to give plus your standard network rate.

St Nicholas' Church Notices



MUSIC TODAY

9.30am **Sung Eucharist**
Setting: Thorne
Hymns: 362 Tell out my soul; 475 Immortal love for ever full;
 343 O perfect love; 267 Thou, whose almighty word
Anthem: Ave Verum Corpus (Mozart)

6.30pm **Choral Evensong**
Responses: Aston
Setting: Wicks Cherubini Service
Anthem: Love Divine (Willcocks)

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.

WE NEED YOUR HELP: DCC Secretary (attend DCC meetings and keep and distribute minutes)

Ongoing help needed with Cornelia's, Tea-Cake and Chat, Servers (9.30service)

THURSDAY DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS ON FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAYS EACH MONTH. This term our conversations are based the book The Shack, but you do not need to have read the book to join us. We look forward to welcoming you. For further info contact Cath 07961 564385

Our popular **CHRISTMAS FAYRE WILL BE ON SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER, 10am till noon.** Everyone is invited. The church will be beautifully decorated, there will be lots of Carols, festive stalls and a breakfast café. Proceeds of the Fayre will be shared between Vineyard (including the Foodbank), Medecins Sans Frontieres and the church. Lots of help needed to set up Friday afternoon 1.30pm till 3.30pm (straight after soup & carols) and on Saturday from 8am - a sign up list is at the back of church. Please come and join in, your help and support would be very welcome.

THE MORNING PRAISE TEAM would like donations of a few **GOOD QUALITY CHILDREN'S BOOKS** for their stall at the Christmas Fayre. Please leave donations either in Cornelia's when open or bring to the church Friday 8th 1.30pm till 3.30pm during set up.

ST NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS FAYRE—CAKE STALL - All you bakers out there, Mothers' Union would appreciate you baking a cake (or two) for the above please. If you could bring to the Church by 10.00am on 9 December that would be great - thank you so much.

A HUGE THANK YOU to all those who helped dust & Hoover the church last weekend in preparation of Advent.

ST NICHOLAS C OF E VA PRIMARY SCHOOL IS HOLDING OPEN DAYS for children starting Reception in September 2024 on Wednesday 29 November and Wednesday 10 January. To book a place at the Open Days please visit www.stnicholasce.org or alternatively email: admin@stnicholasce.org or call: 01582 623620. St Nicholas is a caring, nurturing and inclusive school that welcomes families of all faiths and no faith and we look forward to meeting prospective new parents at our Open Days.

St Mary's Church Notices



TUESDAY 10AM HOLY COMMUNION - 21 November

TREASURER: ST MARYS NEEDS A NEW TREASURER. Lindsey is standing down after several years in this role. Could you take on this important role for St Marys? Please give this prayerful consideration. I'm hoping to find someone to fill this role soon, so that they can benefit from the opportunity to work alongside Lindsey for the next few months. Please contact Lindsey or Sally if you might be our next treasurer. Thank you.

All Saints' Church Notices



Emergency Prayer Chain: jenny.britt@yahoo.com

COMMUNION TRIAL - We have begun a trial of how we offer communion at All Saints, trying to include both those who want to receive the common cup and those who would not take the wine if this was the only way it was offered. We are now offering both intincted (dipped) wafers as well as the bread, then the cup. Please let James know any reflections on how this is working.

SUNDAY CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY - The Christmas party will be on Sunday 10 December during the service, followed by decorating the Christmas tree together in the hall after the service. Make sure to come and along and join the fun.

BEER AND CAROLS - Please bring friends and neighbours to this wonderful, festive evening at the Marquis of Granby. We will sing carols from 8pm, Tuesday 12 December. Free nibbles. A great way to connect with our community and share the good news of Christmas.

BATFORD LIGHTS UP - Can you help us run a craft station for local children at our community turning of the Christmas lights? Thursday 30 Nov, 4.30-6.30pm. please contact James if you can help.

FAITH & LIGHT @ ST JOHN'S CHURCH, SOUTHDOWN This is a service for people with learning disabilities or learning difficulties, their families and friends followed by a tea. .All Saints are providing the refreshments for this service on Sunday 3 December. . We need 1 more volunteer to help at St John's, 4.00—6.00pm and contributions of food brought to All Saints on the morning. Please contact Harriet Parks if you would like to help and/or sign the list with food contributions required which will be in the hall on Sunday. Thank you.

EXTRA NOTICE FOR EVERYONE!

CALLING ALL BAKERS! Would any of you like to contribute to the cake sale to be held outside High Street Methodist Church on 25 November in aid of Azalea? For more information: contact rebecca@azalea.org.uk.



What's on This Week

Monday 20

9.15am Morning Prayer at All Saints'

Tuesday 21

9.00am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

10.00am Holy Communion at St Mary's

Wednesday 22

9.00am Morning Prayer at All Saints'

10.30am Holy Communion at St Nicholas'

5.00pm Evening Prayer at St Nicholas'

Thursday 23

9.00am Morning Prayer at St Nicholas'

Saturday 25

10.30am Holy Communion at St Nicholas'

Sunday 26 November - Christ the King

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

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

9.30am **All Age Eucharist at St Nicholas' with Holy Baptism & Children's First Communion**

President & Preacher - Revd Cath Rindl;

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 with Children's First Communion at St Mary's**

President & Preacher - Revd Sally Goodson

Live-streamed on www.facebook.com/StMarysKinsbourneGreen

10.00am **Holy Communion with Children's First Communion at All Saints' and on Zoom**

President & 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'**

Leader - Suzanne Rose; President & Preacher - Revd Cath Rindl

6.30pm **Choral Evensong**

Readings

Ezekiel 34.11-16

Ephesians 1.15-23

Matthew 25.31-46