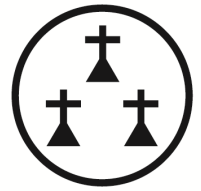


**We are an inclusive church, called to
be caring, loving and welcoming to all**

**Parish of
Harpenden**



The Fifth Sunday of Easter 28 April 2024

Services in the Parish

- 8.00am **Holy Communion at St Nicholas'**
President - Revd Canon Dennis Stamps; Preacher - Brenda Marshall
- 9.30am **Sung Eucharist at St Nicholas'**
President - Revd Canon Dennis Stamps; Preacher - Brenda Marshall
This service will be live streamed on Facebook (or available as a recorded service afterwards) 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 Geoff Lackey
Live-streamed on www.facebook.com/StMarysKinsbourneGreen
- 10.00am **Holy Communion at All Saints' and on Zoom**
President & Preacher - Revd Cath Rindl
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 - Vicky Platt; President & Preacher - Revd Canon Dennis Stamps
Prayer ministry will be available at this service
- 6.30pm **Choral Evensong at St Nicholas'**

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

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.

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS THIS WEEK

MONDAY - FRIDAY

10.00am - 2.00pm

●●● | Collects, Reading and Gospel

COLLECT

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

ALTERNATIVE COLLECT

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 22.1-18

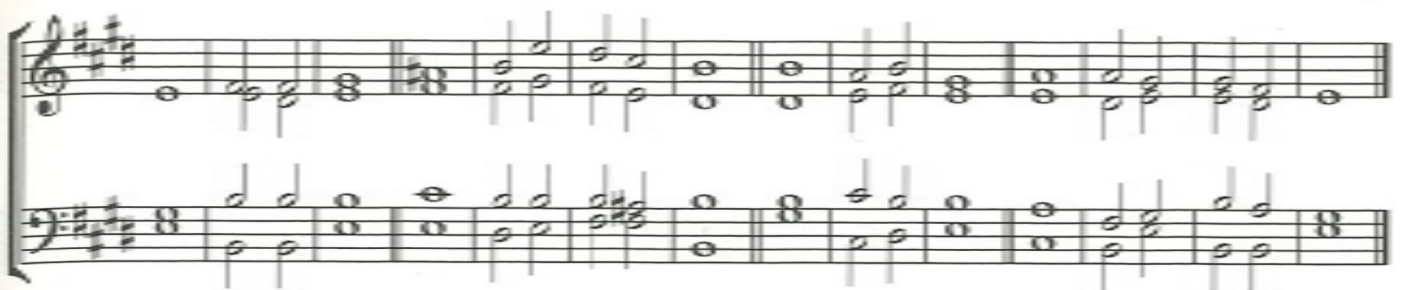
After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.' Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?' Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place 'The LORD will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.' The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice .

NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 8.26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went.

Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

PSALM 22.25-31



From you comes my praise in the great / congre/gation; ♦ I will perform my vows in the / presence of / those that / fear you.
 #The poor shall / eat • and be / satisfied; ♦ those who seek the Lord shall praise him; their / hearts shall / live for / ever.
 All the ends of the earth shall remember and / turn to the / Lord, ♦ and all the families of the / nations shall / bow be/fore him.
 For the kingdom / is the / Lord's ♦ and he / rules / over the / nations.
 How can those who sleep in the earth bow / down in / worship, ♦ or those who go down to the / dust / kneel be/fore him?
 He has saved my life for himself; my des/cendants shall / serve him; ♦ this shall be told of the Lord for / gene/rations to / come.
 #They shall come and make known his salvation, to a people / yet un/born, ♦ declaring that / he, the / Lord, has / done it.

GOSPEL John 15.1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.'

GOSPEL John 15.1–8 continued

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Diocesan 'Living God's Love' Topic for the Week: *Making new disciples* : All who work as Street Evangelists

The Sick: Kevin Gill, Peter Norwood, Gill, Rosemary Farmer, Rosemary Allen, Charlotte

The Recently Departed: Joan Bartholomew, Les Allen, Arminal Truman, Peggy Pritchard, Christine Strohm

First Anniversary of Death:



● ● ● | **Parish Notices**

SAS IS BACK BUT IN A NEW VENUE!

SAS has started back between 5 - 7pm on a Sunday in **St Nicholas Church Hall**. If you are school Years 6 or above you are warmly invited to join us. Any questions contact Cath or James.

PARISH OF HARPENDEN ELECTORAL ROLL SPRING 2024

The Electoral Roll for the Parish has been revised. If you wish to check your entry it will be available from Friday 3 May please contact the Parish Office or your District Electoral Roll Officer: Kate Nesbitt for St Nicholas'; Ro Marriott for St Mary's or Loretta Ramswell for All Saints'. Due to GDPR copies are no longer on public display.

SAVE THE DATE, SUNDAY 9 JUNE - DENNIS' DEPARTURE. Dennis' last service in the Parish will be 10am Sunday 9 June in St Nicholas', an All-Parish service, jointly arranged by Sally, James and Cath. That afternoon there will be a joint All-Parish Farewell Afternoon Tea Party 3-5pm on the lawn outside Cornelia's. Please save the date and let others know. All will be welcome and lots of help will be needed, volunteers will be sought nearer the time.

CHARITY PLANT STALL SATURDAY 11 MAY, 9 AM-12 NOON, on The Concourse (opposite Boots), selling perennials, annuals, dahlias, house plants and vegetable plants. All proceeds to The Children's Society. Payment by card, cash or cheque.

FAURÉ AND FIZZ CONCERT BY THE MUSIC MAKERS CHOIR OF HARPENDEN, AT ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, SATURDAY 11 MAY, 7.30 PM, featuring Fauré's Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine, plus other glorious songs. Tickets £19 to include an interval glass of fizz or a soft drink, from Ticket Source <http://www.musicmakerschoir.wordpress.com>, or on the door.

A BIG 'THANK YOU' TO DENNIS: as you'll know, our Rector, Dennis Stamps, is retiring and leaving us in June. We know many will wish to show their appreciation of the wonderful service Dennis has given to our Parish for more than eleven years. As a Parish, we're encouraging you to make a donation to a 'farewell' fund. You can do this easily in one of two ways. We prefer you to make a bank transfer using the following details: Sort code: 40-23-11. Account number: 41495518. Account name: St Nicholas PCC – Operating (or 'St Nicholas PCC' is preferred by some banks). Reference: [add your surname] / Rector. Alternatively, you can write a cheque [payable to: "St Nicholas PCC – Operating"] or give cash to the Parish Office. We will present this to Dennis & Helen at the Afternoon Tea Party on Sunday 9 June at St. Nicholas' (3-5pm) – make a note in your diary, all welcome!

ST MARY'S CHURCH IN REDBOURN is seeking to appoint a new Parish Administrator to work alongside their vicar, the Reverend Rachel Wakefield for 10 hours per week. For more details please follow this link: <https://stmarysredbourn.org/2024/04/16/vacancy-parish-administrator/>

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



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.

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.

St Nicholas' Church Notices



MUSIC

9.30am **Sung Eucharist**

Setting: Thorne: Mass of St Thomas

Hymns: 166 Crown him with many crowns; 262 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder; 153 Now the green blade riseth; 565 Rock of ages, cleft for me

Anthems: O taste and see (Vaughan Williams)

6.30pm **Choral Evensong**

Responses: Smith

Setting: Stanford Bb

Anthem: Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley)

ELISABETH PESTELL IS CELEBRATING HER 90TH BIRTHDAY ON SUNDAY do join us all at St Nicholas' in wishing her congratulations and hoping that she has a wonderful day.

ST NICHOLAS' DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL (DCC) would like to elect two new representatives, one person who attends Simply Worship service regularly and one person who attends Morning Praise service regularly.

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 (9.30 service)

ST NICHOLAS' ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH MEETING - SUNDAY 12 MAY 2024 AT 7.30PM Everyone is welcome to join us at this. It's a good opportunity to find out about all that happens at St Nicholas'.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REFRESHER TRAINING Saturdays 11 May or 18 May, 11.30-12.30. As a church we have a duty to ensure the health and safety of everyone who may use our buildings including clergy, staff, volunteers, congregation and visitors. Simon will be giving two informal refresher sessions for those who undertake any role, paid or voluntary, to ensure everyone is kept up to speed. Please try and attend one of them if you help in any capacity in the church/hall buildings. The sessions are identical, so you only need attend one of the dates. Please register your name with the Parish Office for a space.

St Mary's Church Notices



TUESDAY 10AM HOLY COMMUNION - 7 & 21 May

SALLY is on extended study leave 1 April - 8 July

ST MARY'S FETE - Saturday 13 July. Please put the date in your diary.

PCC - there is a vacancy for a St Mary's representative on our parish church council.

All Saints' Church Notices



Emergency Prayer Chain: jenny.britt@yahoo.com

SHARED CHURCH LIFE: Our annual church meeting is after the service on 19 May. At it, we elect particular roles in church life. Could you see yourself helping as a member of the church council, the parish council, or as one of a team of churchwardens? To find out more and talk it through please get in touch with James.

ALL SAINTS' ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH MEETING - SUNDAY 19 MAY FOLLOWING ON FROM OUR SUNDAY SERVICE Everyone is welcome to attend. It's a great way to find out about all that happens at All Saints'.

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 **Saturday 4 May**. Coffee served, jobs done, fun had.



What's on This Week

Monday 29

9.15am Morning Prayer at All Saints'

Tuesday 30

9.00am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

2pm Funeral of Joan Bartholomew at St Nicholas'

Wednesday 1

May

9.00am Morning Prayer at All Saints'

10.30am Holy Communion at St Nicholas'

5.00pm Evening Prayer at St Nicholas'

Thursday 2

9.00am Morning Prayer at St Nicholas'

10.00am Holy Communion at All Saints'

Saturday 4

10.30am Holy Communion (BCP) at St Nicholas'

Sunday 5 May – The Sixth Sunday of Easter

8.00am **Holy Communion at St Nicholas'**
President & Preacher - Revd Cath Rindl

9.30am **Sung Eucharist at St Nicholas'**
President & Preacher - Revd Cath Rindl
This service will be live streamed on Facebook (or available as a recorded service afterwards) You can also join by telephone: 02034815240, enter ID#: 81402722773, followed by # (no password needed).

9.30am **Family Worship at St Mary's**
Jenny Goulding and Nina Featherstone
Live-streamed on www.facebook.com/StMarysKinsbourneGreen

10.00am **Morning Worship at All Saints' and on Zoom**
Leader - Philip le Riche; Preacher - Revd James Brown
Zoom details available in the weekly email sending the pew leaflet or by request from associate.vicar@allsaints.parishofharpenden.org

11.00am **Said Holy Communion at St Mary's**
Revd Nick Goulding

11.30am **Café Church at St Nicholas'**

4.30pm **Simply Worship at St Nicholas'**

6.30pm **Choral Evensong at St Nicholas'**

Readings

Isaiah 55.1-11

Acts 10.44-48

John 15.9-17