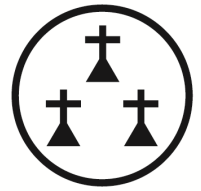


**We are an inclusive church, called to
be caring, loving and welcoming to all**

**Parish of
Harpenden**



1 December 2024

The First Sunday of Advent

Services in the Parish

- 8.00am **Holy Communion in St Nicholas' Church Hall, Cunningham Room**
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.com/
StNicholasChurchHarpenden](https://www.facebook.com/StNicholasChurchHarpenden)
- 9.30am **Family Worship at St Mary's**
Leader & Preacher - Revd Sally Goodson
Live-streamed on www.facebook.com/StMarysKinsbourneGreen
- 10.00am **Morning Worship at All Saints**
Leader - Revd James Brown; Sermon Slot - Sarah's story from '*Women of the Nativity*' by Paula Gooder
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**
President & Preacher - Revd Sally Goodson
- 11.30am **Morning Praise in St Nicholas' Church Hall**
Leader - Jacquie Hibbert; Speaker - Nigel Major
- 4.30pm **Christingle at St Nicholas'**
- 6.30pm **Advent Carols at St Nicholas'**
- 6.30pm **Advent Walk in the Dark through Batford Springs Nature Reserve, meeting at All Saints' Church with readings and prayers**

Contact details

Parish Office T: 01582 765524 E: office@parishofharpenden.org

For any pastoral concerns contact any one of the Parish Clergy Team

Revd Sally Goodson T: 01582 712754

E: associate.vicar@stmarys.parishofharpenden.org

Revd James Brown T: 01582 363789

E: associate.vicar@allsaints.parishofharpenden.org

Revd Cath Rindl T: 07961 564385

E: assistant.curate@stnicholas.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, Readings, and Psalm

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-end

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.

ADVENT PROSE

(8am congregation to read text; 9.30am congregation sing the Antiphon between verses; the choir will sing verses)



Drop down, ye hea-vens, from a - bove,* and let the skies pour down right - eous - ness.

1 Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity forever:

Thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:
Our hold and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

2 We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we do fade as a leaf:

And our iniquities, like the wind have taken us away; Thou hast hid thy face from us:
And hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

3 Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen;

That ye may know me and believe me: I, even I, am the Lord,

And beside me there is no Saviour: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

4 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry;

I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions:

Fear not, for I will save thee: for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

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

Diocesan 'Living God's Love' Topic for the Week: Transforming Communities: those who run and those who attend after school clubs

The Sick: Kevin Gill, Charlotte, Colin, James, Mary Coakley, Joan Towle, Dot, Barbara Wharton

The Recently Departed: Marylyn Allen, Jennifer Raaff

First Anniversary of Death:

●●● | **Parish Notices**

ST NICHOLAS PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS A VACANCY FOR A FOUNDATION

GOVERNOR to join our friendly and dedicated Governing Board of 14. The position is voluntary for a standard term of 4 years and offers an opportunity to be involved in the continued development of our wonderful school and the education of its children. Whether your background is in business, finance, teaching or otherwise, the key skills required are an interest and enthusiasm in supporting children's learning and development and a willingness to share your time and experience working with others to improve educational outcomes. If you are interested or would like to know more, please speak to Lucy Parr, Chair of Governors, or contact her on 07973 709364 / lparr@stnicholasce.org



Parish Notices (continued)

DEANERY ADVENT QUIET DAY Saturday 7 December, 10am to 1pm, St Mary's Kinsbourne Green. Tea, coffee and vegetarian soup lunch provided. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of your church

THE ANNUAL CHRISTINGLE SERVICE organised by the Harpenden Committee of The Children's Society will take place at St Nicholas' Church, on Sunday 1 December at 4.30pm. 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.

CHRISTMAS WARMTH FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS of good warm casual coats, casual good warm clothes, new socks and new underwear. (Not office clothes please). Also bags and suitcases in good condition (many asylum seekers are being moved on and really value a bag to carry their things). Please bring along to the Parish Office

ADVENT IN THE PARISH (See flyers for further details)

Sunday 1 December 6.30pm - Advent Carol Service at St Nicholas' & A Walk in the Dark meeting at All Saints' to walk through Batford Springs Nature Reserve by torchlight

Wednesdays 4, 11 & 18 December - 10.30am Holy Communion at St Nicholas', Sermon series '*Women of the Nativity*', Supper with Jesus in Cornelia's Café, exploring Paula Gooder's book '*Women of the Nativity* (contact Revd Cath on 07961 564385 for catering purposes & for time) & 8.00pm Advent In Art on Zoom (see Flyers for link / QR code)

Fridays 6, 13 & 20 December, 1.00 - 1.30pm Soup and Carols at St Nicholas'.

TRAVELLING CRIB 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 between 1 December and Christmas Eve. sign up sheets at the rear of church. All ages/groups are welcome to host. Contact Pamela Woodford-Smith, Tel.764368, pamelaws@btinternet.com, or pass your details onto the Parish Office. The Travelling Kings (& their Camel) will then be leaving St Nicholas' on Christmas Eve and needing hosts until their return on Epiphany Sunday, 5 January. Please contact the Parish Office for more details.

READINGS AND CAROLS AT FIELD HOUSE, TOWNSEND ROAD. All are welcome to join residents for a short service on Tuesday 10 December at 11.30am. It's a lovely way to show friendship to these members of our community at this special time of year.

MEMBERS OF HARPENDEN CONCERT BAND will be carolling at Cornelia's **Saturdays 14 & 21 December and Christmas Eve, 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. If you play an instrument and would like to join in, please contact Rachael Threlfall – all ages welcome, children need a parent to remain on site.

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS SPECIAL - The next youth group session will be 5-7pm Sunday 8 December, at All Saints' Church Hall. Christmas scavenger hunt! There will be fun, food and faith. For any in school years 6-10.

THANK YOU TO REVD CATH RINDL As you'll know, Cath will be moving on to pastures new at the turn of the year. We know many will wish to show their appreciation for the amazing contribution Cath has made across the Parish during her time here. We're encouraging you to make a donation to a 'farewell' fund. You can do this easily in one of two ways. Either via 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] / Cath. Alternatively, you can write a cheque [payable to: "St Nicholas PCC – Operating"] or give cash to the Parish Office. We will present this to Cath at her last service here in the Parish - date yet to be confirmed.

FREE LOCAL CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY FOR ELDERLY Harpenden District Cubs are pleased to offer a free Christmas card delivery service for the elderly again this year. This service allows elderly residents to post cards for free to others in Harpenden, Batford and Redbourn only. The post boxes will be available until Tuesday 10 December at St Mary's and Thursday 12 December in the Parish Office and All Saints'. There are also other post boxes around the town; these are available until Monday 9 December. Please contact Jackie Agg (Tel 769680) if you have any questions.

CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES Christmas Cards from over 30 charities await you at the annual Cards for Good Causes temporary shop in the United Reformed Church, Vaughan Road, Harpenden AL5 4HA. As well as cards, the shop also sells Advent calendars and candles, plus small gifts and wrapping paper. These all help the charities involved. Open Monday - Saturday 10am until 4pm until mid December.

HARPENDEN INTERCHURCH QUIZ - 7.15 for 7.30pm on Saturday 18 January 2025: the annual quiz for teams of 6 will take place at Crabtree Junior School, just £6 a ticket. Space is limited, so please ask for an entry form as soon as possible. Contact Tony Gilbert on 01582 762052 or tonyrgilbert60@gmail.com.

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

ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Children intending to apply to St George's Secondary School are advised to submit a clergy reference form with their application. The school gives priority to children with a clergy reference. To ensure this can be given, a Record of Attendance should be completed for 2 years prior to date of application (i.e. during school Years 4 and 5). You can pick up a blank copy from any of our three churches. The School website provides further details of the admissions criteria. The school will consider applications without a clergy reference but through a separate admissions category.

St Nicholas' Church Notices



MUSIC

9.30am **Sung Eucharist**

Setting New English Folk Mass

Hymns 24 Come, thou long expected Jesus; 35 People, look East;
39 Wake, O wake!; 31 Lo, he comes with clouds descending

6.30pm **Advent Carol Service**

Music by Bainton, Bairstow, Britten, Honeyball, Llewelyn, Palestrina, Ravenscroft,
Skempton and Wood

SIMPLY WORSHIP AT ST NICHOLAS', SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER, 4:30PM We are very excited for our traditional Christingle service at our December Simply Worship, organised by The Children's Society. It is a wonderful service where we celebrate Advent and receive Christingles whilst helping to support the life-changing work of the Children's Society with children and young people across the country. As usual we will be signing St George's passports in Cornelia's cafe in the church hall after the service.

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. They will be collected for delivery to Salvation Army and FEED at the Vineyard Church as usual. Donations are still very much needed. Thank you.

OUR POPULAR CHRISTMAS FAYRE WILL BE ON SATURDAY 7 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 Open Door St Albans homeless charity, Médecins Sans Frontières and the church. Lots of help needed to set up Friday afternoon 1.30pm till 3pm (straight after soup & carols) and on Saturday at noon to clear up - sign up lists are in various locations around church/hall. Please come and join in, your help and support would be very welcome.

The following items are requested for the fayre:

- Clean, **EMPTY JAM JARS** and/or **PACKETS OF SMALL WRAPPED SWEETS**, to be amalgamated for the children's sweet tombola – box at back of church and in Cornelia's, before noon Sunday 1 December please
- Good quality **CHILDREN'S BOOKS** – box at back of church and in Cornelia's, before noon Friday 6th please
- Large **CAKES** for cutting & serving from the café (please leave with an allergy sticker, or full list of ingredients) – drop off Friday 6th 10am till noon, or after 9am Saturday 7th please
- **CAKES** for the Mother's Union cake stall for selling whole (please leave with an allergy sticker, or full list of ingredients) - drop off Fri 6th 10am till noon, or after 9am Sat 7th please

St Mary's Church Notices



TUESDAY 10AM HOLY COMMUNION - 3 & 17 December

SUNDAY SERVICE ROTAS we would welcome more volunteers for our Sunday morning rotas. We need help in all areas, but especially Welcomers, and people to lead our intercessions. Please speak to Sally if you could help in any way. Thank you

MISSION ACTION PLANNING Thank you for your enthusiasm in working on our MAP recently, working on assimilating the ideas, and priorities. We will report back very soon.

All Saints' Church Notices



Emergency Prayer Chain: jenny.britt@yahoo.com

SCENES OF ADVENT - Throughout this Advent, local artist Erin O'Sullivan will be with us at All Saints, painting various scenes of this season. You can expect to find her at various services and events taking sketches and photos which will become paintings. We plan to display the works some time in the new year. Find out more about Erin and her work here <https://erinosullivanart.com/>. Please be in touch if you would rather not be in any pictures / photos.

FOODBANK COLLECTION - CHRISTMAS HAMPERS The King's Pantry Foodbank expect to provide 75-80 Christmas hampers to households (single people and families) supported during recent months. Some seasonal items would be appreciated to help fill these.

for example: Christmas puddings (various sizes), iced fruit cake, packs of mince pies, boxes of biscuits/chocolates, nuts, tinned fruit, savoury biscuits/ snacks, tinned ham, bottles/ packs of fruit juice and squash. These will be delivered to the King's Pantry on Monday 9 December (together with any other Food Bank donations), so if possible please bring items **by Sunday 8 December**. As usual please leave donations in the crates in the Church entrance. Thank you!

DCC NEEDS A NEW SECRETARY! The role includes arranging papers for meetings and minute taking. A volunteer to help the smooth running of the church in this way would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to James.

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 7 December**. Coffee served, jobs done, fun had.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 1 December, 6.30pm - Advent Walk in the Dark

Monday 9 December, 11.00am - Carols @ Willow Court

Wednesday 11 December, 3.30pm - Carols @ Lea Springs

Saturday 14 December, 6.30pm - Firepit Carols

Sunday 15 December - All Age Service / Sunday Club Christmas party

Tuesday 17 December, 8pm - Beer and Carols at the Marquis of Granby

Sunday 22 December 6.30pm - Carols by Candlelight



What's on This Week

Monday 2

9.15am Morning Prayer at All Saints'

Tuesday 3

9.00am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

10.00am Holy Communion at St Mary's

Wednesday 4

9.00am Morning Prayer at All Saints'

10.30am Holy Communion in St Nicholas' Church Hall, Cunningham Room

5.00pm Evening Prayer at St Nicholas'

6.00pm Supper Club in Cornelia's - see Parish Notices

8.00pm Advent in Art on Zoom via this link <https://tinyurl.com/45rv48ar>

Thursday 5

10.00am Holy Communion at All Saints'

Friday 6

1.00pm Soup & Carols at St Nicholas'

Saturday 7

10.00am-12noon Christmas Fayre at St Nicholas' - see Church Notices

Sunday 8 December – The Second Sunday of Advent/ St Nicholas' Patronal Festival

8.00am **Holy Communion in St Nicholas' Church Hall, Cunningham Room**
President - Revd Cath Rindl; Preacher - Anne-Marie Kramer

9.30am **Sung Eucharist at St Nicholas'**
President & Preacher - Revd Atalie Gaines
This service will be live streamed on [facebook.com/StNicholasChurchHarpenden](https://www.facebook.com/StNicholasChurchHarpenden)

9.30am **Family Communion at St Mary's**
President & Preacher - Revd Mark Rodel
Live-streamed on www.facebook.com/StMarysKinsbourneGreen

10.00am **Holy Communion at All Saints**
President - Revd James Brown; Sermon slot - Huldah's story from *'Women of the Nativity'* by Paula Gooder
Zoom details available in the weekly email sending the pew leaflet or by request from associate.vicar@allsaints.parishofharpenden.org

11.30am **Morning Praise in St Nicholas' Church Hall**
Leader - Liz de Jong; Speaker - Mike Lees

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

	1 Kings 22.1-20		Luke 3.1-6	AS
Readings	Malachi 3.1-4	Philippians 1.3-11	Luke 3.1-6	StM
	Isaiah 61.1-3	1 Timothy 6.6-11	Mark 10.13-16	St N