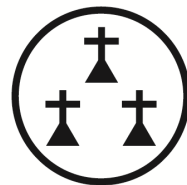


**We are an inclusive church, called to
be caring, loving and welcoming to all**

**Parish of
Harpenden**



Sunday 28 December 2025

The First Sunday of Christmas

Services in the Parish

10.00am **Joint Parish Holy Communion at St Mary's**
President & Preacher - Revd Sally Goodson
Live-streamed on www.facebook.com/StMarysKinsbourneGreen

No other Services in the Parish today

Contact details

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

For any pastoral concerns contact any one of the Parish Clergy or Pastoral Care Team

Revd Patrick Moriarty T: 07376 661041

E: rector@parishofharpenden.org

Revd Sally Goodson T: 01582 712754

E: associate.vicar@stmarys.parishofharpenden.org

Chris Powell T: 01582 764930 (Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator)

E: chris_powell51@hotmail.co.uk

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 - THURSDAY
FRIDAY

OFFICE CLOSED
10.00am - 2.00pm



Collects, Readings, Psalm, Gospel and Post-Communion Prayer

COLLECT

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Or ADDITIONAL COLLECT

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

FIRST READING Isaiah 63.7–9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

SECOND READING Hebrews 2.10–18

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' Since the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Diocesan Topic for the Week: Going deeper into God; Grace to be thankful in all circumstances

The Sick: Elizabeth Maddock

The Recently Departed: Frances Hall, Iris Southwood

First Anniversary of Death: John Turner

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 148.7-13

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
Fire and hail, snow and mist, tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;
Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and birds on the wing;
Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
Young men and women, old and young together; let them praise the name of the Lord.
For his name only is exalted, his splendor above earth and heaven.
He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him.

GOSPEL Matthew 2.13–23

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.' When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Parish Notices

PARISH SERVICE - SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER 2025 - Please note that the only service in the Parish on the Sunday after Christmas will be the Joint Parish Holy Communion Service at St Mary's at 10am. Do come and worship together as a whole Parish.

SATURDAY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES AT ST NICHOLAS' the next 10.30am Holy Communion service on a Saturday at St Nicholas' will be on Saturday 3 January - Holy Communion (BCP).

CONFIRMATION we are running a course to prepare children and young people for Confirmation. Over about 6 sessions we will discuss what it means to become a Christian disciple, explore Christian beliefs and think about what living a life of faith means. This may especially appeal to those in School Years 6-8 but it will be tailored to the group, so anyone of school age is very welcome to explore this important step on the journey of Christian life. It will take place early in 2026, with dates and times to be confirmed to suit the group once it is convened. Please email the rector on rector@parishofharpenden.org if you or your child would like to express interest.

WE WILL BE RUNNING A COURSE IN CHRISTIAN BASICS on 22, 29 January and 5, 12, 19 and 26 February at 7.30pm in Cornelia's. The format will include some teaching, some shared food and lots of discussion. Please register your interest via the Parish Office, including indicating whether you are interested in preparing for confirmation. If you are exploring Christian faith for the first time, or are curious about it, or just want to be refreshed, this course is for you. You can sign up via the QR code or [here](#) or on the sheets available at the back of each church.



OUR NEXT SATURDAY MORNING TALK ON 10 JANUARY FROM 10AM-12NOON will be a board games/cards/puzzle morning. Please join us in St Nicholas' church hall for a fun get together. Do bring any fun games you would like to play with others, or puzzles to be completed. This will be an informal get together, lots of fun, laughter and chat. Coffees can be collected from Cornelia's throughout the morning.

WE ARE STARTING A COURSE ON ROMANS (BY DR ANDREW OLLERTON OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY) FROM TUESDAY 27 JANUARY 2.30 TO 4PM in the Cunningham Room at St Nicholas', which includes videos from Rome. Then on 10 and 24 February onwards. Please contact Kirsteen Say 07941 480917 or Sarah Sewell 07746 070443 or just come along. All welcome.

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.

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. *Please note:*

- *The School requires church attendance at least once per calendar month for each of the 24 months prior to the date of application for a school place.*
- *St George's School Governors set the admissions policy, not the Church. Queries about the policy or the process, or about your child's application, should be addressed to the admissions team at the School.*
- *It is parents' responsibility to check the admissions requirements and ensure they meet them*

To ensure we can give this reference, 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



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SUNDAY CLUB REMINDER A reminder that the 09.30 St Nicholas Sunday Club, for primary school age children, takes a break for Christmas. We will return on Sunday 11 January.

SIMPLY WORSHIP AT ST NICHOLAS' - SUNDAY 4 JANUARY AT 4.30PM We will have a Simply Worship service on Sunday 4 January at 4.30pm to mark the Epiphany and will have a star crafting activity for children. Stamping of St George's passports will take place as usual after the service in Cornelia's Café in the church hall.

St Mary's Church Notices



TUESDAY 10AM HOLY COMMUNION - 6 & 20 January

CHARITY CONNECTIONS the next stage of our Mission Action Plan is to review our charity connections. Which charities do / should we support and how? I'm looking for one or two volunteers who would be interested in taking this forward. Please speak to Sally.

All Saints' Church Notices

Emergency Prayer Chain: jenny.britt@yahoo.com



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 3 January**. Coffee served, jobs done, fun had.

KNIT AND KNATTER All are welcome to join this friendly group meeting every Wednesday between 2-4pm - back on 7 January after a Christmas Break. Bring your craft projects or come to learn a new skill. You will be made welcome.



What's on this Week

Tuesday 30

9.00am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

Wednesday 31

9.15am Morning Prayer at St Nicholas'

10.30am Holy Communion at St Nicholas'

Saturday 3 January

10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at St Nicholas'

Sunday 4 January - The Second Sunday of Christmas

8.00am **Holy Communion at St Nicholas'**
President & Preacher – Revd Patrick Moriarty

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

9.30am **Family Worship at St Mary's**
Led by Revd Sally Goodson & Nina Featherstone
Live-streamed on www.facebook.com/StMarysKinsbourneGreen

10.00am **Morning Worship at All Saints'**
Leader - Pauline Gilbert; Preacher - Roy Mutlow
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 - Liz de Jong; Speaker - Revd Patrick Moriarty

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

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

Readings Jeremiah 31.7-14 Ephesians 1.3-14 John 1.10-18