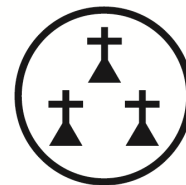


**We are an inclusive church, called to
be caring, loving and welcoming to all**

**Parish of
Harpenden**



Sunday 7 December 2025 The Second Sunday of Advent

Services in the Parish

- 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://facebook.com/StNicholasChurchHarpenden)
- 9.30am **Family Worship at St Mary's**
Leader - Nina Featherstone; Preacher - Revd Sally Goodson
Live-streamed on www.facebook.com/StMarysKinsbourneGreen
- 10.00am **Morning Worship at All Saints'**
Leader - Philip Le Riche; Preacher - Pauline Gilbert
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 at St Nicholas'**
Leader - Jacquie Hibbert; Speaker - Mike Pearson
- 4.30pm **Christingle Service at St Nicholas'**
- 6.30pm **Choral Evensong at St Nicholas'**

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

Revd James Brown T: 01582 363789

E: associate.vicar@allsaints.parishofharpenden.org

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

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, Psalm, Gospel and Post-Communion Prayer

COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through the sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and forever.

ALTERNATIVE COLLECT

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

FIRST READING Isaiah 11.1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

SECOND READING Romans 15.4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL Matthew 3.1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

POST COMMUNION

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of this first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Diocesan Topic for the Week: Going Deeper into God: *those who participate in weeks of guided prayer*

The Sick:

The Recently Departed: Margaret Grant, Margaret Dilworth, Pamela Gregory, Elizabeth Ononokpono



Parish Notices

ADVENT STUDY GROUPS Mondays 8, 15 December, 7.30-8.30pm at St Mary's, Wednesday 10 December at 2.30pm at St Nicholas' Church Hall, Tuesdays 16 & 23 December, 2-3pm in Cornelia's. Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani's book 'Listening to the Music of the Soul' helps us explore Advent themes through the Bible and her own personal experiences, along with music to help us reflect. Books available to buy via the Parish Office.

COMPLINE BY CANDLELIGHT ON 9, 16 AND 23 DECEMBER AT 7.30PM join for a short reflection from Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani's book 'Listening to the Music of the Soul' followed by a beautiful and quiet service of night prayer. Behind the altar in St Nicholas' Church.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE This international event takes place between the 25 November and 10 December. There are some prayers available to use during this period attached to the MU notice board in the font area of St Nicholas' Church, please take a sheet if you would find it useful.

SING A FEW CAROLS, hear a few readings and enjoy some soup in St Nicholas' Church on Fridays 12 & 19 December at 1pm. Lasts about half an hour.

MEMBERS OF HARPENDEN CONCERT BAND will be carolling at Cornelia's **Saturdays 13 & 20 December and Christmas Eve, 10am - noon**. Please join us for some festive music while you enjoy your coffee and cake. If weather is good we will be outside in Cornelia's garden, so wrap up warm. If heavy rain we will be in the church/hall. If you play an instrument and would like to join in, please contact the Parish Office or Rachael Threlfall – all ages welcome, under 18s need a parent to remain on site.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE FIELD HOUSE RESIDENTS on Tuesday 16 December at 11.30am for our service of Christmas carols and readings.

TEA, CAKE, AND CHAT You are welcome to join this afternoon of friendly conversation and delicious refreshment at All Saints' Church Hall. Particularly good for older residents. Neighbours and friends very welcome. The next date is Thursday 18 December at 2pm - a Christmas special with a concert from Sir John Lawes School. Lifts can be arranged - please contact Chris Powell chris_powell51@hotmail.co.uk or 01582 764930

CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES - Opening times: Monday to Saturday, 10am - 4pm. Location: URC Church, Vaughan Rd, Harpenden AL5 4ED. Selling: A wide range of Christmas cards, representing a large number of charities, as well as Advent calendars and candles, stocking fillers, wrapping paper, decorations and other festive gifts. Do go along to support them.

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 9 December at St Mary's and Thursday 11 December at St Nicholas' (in the Parish Office) and All Saints'.** There are also other post boxes around the town; these are available until Monday 8 December.

THE TRAVELLING KINGS (THREE WISE. MEN) AND THEIR CAMEL WILL BE MAKING THEIR WAY AROUND THE PARISH, stopping at a new home each night, from Christmas Eve until Sunday 4 January when they will reside with one family, returning to St Nicholas' on Epiphany Sunday, 11 January. Please sign up as soon as possible if you would like the child-friendly, knitted kings and camel 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 the Parish Office

SCENES OF ADVENT - Last year, local artist and friend of All Saints', Erin O'Sullivan joined us throughout Advent and created a series of paintings and drawings during our services and events. She has captured beautifully the sense of light in the shadows that this time reveals. Her work will be displayed in All Saints throughout this Advent so please make time to look at this and bring friends and neighbours who would be interested too. The church is typically open on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays during working hours if you would like to see the exhibition then.

SATURDAY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES AT ST NICHOLAS' 10.30am Holy Communion services during December and onwards will be as follows:-

Saturday 13 December - Holy Communion (BCP)

Saturday 20 December - Holy Communion

Saturday 3 January - Holy Communion (BCP)

Saturday 7 February - 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. Online sign up or sign up sheets in each church will be available in the New Year.

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 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



MUSIC

9.30am Sung Eucharist

Setting New English Folk Mass

Hymns 29 Hills of the North, rejoice ; 608 Thy kingdom come; St Nicholas' Hymn

Anthem Remember not, O Lord, our offences (Purcell)

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Responses Ferial

Setting Wood in Cm

Anthem The truth from above (Vaughan-Williams)

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.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE ON SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER AT 4.30PM Our annual Christingle celebration will take place during the Simply Worship service on Sunday 7 December at 4.30pm. The service is for people of all ages but particularly children 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. Come and sing Away in a Manger by candlelight, a lovely way to start the Christmas season! You will learn 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, and you will be invited to make a donation towards the work of the charity.

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP The group is studying the book *Meeting God* by J. I. Packer and the next meeting will be on Thursday 11 December - 1.45 for a 2pm start. Please contact Kirsteen Say 07941 480917 or Sarah Sewell 07746 070443 for further information.

St Mary's Church Notices



TUESDAY 10AM HOLY COMMUNION - 16 December

CRIB SERVICE STEWARDS we need new stewards for our crib services on Christmas Eve at 4.30pm. Stewards are needed to arrive by 4pm and then to stay for the service and to tidy up afterwards. Contact Sally if you can help.

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.

FIREPIT CAROLS SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER AT 4.30PM

Come and sing around the fire and enjoy refreshments afterwards. All welcome

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 (if you are reading this before the weekend) will be on **Saturday 6 December**. Coffee served, jobs done, fun had.

CHRISTMAS FOODBANK DONATIONS Your ongoing Food Bank contributions are much appreciated, for distribution from the King's Pantry in Harpenden, and now there is an additional request for items that can be packed into Christmas hampers for families who have received support in recent months. Any contributions are welcome, but suggestions include:

Christmas puddings (various sizes), Mince pies - with date valid for Christmas, Christmas cake (various sizes), tins of mixed biscuits, chocolates/sweets, savoury snacks
Tinned ham, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, tins/cartons of custard, jams/marmalade, bottles of squash, cartons of fruit juice

Specific Christmas contributions please by Monday 15th December.

As always, please leave items in the crates in the Church entrance. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS FLYER DELIVERY - as we each year, we have a printed lots of flyers to tell our friends and neighbours about the wonderful services and events happening at All Saints in the build up to Christmas. Please can you help by delivering some to streets around you? There will be a list of streets to deliver to at church over the coming weeks. Please tick off the sheets you can do and the number of flyers needed.

DATES FOR CHRISTMAS:-

- Saturday 13 December, 6.30pm - Firepit Carols
- Tuesday 16 December, 8pm - Beer and Carols at the Marquis of Granby
- Sun 21 December 6.30pm - Candlelit Carols
- Wed 24 December 4pm - Crib Service
- Wed 24 December 11.30pm - Midnight Holy Communion
- Thursday 25 December 10am - Christmas Day Celebration



What's on this Week

Monday 8 December

- 11.30am Funeral of the late Margaret Grant at St Nicholas'
7.30pm Advent Study Group at St Mary's - see Parish Notices

Tuesday 9

- 9.00am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

Wednesday 10

- 9.15am Morning Prayer at St Nicholas'
10.30am Holy Communion at St Nicholas'
2.30pm Advent Study Group at St Nicholas' - see Parish Notices

Friday 12

- 1.00pm Soup & Carols at St Nicholas' - see Parish Notices

Saturday 13

- 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP) at St Nicholas'

Sunday 14 December - The Third Sunday of Advent

- 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 Communion at St Mary's**
President & Preacher - Revd Nick Goulding
Live-streamed on www.facebook.com/StMarysKinsbourneGreen
- 10.00am **Holy Communion at All Saints'**
President & Preacher - Revd Mark Rodel
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 - Suzanne Rose; Speaker - Nigel Major
- 4.30pm **Firepit Carols at St Mary's**
- 6.30pm **Choral Evensong at St Nicholas'**

Readings

Isaiah 35.1-10

James 5.7-10

Matthew 11.2-11