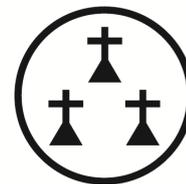


**We are an inclusive church, called to
be caring, loving and welcoming to all**

**Parish of
Harpenden**



Sunday 8 February 2026 The Second Sunday before Lent 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://www.facebook.com/StNicholasChurchHarpenden)
- 9.30am **Family Communion at St Mary's**
President & Preacher - Revd Sally Goodson
Live-streamed on www.facebook.com/StMarysKinsbourneGreen
- 10.00am **Holy Communion at All Saints'**
President & Preacher - Revd Paul Manuel
Zoom details available in the weekly email sending the pew leaflet
- 11.30am **Morning Praise with Prayer Stations at St Nicholas'**
Leader - Liz de Jong
- 3.00pm **Holy Baptism at St Nicholas'** Tia Olivia Seckington-Holdsworth,
Edward Francis Ledwidge
- 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

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 - FRIDAY

10.00am - 2.00pm

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

COLLECT

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

Or ADDITIONAL COLLECT

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING Genesis 1.1 – 2.3

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

SECOND READING Romans 8.18–25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

PSALM 136.1–9, 23–26



Give thanks to the Lord, for / he is / gracious, ◇ for his / mercy en/dures for / ever.
 Give thanks to the / God of / gods, ◇ for his / mercy en/dures for / ever.
 Give thanks to the / Lord of / lords, ◇ for his / mercy en/dures for / ever;
 Who alone / does great / wonders, ◇ for his / mercy en/dures for / ever;
 Who by wisdom / made the / heavens, ◇ for his / mercy en/dures for / ever;
 Who laid out the earth up/on the / waters, ◇ for his / mercy en/dures for / ever;
 Who made the / great / lights, ◇ for his / mercy en/dures for / ever;
 The sun to / rule the / day, ◇ for his / mercy en/dures for / ever/
 #The moon and the stars to / govern the / night, ◇ for his / mercy en/dures for / ever;
 Who remembered us when we / were in / trouble, ◇ for his / mercy en/dures for / ever;
 And delivered us / from our / enemies, ◇ for his / mercy en/dures for / ever;
 Who gives food to / all / creatures, ◇ for his / mercy en/dures for / ever.
 Give thanks to the / God of / heaven, ◇ for his / mercy en/dures for / ever.

GOSPEL Matthew 6.25-34

Jesus taught his disciples, saying: 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than

they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.’

POST COMMUNION

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour’s cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Diocesan Topic for the Week: Transforming Communities; Volunteer street cleaners

The Sick: Jo Morris, Marian Williams

The Recently Departed: Michael George, Raymond Shaw, Brenda Toulson

First Anniversary of Death: Pat Wickens, David Jones

● ● ● | Parish Notices

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES ON 18 FEBRUARY: Ash Wednesday, which begins the Lenten season of spiritual growth and discipline, is a ‘Principal Holy Day’ for the church. All are encouraged to mark it, traditionally by being marked with ashes. There are 3 services in the parish, all including an opportunity for ashing:

10.30 am Holy Communion at St Nicholas’ (our regular service time)

8.00 pm Holy Communion at St Mary’s

8.00 pm Sung Eucharist at St Nicholas’. This will be a joint service with St John’s Church, and the preacher will be Tim Vickers, vicar at St John’s.

LENT BOOK 2026 We have chosen as our Lent Book for this year ‘Notes on an Execution’ by Rhidian Brook. He is an award-winning TV writer and the book presents the events of Holy Week as if contemporary reports to people at the time, enabling us to imagine them unfolding in real time as first-hand followers. Details of study groups and other Lent services/activities will be published shortly. Books will be available to buy from the Parish Office from next week.

TEA CAKE & CHAT FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY 3.00PM ALL SAINTS’ CHURCH HALL. All welcome. Why not invite someone new by giving them a flyer of this date and future ones too - available at the back of each church. Lifts can be arranged; contact Chris Powell 01582 764930 or chris_powell51@hotmail.co.uk

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE, PREPARED BY THE WOMEN OF NIGERIA, IS BEING HELD AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH ON FRIDAY 6 MARCH AT 11AM. All are welcome. Informative postcards are available at all 3 churches, please take one.

CONFIRMATION we are running courses of preparation for Confirmation, for adults and for children. Please speak to a member of the clergy if you are interested in joining: dates and times to be confirmed to suit the groups once they are convened.

OUR FEBRUARY SATURDAY MORNING TALK WILL BE ON 14 FEBRUARY AT 10.30AM IN ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH HALL. Henry will be talking about St Nicholas' Parish during World War I. He will refer to the parish magazines during those four traumatic years to give some idea of what life was like for parishioners on the 'home front' in Harpenden. The talk will last around 45 minutes. We hope you will join us. If you wish, you can collect a coffee from Cornelia's beforehand and bring it into the hall with you.

ADVENT STUDY BOOKS ON OFFER – we have a number of advent study books free for collection from the Parish Office. 'The Art of Advent' by Jane Williams & 'Names for the Messiah' by Walter Brueggemann. There are also copies of 'Total World' by Dawson Price which are free to collect. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested in a copy.

AZALEA are looking for new volunteers to join their team in Luton. We have a long association with this locally-based Christian charity which supports those affected by sex trafficking and the sex trade. This issue is more live in Harpenden than many people realise, and there are obvious links to the story of St Nicholas' rescue of three young women. No experience is needed to volunteer - only a concern for the wellbeing of people. Azalea provide full training and supervision, and will help volunteers choose the right role from the range of different ones they wish to fill. Training runs 7-8 March in Luton. Please contact info@azalea.org.uk

SNOWDROP GARDEN – POSSIBLY FOR THE LAST TIME The Bishop of St Albans' Garden will open for what may be **the final time** this February, with thousands of snowdrops and early bulbs in bloom. All proceeds support the **Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust**.

Dates: 14 & 15 Feb; 21 & 22 Feb

Time: 2–4pm

Location: Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, AL3 4HD

Entry: £5 per adult

A warm invitation to enjoy the garden's early spring beauty and help care for our historic churches.

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM PLAYScheme Funding towards holiday playschemes for school-aged children (5-16 years) from Hong Kong or Ukraine. Visit www.citizensadvice.stalbans.org.uk for more details.

BRITISH HUMANITARIAN AID COLLECTION will be held on Saturday 28 February in the Cunningham Room within the Church Halls between 10 am and 3 pm. For the detailed list of requirements, please see either the attached flyer, or the posters in Church & Halls.

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



Parish Notices (continued)

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



MUSIC

9.30am

Sung Eucharist

Setting

Thorne: Mass of St Thomas

Hymns

267 Thou, whose almighty word; 390 Blessed assurance;
453 Great is thy faithfulness

Anthem

Jhesu, Lord that madest me (Terry)

6.30pm

Choral Evensong

Responses

Leighton

Setting

Bairstow in D

Anthem

Cantate Domino (Pitoni)

12TH HARPENDEN (ST NICHOLAS) CUB PACK We currently have availability and so if your child* is aged 8-9½ and would be interested in a place with our pack or a taster session, or for further information, please contact cubs@12tharpendenscouts.org.uk .

* The Scout Association welcomes all genders.

Make new friends. Have adventures. Learn new skills. #SkillsForLife

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

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 21 February 2.00 - 5.00pm Repair Fair - booking strongly recommended. Follow the link [here](#) or use the QR code to book your repair
- 28 February 7pm Quiz. Tickets £5, available from Julie Aldridge. Bring your own drinks and snacks. Proceeds towards cost of new heating for church and hall.



St Mary's Church Notices



TUESDAY 10AM HOLY COMMUNION - 17 February

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.

QUIZ NIGHT SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY, 7pm for 7.30pm start. Teams of six. £10 per person which includes a raffle ticket. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Contact Jacqueline Clayton to register your team.

LITTER PICKING SATURDAY 6 MARCH 10.30AM

Please come along to help with our litter pick on Saturday 6 March from 10.30am. It helps to keep our district free from litter. We meet outside the front of church. Hi-vis jackets and equipment provided, please bring gloves.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON GROUP: This group needs someone to take on the leaders role, to organise the programme, and liaise with speakers. We have good volunteer support to prepare and serve tea, to help set up and tidy up. Could you, or someone you know step into this role?



What's on this Week

Tuesday 10

9.00am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

Wednesday 11

9.15am Morning Prayer at St Nicholas'

10.30am Holy Communion at St Nicholas'

Thursday 12

11.00am Funeral of the late Raymond Shaw at St Nicholas'

Friday 13

12.30pm Funeral of the late Michael George at St Nicholas'

Sunday 15 February - The Sunday next before Lent

8.00am **Holy Communion at St Nicholas'**
President & Preacher - Revd Mark Rodel

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

9.30am **Family Communion at St Mary's**
President - Revd Sally Goodson; Preacher - Nina Featherstone
Live-streamed on www.facebook.com/StMarysKinsbourneGreen

10.00am **All Age Worship at All Saints'**
Led by Revd James Brown and a representative of STEP
Zoom details available in the weekly email sending the pew leaflet

11.30am **Café Church in St Nicholas' Church Hall**
Leader - Suzanne Rose

4.30pm **Simply Worship at St Mary's**
Led by Revd Sally Goodson

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

Readings Exodus 24.12-18 2 Peter 1.16-21 Matthew 17.1-9