



THE FRIDAY EMAIL

Friday 15th November 2024

Friday Thought from Di Kitson:

Dear Friends,



Last Sunday saw the church packed out with standing room only for the Remembrance Day service. We were fortunate to have the Vicar of High Wych and Gilston with Eastwick, the Reverend Alison Jackson, presiding at the service. It was indeed a joy to welcome so many people from the town and surrounding areas to our service to commemorate the departed in the many wars that have been fought over the centuries. Pastor Gary Hanson also joined the service and gave a very enlightening talk.

We are now fast approaching Advent as we celebrate the second Sunday before Advent this coming Sunday, a time for reflection and preparation for the fast approaching season of Christmas.

This week we find ourselves reading the final chapter of Mark in this liturgical year. Our story today takes us from the Temple, across the valley to the Mount of Olives. The disciples that are following Jesus can see the Beautiful Gate, according to tradition, the Messiah will come down from the mount and the day of judgement and the dead will be resurrected as he enters the Temple through this gate. Jesus had mentioned before that the temple would be destroyed, and yet less than forty years later it happened. Every stone was thrown down by the Roman armies.

Sometimes, when the news is filled with stories of climate change and polarized thinking spills out into violence and hatred, it feels like all our systems and structures are falling apart. But it is right there, the Kingdom of God is coming together, Jesus is talking about the apocalypse. The word comes from a Greek word that means to uncover or reveal. So one asks ourselves 'what do we need to do to be ready for this event?' The answer is simple, Christ calls us, first of all to be ready, by preparing our own hearts, by paying attention to the presence of God. Christ calls us to walk and talk with others in close fellowship that provides encouragement and accountability. As we join together in Christ, we meet Jesus and keep each other faithful in preparing for his coming. You and I are the people of hope in this world that desperately needs it. We are people that Christ sends out to announce good news.

In Jesus name.

Di Kitson

➤ READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Daniel 12:1-3:

At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Psalm 16:

A Miktam of David.

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord;

I have no good apart from you.'

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,
in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Mark 13:1-8:

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

The collect for the this Sunday

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal
life:

grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen



➤ Details of Sunday 9.30am Eucharist which is also live-streamed

- ❖ President: Revd Tim Weeks
- ❖ Preacher: Revd Tim Weeks
- ❖ Reader: Emily Groom
- ❖ Intercessions: Debbie Cubitt
- ❖ Processional: The God of Abraham praise (Tune: Leoni)
- ❖ Gradual: Jesu, our hope, our heart's desire (Metzler's Redhead)
- ❖ Offertory: Who are these, like stars appearing (Tune: All Saints)
- ❖ Communion: Draw nigh and take the body of the Lord (Tune: Song 46)
- ❖ Choir Motet: And I saw a new heaven (Music: Archer)
- ❖ Recessional: Hark what a sound (Tune: Highwood)

INTERCESSIONS FOR THIS WEEK

For the world-wide Church:

- ❖ Bishop Alan - Bishop of St Albans
- ❖ Bishop Jane - Bishop of Hertford
- ❖ The Venerable Janet Mackenzie - Archdeacon of Hertford
- ❖ The Revd Gaz Tracey - Area Dean
- ❖ Archbishop Justin - Archbishop of Canterbury
- ❖ In the Anglican cycle of prayer for Kontagora
- ❖ In the Diocesan cycle of prayer for the people and parish of North Mymms, Hatfield
- ❖ In our Deanery cycle of prayer for the parish and people of Holy Trinity, Bishop's Stortford
- ❖ For those being martyred or persecuted for their Christian faith



[\(https://releaseinternational.org/\)](https://releaseinternational.org/)

For our world:

- ❖ For the victims of Israel and Gaza during the current Israel-Palestinian conflict.
- ❖ For the people of Ukraine, be they in their homeland or refugees in Europe.
- ❖ For just and peaceful governance throughout the world, not least in Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, Sudan, Somalia, China, Haiti, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Yemen, Iran, Pakistan, Myanmar, North Korea, and the DRC.
- ❖ For those suffering from the effects of climate change or natural disaster.
- ❖ For those working to reduce the effects of climate change.
- ❖ For those working to relieve suffering throughout the world.
- ❖ For emergency and keyworkers, scientists and leaders, medical and care workers, and, in this country, particularly for the NHS and social services.
- ❖ For those being unjustly held captive or being persecuted
- ❖ For those who have been abused in body, mind, or spirit.
- ❖ For those who are victims of modern-day slavery and human trafficking.
- ❖ For those who are victims of famine or poverty, praying for the work of the *Shiksha Rath* educational project in New Delhi which we support.
- ❖ For those struggling with addiction.
- ❖ For those who are homeless, and for the work of the *Holy Trinity Night Shelter* in Bishop's Stortford which we support.
- ❖ For those involved in the migrant and refugee situation.
- ❖ For the work of organisations which are working to bring an end to poverty.



For our town:

- ❖ For the staff and patients of our Central Surgery, the Princess Alexandra, Rivers, and Herts & Essex hospitals, for our care homes, social services, voluntary care sector.
- ❖ For Sawbridgeworth Town Council and for East Herts District Council and our councillors.
- ❖ For local businesses in these uncertain times.
- ❖ For our emergency services.
- ❖ For groups and organisations, including The Hailey Centre and library.
- ❖ For our youth organisations and uniformed brigades.
- ❖ For the pupils, teachers, staff, governors, and parents associated with our local schools, including our church school in Spellbrook, as they prepare for the new school year
- ❖ For those feeling isolated and lonely; particularly those living alone.
- ❖ For those who are concerned about making ends meet, and for organisations such as Harlow Foodbank and the evangelical church's pop-up store seeking to bring aid.

For the people of:

Sunday:	Parkway, Cedar Close & Hornby Way
Monday:	Chalks Avenue & Coney Green
Tuesday:	Hazel Gardens & Moorlands Reach
Wednesday:	Cherry Gardens, Marlands & Law Close
Thursday:	Church Walk, Church Crescent & Forebury Crescent
Friday:	Church Street, Blakes Court, Duckling Lane & Fair Green
Saturday:	West Road, Tudor Court & West Court

For the sick, tired, and bereaved, including:

Sue Adams, Angela Alder, June Allen, Pam Brown, Linda Bowler, Jeanette Dedman, Rachael Dineen, Elsa Duce, Jeanette Ehlers, Jimmy Galvin, John Ireland, Georgina King, Jackie White, Mark White.

For those that have died, including:

- ❖ Pat Spikin RIP
- ❖ Julie Wilson RIP

For our dearly departed ones, remembered at their year's mind:

- ❖ Dorothy Abery RIP (18th Nov)
- ❖ Richard Abery RIP (22nd Nov)
- ❖ Nora Hemsley RIP (23rd Nov)
- ❖ Edna Rose RIP (23rd Nov)

*God of mission,
who alone brings growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit
to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions,
joy to our worship, and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
in spiritual commitment to you,
and in service to our local community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

NOTICES

Services and events in church this week:

- | | | |
|--|---------------|---|
| ❖ Sunday 17th November | 9.30am | Parish Eucharist (CW) |
| <i>Second before Advent</i> | | <i>Followed by refreshments in Church House</i> |
| ❖ Wed 20 th November | 10.00am | Midweek Service of the Word |
| ❖ Sunday 24th November | 9.30am | Parish Eucharist (CW) |
| <i>Feast of Christ the King</i> | | <i>Followed by refreshments in Church House</i> |
| ❖ Wed 27 th November | 10.00am | Midweek Service of the Word |
| ❖ Sunday 1st December | 9.30am | Parish Eucharist (CW) |
| <i>Advent Sunday</i> | | <i>Followed by refreshments in Church House</i> |
| | 5.00pm | Advent Carol Service |

➤ **Resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury**

We have just received the news that the Archbishop of Canterbury has announced his resignation, a decision taken in recognition of the Church's profound responsibility towards those who have suffered abuse.

The Makin Review has laid bare the horrific and lasting impact of the abuse inflicted by John Smyth and the failure of the Church to act with sufficient urgency and care. It is thanks to the courage and resilience of survivors that the full scope of this tragedy has been brought to light. To all those who have come forward, I extend my deepest respect, and I urge anyone who has suffered abuse to report it, so we may listen, learn, and act to protect others.

As the Bishop of St Albans, I am wholly committed to ensuring that our churches are places of welcome, safety, compassion, and accountability. We must continue the work to transform our structures and practices, and we must create an environment in which all feel welcome, secure, and valued.

May we work together in faith so that our Church may truly become a place of welcome, security, and compassion—a place where we are watchful yet caring, trusting yet ready to question. It is our shared responsibility to ensure that all who come to worship may do so in safety and in the knowledge of God's enduring love.

+Alan, Bishop of St Albans

➤ **Help Wanted!**

Festival of Light



Friday 29th November

Help required from 6.45pm-7.45pm to move furniture from the Church into storage (and back again after event.)

Saturday 30th November

Help required to set up the church with the candles and lanterns from 10.30am onwards. Help also required at the event to

welcome people to the church and help sell refreshments outside.

Christmas Tree Festival

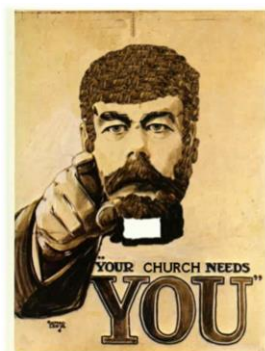
Thursday 5th December 9am-6pm & Friday 6th December 9am - 8pm

Help needed to welcome participants and their trees to the church.

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th December

Help in the church for welcoming and watching and also in Church House (refreshments /tombolas/Father Christmas).

Donations of Cake will also be welcomed!



Signup sheets can now be found at the back of church – please, please, sign up and help if you can.

With thanks in advance

➤ **News from Shiksha Rath**

Hello and warm greetings from all of us here at Shiksha Rath! Hope you are doing well? Today, we are excited to share with you the journey of an 18-year-old student of ours, Priya.

In 2014, Priya, who was 7 years old at the time, and her older sister Sapna joined Shiksha Rath. The family had migrated from the state of Bihar to New Delhi to look for better job prospects. Her father started selling ice cream, while her mother looked after the household. Since the lockdown, her father has been driving an electric auto rickshaw [Tuk Tuk].



Priya was always quiet but sincere and respectful. After her 12th class exams, she volunteered with Shiksha Rath for 6 months. Since October this year, she has been working as a full-time intern with us. She not only helps the smaller children with their studies, but she also recycles the oversized clothes donated to us, by stitching dresses for the younger ones. She is now in her first year of college. Her dream is to do B.Ed, a 2-year professional course (Bachelor of Education) after her graduation to pursue a teaching career.

Even as we celebrate Priya's life and service, we wanted to also let you know that you have been an integral part of her journey. Without your help and support, she couldn't have come this far.

Thank you very much for giving hope and a future to the children by being a part of Shiksha Rath.

Atula Walling
Director - Shiksha Rath

➤ **Annual revision of Year's Mind list**



Every year, we update our Year's Mind document which lists the names of our dearly departed ones who are included each week in the intercession section of this Friday Email and whose names are, on the appropriate Sunday, read out in memoriam at our services.

If your departed loved one is already on our Year's Mind list and has been remembered this past year, they will remain on the list. However, if you would like to add a name, please complete a blue form and place it in the box at the back of church, and a box in which to place the forms.

➤ **Friends of Great St Mary's, Christmas Cards on Sale**

Di is selling Christmas cards for the Friends of Great St Mary's, featuring a picture of GSM with the Northern lights in the background, they are £6.50 for 10 cards. She also has a collection of pictures that have been Christmas cards in previous years for sale at £2 for 10 cards. If you are interested please see Di in church or contact her via telephone on 01279 723212.

➤ **Harlow Foodbank Sale**

The foodbank sale last Sunday raised a fantastic £120, thank you for your kind generosity.



YTD the foodbank have fed 5063 individuals, of which 1953 are children. As they approach the busiest period, they are on track to exceed the previous year's number of 9721 individuals fed, which is approximately 800 people per month. Through the foodbank referral scheme c.5 tonnes of food is being given out per month. Thanks to all those involved.

➤ **Churchyard Working Party – Saturday, 23rd November**

If any of you are able to join Chris next Saturday, he would be most appreciative of your support. With thanks in advance, all welcome from 9.30am.



➤ **News from our associated CoE School in Spellbrook**



Mr Fisher – our Headteacher – writes:

Remembrance has been very much on our minds. Last week, each class used different techniques, from collage to painting on wooden slices, to produce beautiful and original artwork.



On Monday morning, we observed two minutes silence and held a Remembrance service in the afternoon. After learning more about this special day, listening to poems and singing songs about peace and remembrance, the children paraded quietly outside to lay their poppies and reflect on those who have given so much to keep us safe in the past and those who continue to do so.



Have a good weekend,

Mr Fisher

Thank you for your ongoing support of Great St Mary's

Content for the Newsletter

If you have a notice for the Friday Email, please contact Angela Kenny in the Parish Office by Wednesday lunchtime.

➤ **Contact us**

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Jane Johnson (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

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Website:

[**www.sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk**](http://www.sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk)

Facebook:

[**www.facebook.com**](http://www.facebook.com) and search for 'Great St Mary's, Sawbridgeworth'

YouTube:

[**www.youtube.com**](http://www.youtube.com) and search for 'Great St Mary's, Sawbridgeworth'



Christmas at Great St Mary's

Sun 1st Dec at 5pm – Advent Carol Service

A candlelight service of Advent hymns and readings marking the beginning of our preparations for Christmas

Sat 7th & Sun 8th Dec – Great St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival

The magic of Christmas will be on display as Great St Mary's host an array of Christmas trees decorated by the town's many organisations

Sat 7th Dec onwards - Decorate the Community Christmas Tree

Bring your own decoration or use ours, perhaps to remember a loved one

Sun 8th Dec at 3pm – Christingle Service

A fun all-age service with oranges, candles and Christmas carols

Saturday 14th Dec at 12noon – Advent Lunch

Enjoy a light lunch in Church House of homemade soup, cheeses, fruit and treats, all in aid of The Children's Society

Sun 22nd Dec at 5pm - Christmas Carol Service

The traditional carol service followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Tues 24th Dec 3pm - Crib Service

A shorter, fun, all-age service, particularly suitable for young children

Tues 24th Dec at 11.30pm - Midnight Mass

The first eucharist of Christmas with traditional carols

Wed 25th Dec at 9.30am - Christmas Morning Eucharist

Dress as your favourite Bethlehem character for a scratch nativity and traditional carols

***All are welcome to these or any
of our other services and events***





Christmas

TREE FESTIVAL

SAT 7th & SUN 8th DEC
11am-5pm

ALSO

Sat 7th Dec 10am-12pm & 1-3pm

❖ **MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS**

❖ **SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS**

❖ **TOMBOLA**

Sun 8th Dec 3pm

❖ **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

*Come, wander,
and experience
some of the
magic of Christmas
with all the family*



Great St Mary's
Sawbridgeworth

Passion for Christ - Compassion for all

Come join us for a delicious charity

ADVENT LUNCH

on SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER

12pm-2pm at Church House, Sawbridgeworth

Everybody welcome, just turn up!



Homemade soup – Crusty bread – Cheeseboard – Festive treats
Suggested donation £5 per head

**Don't miss our *AMAZING* raffle
with *FANTASTIC* prizes!!!**

***EVERY PENNY WE RAISE WILL GO TO THE
CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHARITY***