



**THE FRIDAY EMAIL**  
**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025**



*A happy New Year to you all...  
and a thank you for your generosity!*

We are delighted to announce that the collections throughout Advent and Christmas raised an impressive £1,124 for The Children's Society and £1,059 for Crisis. This marks a significant increase from last year's contributions.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the events at the church and contributed so generously. Your support is making a real difference.

## ➤ READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

### **Isaiah 43:1-7:**

But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight,

and honoured, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

I will say to the north, 'Give them up',

and to the south, 'Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—

everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made.'

### **Psalm 29:**

A Psalm of David.

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;

worship the Lord in holy splendour.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

the God of glory thunders,

the Lord, over mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful;

the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;

the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.  
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,  
and strips the forest bare;  
and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever.  
May the Lord give strength to his people!  
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

### **Luke 3:15-17, 21-22:**

As the people were filled with expectation,  
and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John,  
whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying,  
'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming;  
I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.  
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.  
His winnowing-fork is in his hand,  
to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary;  
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'  
Now when all the people were baptized,  
and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying,  
the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a  
dove. And a voice came from heaven,  
'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

### **The collect for this Sunday**

Almighty God,  
in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your  
grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who 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: Julie Patterson
- ❖ Intercessions: Huw Lewis
- ❖ Processional: As with Gladness Men of Old
- ❖ Gradual: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
- ❖ Offertory: Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
- ❖ Communion: Brightest and best
- ❖ Choir Motet: Litany to the Holy Spirit
- ❖ Recessional: Hail to the Lord's anointed

## **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
- ❖ In the Anglican cycle of prayer for the church of the Province of South Africa
- ❖ In the Diocesan cycle of prayer for the people and parish of Clophill, Ampthill and Shefford.
- ❖ In our Deanery cycle of prayer for the parish and people of 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:	Ladywell Prosepect, Blenheim Close & Camp Drive
Monday:	Brook End, Burnside & Clements Street
Tuesday:	Brook Lane, Brookfields & Applegate
Wednesday:	Heron Close, Bonks Hill & Griffin Way
Thursday:	Cambridge Road, Walnut Tree Avenue & School Lane
Friday:	Parkway, Cedar Close & Hornby Way
Saturday:	Chalks Avenue & Coney Green

### **For the sick, tired, and bereaved, including:**

Sue Adams, Angela Alder, June Allen, Pam Brown, Linda Bowler, Patrick Copeard, Jeanette Dedman, Rachael Dineen, Elsa Duce, Jimmy Galvin, Jill Howard, John Ireland, Georgina King, Douglas Rose.

### **For those that have died, including:**

- ❖ Leslie Smith RIP
- ❖ Bernard Rowles RIP
- ❖ Katheen Schuyler RIP

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

- ❖ Brenda Stainer RIP (11th Jan)
- ❖ Ronald Little RIP (13<sup>th</sup> Jan)
- ❖ Peter Dodgshon RIP (14<sup>th</sup> Jan)
- ❖ Blanche Alder RIP (15<sup>th</sup> Jan)
- ❖ Betty Taylor RIP (15<sup>th</sup> Jan)

*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:

- ❖ **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January**      8.00am      Said Eucharist (CW)  
*Second of Epiphany*      **9.30am      Parish Eucharist (CW)**  
*Followed by refreshments in Church House*
- ❖ *Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January*      11.30am      *Funeral – Bernard Rowles RIP*
- ❖ *Wed 15<sup>th</sup> January*      *No Mid-week Service*
- ❖ **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January**      **9.30am      Parish Eucharist (CW)**  
*Third of Epiphany*      *Followed by refreshments in Church House*
- ❖ *Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> January*      *No Mid-week Service*

➤ **A Heartfelt thank you to Great St Mary's**

The Holy Trinity Night Shelter extended their deepest gratitude to all Great St Mary's Church for the incredibly generous donation of £1,472 received on November



**HTNS**  
Holy Trinity Night Shelter  
& Community Outreach

17th. The Shelter operates primarily during the harsh winter months, providing a warm bed and two hot meals daily to those in need. The work relies heavily on the dedication of numerous volunteers. Dave, the Manager, and Jocelyn, the Administrator, tirelessly assist individuals in finding stable accommodation throughout the year. Interestingly, their efforts are often supported by past beneficiaries who have transformed their lives and are now helping others.

Everyone at the Shelter is extremely grateful for the church's continued interest, support, and generosity. Thank you!

➤ **Foodbank**

We raised a fantastic sum of £144 from our Christmas raffle, which was gratefully received. Thanks to everyone who kindly bought tickets or donated money. Congratulations to the winners!

*Ann and Cathy*

➤ **Mothers' Union Meeting – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January**



We have a special visitor to our meeting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January.

Our speaker will be the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Suzy Harvey DL. Why not come along to meet her and find out what she does? Our meeting starts at 2.00pm in Church House and there will be tea and cake! We look forward to seeing you.

*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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YouTube:

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