



THE FRIDAY EMAIL
Friday 17th January 2025

➤ **READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY**

Isaiah 62:1-5:

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the Lord delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

Psalms 36:5-10:

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgements are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your salvation to the upright of heart!

John 5:1-6:

After this there was a festival of the Jews,
and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool,
called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes.

In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed.

One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.

When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time,
he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?'

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 Bill Church
- ❖ Preacher: Revd Bill Church
- ❖ Sunday Club: Emily Groom
- ❖ Reader: Becky Burton
- ❖ Intercessions: Sandie Abery
- ❖ Processional: The God of Abraham praise
- ❖ Gradual: The church's one foundation
- ❖ Offertory: Come down, O Love divine
- ❖ Communion: O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray
- ❖ Choir Motet: O Taste and See
- ❖ Recessional: Songs of thankfulness and praise

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 West Indies
- ❖ In the Diocesan cycle of prayer for the people and parish of Hexton, Ampthill and Shefford
- ❖ In our Deanery cycle of prayer for the parish and people The Ash and Quin Valleys Group Ministry; Albury, Much Hadham, Little Hadham, Perry Green, Braughing, Stocking Pelham, Furneux Pelham
- ❖ 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 the people of California facing the devastating wildfires.
- ❖ 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:	Hazel Gardens & Moorlands Reach
Monday:	Cherry Gardens, Marlands & Law Close
Tuesday:	Church Walk, Church Crescent & Forebury Crescent
Wednesday:	Church Street, Blakes Course, Duckling Lane & Fair Green
Thursday:	West Road, Tudor Court & West Court
Friday:	East Drive, East Park & Kingsmead
Saturday:	Lawrence Moorings & Luxford Place

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:

- ❖ Bernard Rowles RIP
- ❖ Katheen Schuyler RIP
- ❖ Allen Elliot RIP

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

- ❖ Kathleen Hammond RIP (19th 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 19th January** **9.30am** **Parish Eucharist (CW)**
Third of Epiphany *Followed by refreshments in Church House*

- ❖ *Wed 22nd January* *No Mid-week Service*

- ❖ **Sunday 26th January** **9.30am** **Parish Eucharist (CW)**
Fourth of Epiphany *Followed by refreshments in Church House*

- ❖ *Mon 27th January* *2.00pm* *Funeral Service – Kathleen Schuyler RIP*

- ❖ *Wed 29th January* *No Mid-week Service*

➤ **Introducing...**



Our new Director of Music, Jonathan Palman. Jonathan joined us at the beginning of January and we welcome him as a valuable addition to the team at Great St Mary's.

➤ **Help needed at Tiny Tots!**



Tiny Tots, our beloved mother and toddler group, is looking for a helping hand! We're located in the Parish Hall and gather every Tuesday, during term time, from 10am to 11.30am.

About Us:

- Welcoming atmosphere: We've been a warm, family-like group for many years.
- Supportive community: Mums, grandmothers, childminders, and sometimes dads, join us with their lovely children.
- Friendly helpers: The wonderful Mothers' Union ladies assist with teas and coffees.

What We Need:

With Norma, who has been instrumental in helping run the group, leaving at Easter, we are in need of a dedicated person to:

- Help set up small tables, chairs, and big toys from the shed around 9.15am.
- Assist with clearing up after our session, ensuring we're home by midday.
- Join our friendly and laid-back environment, making a real difference in our weekly gatherings.

Interested?

We'd love to meet you! Please contact Kathy through the Parish office. Thank you for considering helping at Tiny Tots. Your support would mean the world to us and make a big difference in our community!

➤ **Mothers' Union Meeting – Tuesday 21st January**



We have a special visitor to our meeting on Tuesday 21st 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.

➤ **Volunteers needed to join the Interchurch prayer group**

Val Bright and Eileen Griffiths would both like to step down from their roles in the Interchurch Group this year, so they are seeking volunteers to join in their place. If you would like to get involved, please contact the Parish Office.

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



Mr Fisher – our Headteacher – writes:

It's great to be back in school after a wonderful festive break, and we have just started to focus on our new Christian Value, courage. We have thought about carrying on when things are difficult. We revisited the story of Jesus and the fisherman and how they'd experienced a fishing trip with no success at all. We reflected



on how an experience like that is bound to make us want to give up and we realised that we all have had times just like that. We then thought about how, with Jesus's help, they had such a successful catch that they needed extra help to bring it in, and their boat was so full it hardly floated.



This week some of Diamond class (Y5/ Y6) took part in an indoor athletics event at Birchwood. It was a super event with a range of activities, such as long jump, chest throw, javelin and speed bounce. One of our team was brilliant at speed bounce. These activities were followed up with a set of relay races.

As we are a small school and unable to select from a large pupil size, competing at these events is a challenge and we actually had a smaller squad than recommended, however this did provide an opportunity for all of our athletes to show determination and courage, and they certainly did that. We were very proud of the attitude shown throughout. Our athletes all did their best. They kept their heads up and refocused for every race. We ran well and our teams of four did particularly well, winning a number of heats and giving the other schools a 'good run for their money'.



Wishing you all a lovely 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.

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