



THE FRIDAY EMAIL
Friday 7th February 2025



➤ **READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY**

Isaiah 6:1-8, 9-13:

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.'

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!' And he said, 'Go and say to this people:

"Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
keep looking, but do not understand."

Make the mind of this people dull,
and stop their ears,
and shut their eyes,
so that they may not look with their eyes,

and listen with their ears,
and comprehend with their minds,
and turn and be healed.'
Then I said, 'How long, O Lord?' And he said:
'Until cities lie waste
without inhabitant,
and houses without people,
and the land is utterly desolate;
until the Lord sends everyone far away,
and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.

Even if a tenth part remains in it,
it will be burned again,
like a terebinth or an oak
whose stump remains standing
when it is felled.'
The holy seed is its stump.

Psalm 138:

Of David.

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
I bow down towards your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and your word
above everything.
On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.
For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.
The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures for ever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Luke 5:1-11:

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

The collect for the Fourth Sunday before Lent

O God,
you know us to be set
in the midst of so many and great dangers,
that by reason of the frailty of our nature
we cannot always stand upright:
grant to us such strength and protection
as may support us in all dangers
and carry us through all temptations;
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
- ❖ Sunday Club: Emily Groom
- ❖ Reader: Cathy Battson
- ❖ Intercessions: Debbie Cubitt
- ❖ Processional: Jesus, where'er thy people meet
- ❖ Gradual: I, the Lord of sea and sky
- ❖ Offertory: Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult (Tune i)
- ❖ Communion: Be still, my soul
- ❖ Choir Motet: A prayer of St Richard of Chichester – LJ White
- ❖ Recessional: Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

INTERCESSIONS FOR THIS WEEK

For the world-wide Church:

- ❖ Bishop Alan - Bishop of St Albans
- ❖ Bishop Jane - Bishop of Hertford
- ❖ Archdeacon Janet of Hertford
- ❖ The Revd Gaz Tracey - Area Dean
- ❖ In the Anglican cycle of prayer for the church of the Anglican Church of Australia
- ❖ In the Diocesan cycle of prayer for the people and parishes of Woburn, Ampthill and Shefford
- ❖ In our Deanery cycle of prayer for the parish and people High Wych with Allens Green and Gilston with Eastwick
- ❖ 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:	Springhall Court & Spring Mews
Monday:	Sun Street, Revells Crescent & Salmon Road
Tuesday:	Rowan Walk & Hailey Place
Wednesday:	Sheering Mill Lane & Lock View
Thursday:	Gilders, Roman Rise & Slater Lane
Friday:	Cutforth Road & Barnard Road
Saturday:	The Meadows, Waterside Place & Priors Court

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, Paul O'Leary.

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

- ❖ Leslie Dodd RIP (12th Feb)

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

Mr Fisher – our Headteacher – writes:



Our current value is courage, and we have been thinking about facing challenges. We have thought about the things that are difficult and how sometimes that makes us fearful or hesitant. We watched a video about some children abseiling over a huge waterfall and reflected on what had helped them to overcome their fears. We considered times that we have felt fearful and recognised that one of the things that has helped us is support from those

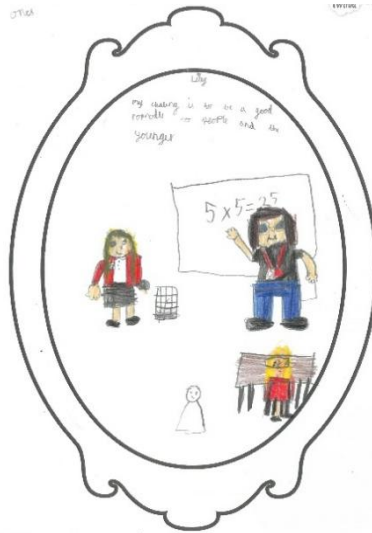
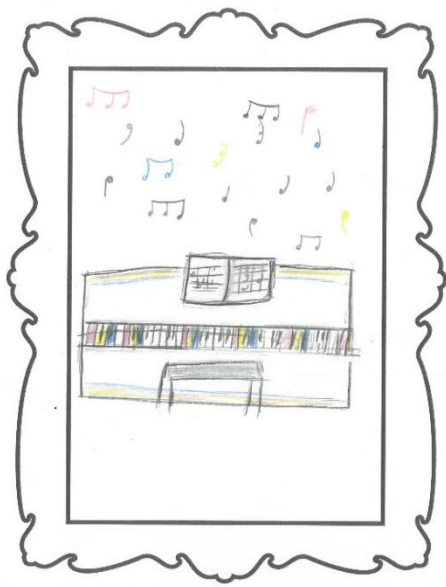
around us, especially those we are close to. We linked this to the verse in John's gospel, **'Perfect love casts out all fear.'**

We have been drawing pictures of challenges that we have set for ourselves. For some in Sapphire class (y1,Y2), who are having swimming lessons at the moment, this was the focus of their challenge. For others it was to work hard at learning a musical instrument, listen more in class or get better at keeping their bedroom tidy. All worthy challenges, as I'm sure you'll agree.

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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