

St Mary the Virgin and All Saints Potters Bar

31st August 2025

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

*A warm welcome to St Mary's,
especially if this is your first time here.*

*Refreshments are served in the hall after the Parish Eucharist.
We look forward to meeting you and seeing you again.*

TODAY'S SERVICES

8.00am **HOLY COMMUNION**

10.00am **PARISH EUCHARIST**

*We welcome **The Revd Canon Kevin Walton**,
Canon Chancellor of St Albans Cathedral, as
our celebrant at both services this morning*

Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 25 vv 6-7 *You do not know
who will be the guest of honour at a banquet until all the guests
have arrived.*

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 13 vv 1-8, 15-16 *The
writer draws his letter to a close with practical instructions for
Christian conduct.*

Gospel: Luke 14 vv 1, 7-14 *Jesus speaks about the need for
humility and denounces a spirit of material gain.*

Hymns: 433, 341, 383, 295, 186

This week's flowers have been arranged by Jessica Hollings

The Week Ahead

Tuesday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	12.30pm	Recital by Pavlos Triantaris and Marily Kritikou (organ & soprano) <i>Light lunches available from 12 noon</i>
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	St Gregory the Great	
	9.30am	Holy Communion <i>Celebrant: Fr Tom Baron</i>
	10.30am – 12 noon	Church open for visitors
Thursday	5.00pm	Evening Prayer
	9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)
	10.30am – 12 noon	Church open for visitors
Friday	5.00pm	Evening Prayer
	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)

Next Sunday is our **PATRONAL FESTIVAL**, as we
celebrate the Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am **FESTIVAL EUCHARIST** with Baptism of
Arabelle Almé Burks
followed by lunch in the church hall

Next Sunday's readings will be: Isaiah 61 vv 10-11;
Galatians 4 vv 4-7 and Luke 1 vv 46-56.

While Fr Stefan is on extended study leave,
please refer all enquiries to **Richard Osborn**

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Our livestreamed services are available at:
www.facebook.com/stmaryspb

Parish Notices

Our Patronal Festival is **next Sunday**, the day we welcome
back Fr Stefan. After the 10.00am Festival Eucharist, there
will be a Bring & Share Lunch in the church hall. If you
would like to attend this lunch, please sign the list on the
notice board, indicating what you are able to bring in the
way of food to share (savoury or sweet). If you would prefer
to make a monetary donation, you can indicate that on the
sheet as well. If you can help with **setting up the hall** next
Saturday afternoon, please have a word with Richard.

On **Wednesday 10th September**, there will be a Carers
Coffee Morning in our church hall from 10.00am to 12 noon,
organised by the Friends of Parkfield Medical Centre. This
is a free event for all carers, with tea, coffee and biscuits.

On **Friday 12th September**, the Potters Bar Health and
Wellbeing Event takes place at the Wyllyotts Centre from
10.00am to 3.00pm. Stalls, talks, taster activities and mini
health checks available. All welcome.

Janice Neal can provide more details on both these events.

**Annual Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust Bike 'n
Hike** - **Saturday 13th September**, 9.00am to 5.00pm.
Many thanks to those who have signed up to help as
welcomers on this day. The rota is now complete.

Geoff Foster is taking part in the bike ride and would be
grateful for sponsors. The money he raises will be shared
between the Trust and St Mary's.

The **Parish Retreat** to Worth Abbey near Crawley takes
place from **Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th October**. This is a
special opportunity to grow in your spiritual life. If you are
interested, please sign up on the sheet on the noticeboard.

Other dates to note in your diaries:

- **Sunday 12th October – Harvest Festival**, with a Bring
& Share Lunch following the 10.00am Family Eucharist
- **Saturday 22nd November – Quiz Night** in the hall at
7.00pm. If you could help with organizing the 'light
supper' for this popular event, please speak to Richard

Could **Watchers & Welcomers** please let Heather Hawkes
have a note of any dates when they will be unavailable
during October and November. Many thanks.

For your prayers

The sick Elizabeth Liney, Janet Daniels, Harry Hadfield, Betty
Tucker, Jayne Hutton, Francoise Groves-de-Milleret, Tessa, Joan
Golden, Carlos Perez, Maureen Alderman, Dawn Cruickshank,
Daren Ellis, Linda, Alison Stevens, Diane Christy, Fr Martin
Banister, Cynthia Moorman, Sergio Lever

We give thanks for the improvement in the health of Jean
Cotton

We also pray for Keith & Anna Downes, Ron Golden, Susan
North, Valerie Taylor, Sasha Burt, Suzanne Edwards, Nicola Stiff,
Ricky Mella, Keith Probert, Betty Lockton, David Evans, Richard
Barnes, Dave Gough

The recently departed

Elizabeth Blankson-Hemans, Roger Collor

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week

Ted Witts, Bob Whittle, Molly Byrne, Doris March, Stan Lewins,
Brother Derek Ford SSF, Tom Rowbotham

Our parish We remember those who live in Elmroyd Close,
Fairacres Close and Faringford Close

We also pray for the **Revd Emma-Jane Wilkinson** who will be
instituted and inducted as the new Vicar of King Charles the Martyr
Church **next Saturday** at 11.00am.

COLLECT

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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.

FIRST READING

Either Ecclesiasticus 10:12-18

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

The beginning of human pride is to forsake the Lord; the heart has withdrawn from its Maker. For the beginning of pride is sin, and the one who clings to it pours out abominations. Therefore the Lord brings upon them unheard-of calamities, and destroys them completely. The Lord overthrows the thrones of rulers, and enthrones the lowly in their place. The Lord plucks up the roots of the nations, and plants the humble in their place. The Lord lays waste the lands of the nations, and destroys them to the foundations of the earth. He removes some of them and destroys them, and erases the memory of them from the earth. Pride was not created for human beings, or violent anger for those born of women.

Or Proverbs 25:6-7

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great; for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Or Jeremiah 2:4-13

PSALM Psalm 112

R *The righteous will be held in everlasting remembrance.*

Alleluia.

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and have great delight in his commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land, a generation of the faithful that will be blest. **R**

Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness endures for ever. Light shines in the darkness for the upright; gracious and full of compassion are the righteous. **R**

It goes well with those who are generous in lending and order their affairs with justice, For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be held in everlasting remembrance. They will not be afraid of any evil tidings; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. **R**

Their heart is sustained and will not fear, until they see the downfall of their foes. They have given freely to the poor; their righteousness stands fast for ever; their head will be exalted with honour. The wicked shall see it and be angry; they shall gnash their teeth in despair; the desire of the wicked shall perish. **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 13:1-8. 15-16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Through him, then, let us continually

offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

GOSPEL Luke 14:1. 7-14

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

POST COMMUNION

Lord of all mercy,
we your faithful people have celebrated
that one true sacrifice
which takes away our sins and brings
pardon and peace:
by our communion
keep us firm on the foundation of the
gospel
and preserve us from all sin;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

