

St Mary the Virgin and All Saints Potters Bar

17th August 2025

The Ninth 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

*Celebrant & Preacher: The Revd Philip Green,
Associate Vicar of St Peter's, London Colney*

10.00am PARISH EUCHARIST

*Celebrant & Preacher: The Revd Karen Turner,
formerly Vicar of South Mymms and Ridge*

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 23 vv 23-29 *God is ever present and knows when prophets mislead His people.*

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 11 v 29 – 12 v 2 *The writer speaks of the power of faith and exhorts us to steadfast endurance in running the Christian race – like the saints of old.*

Gospel: Luke 12 vv 49-56 *Jesus warns that his mission effects a judgement, which will cause strife and division, as in a time of persecution.*

Hymns: 490, 134, 396, 431, 368

*This week's flowers have been donated by Anne Mitcheson
and arranged by Trisha Salmon*

The Week Ahead

Tuesday

10.30am – 12 noon Church open for visitors
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday *St Bernard, abbot & teacher of the faith*

9.30am Holy Communion
Celebrant: Fr Tom Baron

10.30am – 12 noon Church open for visitors
8.00pm Mission Action Plan sub-committee
meets at church

Thursday 9.30am Morning Prayer (BCP)
10.30am – 12 noon Church open for visitors

Friday No Evening Prayer today

Next Sunday we shall celebrate the **Feast of St Bartholomew the Apostle**

8.00am Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

10.00am PARISH EUCHARIST

*Celebrant & Preacher: The Revd Canon Teresa Wynne,
formerly Team Rector of Cheshunt*

5.00pm Evensong

The Eucharist readings will be: Isaiah 43 vv 8-13;
Acts 5 vv 12-16 and Luke 22 vv 24-30.

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

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Website: www.stmaryspb.org.uk

Our livestreamed services are available at:

www.facebook.com/stmaryspb

Parish Notices

I am grateful to **Archie Hadfield** who will giving the homily at Evensong next Sunday. After the service, we will serve drinks to wish Archie well as he prepares to begin the Ministry Experience scheme in Hatfield in September.

Richard

The next recital will be given by Pavlos Triantaris and Marily Kritikou (organ & soprano) on **Tuesday 2nd September** at 12.30pm. Lunches will be available both before and after the recital, from 12 noon onwards.

Our Patronal Festival is on **Sunday 7th September**, 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 just to make a monetary donation, you can indicate that on the sheet as well.

Annual Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust Bike 'n Hike - Saturday 13th September, 9.00am to 5.00pm. We need volunteers to welcome visitors to the church. Please sign the rota on the noticeboard if you can help. It would be good if two people could cover each hour slot. Many thanks to those who have already signed up to help.

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.

Volunteers are needed to organise the 'light supper' for the **Quiz Night on Saturday 22nd November**. Please speak to Richard if you can help.

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

You can support fundraising for St Mary's by signing up to the **Easyfundraising** online shopping website at: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmaryspottersbar We have raised over £1,600 for St Mary's since joining this initiative. Thank you to all our supporters.

For your prayers

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

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 Susan Anayiotos, Patrick Hastings, Brian Livesley

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week Gwendolyn Macken, Owen Franklin, Joyce Taylor, Marjorie Neville, Cecilia Stewart, Betty Jenkins, Rhoda Lore

Our parish We remember those who live in Cotton Road, Daleside Drive and Dancers Hill Road



COLLECT

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your
grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the
Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
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

Jeremiah 23:23-29

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Am I a God near by, says the LORD,
and not a God far off? Who can hide
in secret places so that I cannot see
them? says the LORD. Do I not fill
heaven and earth? says the LORD. I
have heard what the prophets have
said who prophesy lies in my name,
saying, "I have dreamed, I have
dreamed!" How long? Will the hearts
of the prophets ever turn back – those
who prophesy lies, and who prophesy
the deceit of their own heart? They
plan to make my people forget my
name by their dreams that they tell one
another, just as their ancestors forgot
my name for Baal. Let the prophet who
has a dream tell the dream, but let the
one who has my word speak my word
faithfully. What has straw in common
with wheat? says the LORD. Is not my
word like fire, says the LORD, and like
a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Or **Isaiah 5:1-7**

PSALM Psalm 82

R Arise, O God, and judge the earth.

God has taken his stand in the council of
heaven;

in the midst of the gods he gives
judgement:

"How long will you judge unjustly
and show such favour to the wicked? **R**

"You were to judge the weak and the
orphan;

defend the right of the humble and
needy;

"Rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the hand of the
wicked. **R**

"They have no knowledge or wisdom;
they walk on still in darkness:
all the foundations of the earth are
shaken.

"Therefore I say that though you are
gods
and all of you children of the Most
High, **R**

"Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals
and fall like one of their princes."
Arise, O God and judge the earth,
for it is you that shall take all nations for
your possession. **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

By faith the people of Israel passed
through the Red Sea as if it were
dry land, but when the Egyptians
attempted to do so they were
drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho
fell after they had been encircled
for seven days. By faith Rahab the
prostitute did not perish with those
who were disobedient, because she
had received the spies in peace.
And what more should I say? For
time would fail me to tell of Gideon,
Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David
and Samuel and the prophets – who
through faith conquered kingdoms,
administered justice, obtained
promises, shut the mouths of lions,
quenched raging fire, escaped the
edge of the sword, won strength out
of weakness, became mighty in war,
put foreign armies to flight. Women
received their dead by resurrection.
Others were tortured, refusing to
accept release, in order to obtain a
better resurrection. Others suffered
mocking and flogging, and even
chains and imprisonment. They were
stoned to death, they were sawn in
two, they were killed by the sword;
they went about in skins of sheep
and goats, destitute, persecuted,
tormented – of whom the world was
not worthy. They wandered in deserts
and mountains, and in caves and holes
in the ground. Yet all these, though
they were commended for their faith,
did not receive what was promised,
since God had provided something
better so that they would not, apart
from us, be made perfect. Therefore,

since we are surrounded by so great
a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay
aside every weight and the sin that
clings so closely, and let us run with
perseverance the race that is set before
us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and
perfecter of our faith, who for the sake
of the joy that was set before him
endured the cross, disregarding its
shame, and has taken his seat at the
right hand of the throne of God.

GOSPEL Luke 12:49-56

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "I came to
bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it
were already kindled! I have a baptism
with which to be baptised, and what
stress I am under until it is completed!
Do you think that I have come to bring
peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but
rather division! From now on five in
one household will be divided, three
against two and two against three;
they will be divided: father against son
and son against father, mother against
daughter and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-
in-law and daughter-in-law against
mother-in-law." He also said to the
crowds, "When you see a cloud rising
in the west, you immediately say, 'It is
going to rain'; and so it happens. And
when you see the south wind blowing,
you say, 'There will be scorching heat';
and it happens. You hypocrites! You
know how to interpret the appearance
of earth and sky, but why do you not
know how to interpret the present
time?"

POST COMMUNION

Holy Father,
who gathered us here around the table
of your Son
to share this meal with the whole
household of God:
in that new world where you reveal the
fullness of your peace,
gather people of every race and
language to share in the eternal
banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord.



A - rise, O God, and judge the earth.