



St Mary the Virgin & All Saints Potters Bar

30th November 2025

The First Sunday of Advent

*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.

TODAY'S SERVICES

8.00am **HOLY COMMUNION**

10.00am **PARISH EUCHARIST** with Holy Baptism of Christopher Elliott

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 2 vv 1-5 *Isaiah prophesies that an age of peace will follow the judgement of the Lord*

New Testament Reading: Romans 13 vv 11-14 *The imminence of Christ's second coming makes it the more urgent that Christians conduct themselves honourably.*

Gospel: Matthew 24 vv 36-44 *The season of Advent stresses Our Lord's teaching that we are to live prepared and ready for His coming, like servants waiting to welcome home their master.*

Hymns: 221, 241, 209, 341, 260

5.00pm **THE ADVENT PROCESSION**

The Week Ahead

Tuesday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	12.30pm	Recital by Vanessa White and Tom Jesty (violin and piano) <i>Light lunches available from 12 noon</i>
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion
	10.30am – 12 noon	Church open for visitors
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer
Thursday	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am – 12 noon	Church open for visitors
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer
Friday	9.00am	St John's School Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Saturday	8.30am	Churches Together Prayers at St Giles' South Mymms

Next Sunday is the **Second Sunday of Advent**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am **PARISH EUCHARIST**

The readings next Sunday will be: Isaiah 11 vv 1-10; Romans 15 vv 4-13 and Matthew 3 vv 1-12.

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Our livestreamed services are available at:

www.facebook.com/stmaryspb

Parish Notices

The Advent Procession takes place today at **5.00pm**, when we shall be joined by members of other Potters Bar churches. The service will be followed by refreshments. If you can help with serving these, please let Richard know.

Our **flower arrangers** now enjoy a well-earned rest until Christmas. We thank them all for their hard work during 2025 – and thanks also to everyone who has made donations towards flowers this year.

Many thanks again to everyone who supported last weekend's Quiz Night. It raised over **£725** for church funds.

The Potters Bar Choral Society's Christmas concert takes place **next Saturday** at Our Lady & St Vincent Church at 7.30pm. Details available from Dave Miller.

The funeral of Peter Smith will be in church on **Thursday 11th December** at 2.00pm.

On **Saturday 13th December**, there is a concert here at St Mary's at 7.00pm given by a Barnet community choir, Choirs R Us, in aid of the Alzheimer's Society – a mixture of pop, jazz and Christmas songs. Tickets, priced at £15, will be available on the door from 6.30pm.

School events At least two stewards are needed for each of these events: Dame Alice Owen's on **Monday 15th** (time tbc); Ladbrooke on **Wednesday 17th** at 6.00pm and Chancellor's on **Thursday 18th** at 7.00pm. Please sign up on the noticeboard if you can help.

Our **Carol Service** is on **Sunday 21st December** at **5.00pm**. If you can provide **mince pies** for the after service refreshments, please let Jenny Pearce or Richard know. Please note: we have plenty of mulled wine! We also need people to help with serving these refreshments.

If you are interested in doing a **reading at the Carol Service**, please speak to Richard.

Other Christmas services

Christmas Eve at **4.00pm** – Crib & Christingle Service

Christmas Eve at **11.30pm** – Midnight Mass

Christmas Day at **10.00am** – Festival Eucharist

followed by festive drinks and mince pies

Watchers & Welcomers Please inform Heather of dates when you will be unavailable in January & February.

We have updated our **prayer lists for the sick**. If you wish any names to be re-instated or added to the lists, please indicate this on the sheet on the noticeboard.

For your prayers

The sick Anna Downes, Valerie Taylor, Elizabeth Liney, Jean Cotton, Joan Golden, Joanne Crouch, Carlos Perez, Daren Elis, Maureen Alderman, Linda, Alison Stevens, Bob Keefe, Gill Efsthathiou, Keith Andrews

We also pray for Keith Downes, Jayne Hutton, Janet Daniels, Francoise Groves-de-Milleret, Susan North, Julia, Tessa, Nicola Stiff, Ricky Mella, Betty Lockton, David Evans, Richard Barnes, Dave Gough, Pauline Phillips

The recently departed Peter Smith, Anthony Dwyer, Marion North, Derek Andrews

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week

Archie Read, Charles King, Hilary Follett, Caryl Lavin, Greta Murphy, Rose Law

Those preparing for Holy Matrimony Adam Page & Marguerite McMahon

Our parish We remember those who live in Manor Road, Manor Way and Margaret Close

COLLECT

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the
works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his
glorious majesty to judge the
living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and
reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

PSALM Psalm 122

R *How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts.*

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem; **R**
Jerusalem, built as a city
that is at unity in itself.
Thither the tribes go up, the tribes
of the Lord,
as is decreed for Israel, to give
thanks to the name of the Lord.
For there are set the thrones of
judgement,
the thrones of the house of David. **R**

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.
"Peace be within your walls
and tranquillity within your
palaces." **R**

For my kindred and companions' sake,
I will pray that peace be with you.
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead,

put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL Matthew 24:36-44

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

Jesus spoke to his disciples:
"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

POST COMMUNION

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep
us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son
our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

