



Notices Sheet - 25th January 2026

Notices

This weekend's Bible reading: Matthew 4:12-23 (p 968)

More sad news: As most of you know by now, very sadly, another much loved member of our church family, Jim King, died this week. Once more, many of you spoke to Jim last Sunday, when there was no sign that he was unwell. Jim suffered a major stroke on Tuesday and didn't regain consciousness. Please pray for Shirley and all of Jim's family, and those who loved him as we all come to terms with this second shock.

Julie's funeral will be on Friday 20th February at 1.00 pm in St Mary's.

Choral Evensong Sunday 25th January 3pm (please note the time) St Catherine's: Please join us at St Catherine's this Sunday for a special service of Choral Evensong. Our benefice choir will lead us in worship as we mark the arrival of the new organ. The service will be followed by refreshments. This replaces our usual 6pm 4th Sunday Choral Evensong at St Mary's which returns on Sunday 22nd February.

Midweek Music at St Mary's: The monthly midweek concerts at St Mary's Church, Standon are back after the Christmas break! On Wednesday (28th) Marion and Michael will be giving a concert of music for piano and organ at 12.30. Light refreshments will be served from 11.30 and we look forward to seeing you there. Entry and refreshments are free, but any donations you may wish to make will go towards the work of all three churches in our Benefice.

Help needed: In this new year, please consider what you might be able to offer to help with the running of our churches. All Saints is in need of volunteers to help with cleaning; the café is looking for volunteers; we would welcome more people willing to take part in our services and many of our teams are short on personnel. Please pray that God will show you where he is calling you to use your gifts and abilities, and then speak to a church warden, a PCC member or to Caroline.

Vacancy update: The advertisement for our new Rector is now live on the St Albans Diocese website and in the Church Times. Please pray for the person God is calling to be our new Rector and for all of those involved in the recruitment process. If you have any questions please speak to one of our Parish Representatives: Michael, Angie, Ray, Hugh, Derek or Janet.

FOSM Quiz Night: The FOSM Quiz Night will be on Saturday. Doors will open at 7.00 for a 7.30 start. Tickets are £15 per head. FOSM is working hard to replenish its funds after granting most of its reserves to the tower project. Tables of up to 8 can be booked with Caroline, and there is space for a couple more.

Illuminate in the Cathedral: This event is in St Albans Abbey on Saturday 28th February for school years 6-13. The thousand-year-old place of worship will be transformed exclusively for young people, packed with inflatables and activities, art space, discussion zones, prayer space, great food and so much more. Tickets (for both youth and youth leaders) are £10 and include dinner. This event is run by The Collective, a local co-operative of Christian youth work organisations and church-based youth workers. More details on the Diocesan website.

Services for the next few weeks:

Midweek services each week:

Tuesdays, 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) & Bible study	St Catherine's
Wednesdays, 9.30 am	Morning worship & Bible study	St Mary's

Sunday services:

25 th January	10.30 am	All age worship	St Mary's
	3.00 pm	Choral evensong	St Catherine's
1 st February	8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Morning worship	All Saints
8 th February	10.30 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
15 th February	8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Holy Communion	All Saints
22 nd February	10.30 am	All age worship	St Mary's
	6.00 pm	Choral evensong	St Mary's
1 st March	8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Morning worship	All Saints

Please note the change of time and church for this weekend's choral evensong to mark the arrival of the new organ at St Catherine's.

Dates & meetings coming up:

28 th January, 12.30 pm	Midweek Music	St Mary's
31 st January, 7.30 pm	FOSM Quiz Night	Community Centre
3 rd February, 2.00 pm	Funeral of Leslie Gentry	All Saints
4 th February, 2.15 pm	Libury Hall service	Libury Hall
18 th February, 7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday service	St Catherine's
20 th February, 1.00 pm	Funeral of Julie Williams	St Mary's
21 st February, 12.00 noon	Soup and Snowdrops	St Catherine's

Prayers:

On this sheet, we suggest focus areas for prayer, but please continue to pray for the work of our churches and missionary partners around the world (details on our website).

Church family news:

- Please pray for all who are in pain, unwell or just a bit under the weather.
- Pray for all who grieve, especially the family and friends of Julie Williams and Jim King.

Pray for our community

In our cycle of prayers, this weekend we ask you to include in your prayers:

- our local health care professionals, as the winter illnesses continue to affect us
- our local hospices as they struggle to fund the vital care they provide for patients and families
- all who are involved in caring for the families of those who are beyond the care of the doctors

Pray for our outreach, our service and our churches

This week we ask you to include in your prayers:

- give thanks that Luke and Lizzy (from Red Balloon) have agreed to lead our Holiday Bible Club again in August
- our parish representatives, as we wait to see what applications there are for our Rector
- the person God is calling to come and serve him in this benefice and community

Pray for our mission partners

In our cycle of prayers for our mission partners, this week we ask you to pray for the work of Kisiizi Hospital in Uganda. *The hospital works for health and Christian outreach.* More information about our partners can be found on our website.

Give thanks that:

- they have received an award for an outstanding contribution to accelerating AI in healthcare in Africa and Smart Hospital Technologies
- they have received the gift of a new anaesthesia machine from the friends of Kisiizi
- Worldshine Ministries has launched a new maternity service, marking an important milestone in expanding access to maternal healthcare in the community

If you are aware of anyone who would like our prayers, or who would like the church family to share in some news, good or bad, please let Caroline know (caroline@ubsms.org.uk).

Regular notices

Groups in the Benefice

Mondays (2nd & 4th of month), 2.30pm: Reflections Bible study group at All Saints: contact Jane

Tuesdays, 2:00pm (ad hoc): Benefice Group for World Mission prayer: contact Peter A.

Wednesdays, 2.30pm (2nd Wednesday of the month)

7.00pm (4th Wednesdays): Small Group Marthas & Marys: contact Marion

Wednesdays (term time only): Children's and Young people's Bible clubs at All Saints: contact Lizzie B.

3.15 pm Primary aged children

Thursday (2nd of each month), 1.00 – 3.30 pm: Knit & Natter: contact Diane M

Thursday (3rd of each month), 2.00 – 4.00 pm: New Seasons support group: contact Heather

Thursdays, 7.00pm (term time only): Benefice choir practice: contact Michael (music@ubsms.org.uk)

Fridays 9.30 am (term time only): Little Angels for toddlers and their carers at St Mary's:

contact Cate (littleangels@ubsms.org.uk)

Please Continue to Support our Churches

You can make a donation directly to any of our churches, or you can send donations to any of our treasurers. Bank details are displayed in our churches and on the website. Gift aid forms are available from any of our treasurers.

Contacts:

Contacts during the vacancy: While we have no Rector, if you have any queries or concerns, please speak to any of our church wardens (it doesn't matter of which church). If you know of someone who needs a visit, please liaise with Jacqui. We do have access to clergy who will help if needed, so please don't be put off raising a concern. Please note that Rebecca, our administrator, works flexible hours, but she will respond to emails as soon as she can.

Rector: Until a new Rector is appointed, please direct any enquiries to our benefice administrator.

Administrator: Rebecca Legg benefice.administrator@ubsms.org.uk 07976 700902

Safeguarding: Lizzy Franks safeguarding@ubsms.org.uk 01920 822723

Our website: <https://ubsms.org.uk/>

Notices: Caroline Franks caroline@ubsms.org.uk