



## St Mary the Virgin and All Saints Potters Bar

4th January 2026

### The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

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

*Refreshments are served in the church hall  
after the Festival Eucharist.*

#### TODAY'S SERVICES

8.00am **HOLY COMMUNION**

10.00am **FESTIVAL EUCHARIST**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60 vv 1-6 *A prophecy of the coming of Christ, who is the light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of His people.*

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 3 vv 1-12 *St Paul teaches that Jesus is the Saviour not only of the Jews but of all races.*

Gospel: Matthew 2 vv 1-12 *The worship of the Wise Men reveals the wonder of the Christ Child.*

**Hymns:** 47, 48, 36, 40, 52

### The Week Ahead

**Tuesday** 9.30am Morning Prayer  
10.30am – 12 noon Church open for visitors  
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 start of term service  
5.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

**Next Sunday** is the **First Sunday of Epiphany**, when we celebrate the **Baptism of Christ**

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am **PARISH EUCHARIST**  
5.00pm Evensong

Next Sunday's Eucharist readings will be: Isaiah 42 vv 1-9; Acts 10 vv 34-43 and Matthew 3 vv 13-end.

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Our livestreamed services are available at:  
[www.facebook.com/stmaryspb](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryspb)



### Parish Notices

On **Saturday 24th January**, Barnet Deanery is holding another **Walsingham Day** at Holy Trinity, Lyonsdown, EN5 1JE. The Eucharist will be celebrated at 11.15am, followed by lunch (please bring packed lunch; drinks provided). Ministry of healing & Benediction will then follow at 1.00pm. If you want more details about this event, please ask Fr Stefan or Richard. Transport can be provided.

Please could **Children's Society collecting boxes** be returned to church by Sunday 25th January. Thank you.

A new **flower rota** is on the noticeboard. Please sign up for Sundays when you can help to arrange the flowers or for a Sunday near to a special date for you when you would be willing to make a donation towards their cost.

If you would like to receive the **weekly email bulletin** which is sent out every Saturday, you can sign up by going to this link: <https://tinyurl.com/b6dz2ap3>

Gillian Hilton is looking for primary teachers who lead on personal social and health education in their schools, particularly on relationships and sex education, to ask a few questions about the new Department of Education guidance document on sex & relationships education. All information will be kept strictly confidential. If you have such a person in your family, she would be most grateful if you could persuade them to offer to share with her their expertise in this area. Her email address is: [gillianhilton@gmail.com](mailto:gillianhilton@gmail.com)

### For your prayers

The sick Anna Downes, Valerie Taylor, Elizabeth Liney, Joan Golden, Carlos Perez, Lisa Collins, Linda, Daren Elis, Maureen Alderman, Alison Stevens, Bob Keefe, Lindsey Lyons, Steven Seal

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

The recently departed David Burrows, Marion North, Pamela Darke, Robin Marson

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week Jacqueton Peck, Dorothy Addison, Dennis Terry, Julie Bevan, Fr Arthur Webb (Vicar 1920-22), Rodney Smith

Our parish We remember those who live in Oakroyd Close, Otways Close and Park Avenue

*We wish everyone  
a very Happy New Year!*

### COLLECT

O God,  
who by the leading of a star  
manifested your only Son to the peoples  
of the earth:  
mercifully grant that we,  
who know you now by faith,  
may at last behold your glory face to face;  
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 Isaiah 60:1-6

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

### PSALM Psalm 72:[1-9] 10-15

**R** The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.

Give the king your judgements, O God,  
and your righteousness to the son of a  
king.

Then shall he judge your people  
righteously  
and your poor with justice. **R**

May the mountains bring forth peace,  
and the little hills righteousness for the  
people.

May he defend the poor among the  
people,  
deliver the children of the needy and  
crush the oppressor. **R**

May he live as long as the sun and moon  
endure,  
from one generation to another.  
May he come down like rain upon the  
mown grass,

like the showers that water the earth.  
In his time shall righteousness flourish,  
and abundance of peace  
till the moon shall be no more. **R**

May his dominion extend from sea to sea  
and from the River to the ends of the  
earth.

May his foes kneel before him  
and his enemies lick the dust. **R**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall  
pay tribute;  
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring  
gifts.

All kings shall fall down before him;  
all nations shall do him service. **R**

For he shall deliver the poor that cry out,  
the needy and those who have no helper.  
He shall have pity on the weak and poor;  
he shall preserve the lives of the needy. **R**

He shall redeem their lives from  
oppression and violence,  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.  
Long may he live;  
unto him may be given gold from Sheba;  
may prayer be made for him continually  
and may they bless him all the day long. **R**

### SECOND READING Ephesians 3:1-12

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.*

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for  
the sake of you Gentiles – for surely you  
have already heard of the commission of  
God's grace that was given me for you,  
and how the mystery was made known to  
me by revelation, as I wrote above in a  
few words, a reading of which will enable  
you to perceive my understanding of the  
mystery of Christ. In former generations  
this mystery was not made known to  
humankind, as it has now been revealed  
to his holy apostles and prophets by the  
Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become  
fellow-heirs, members of the same body,  
and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus  
through the gospel. Of this gospel I have  
become a servant according to the gift  
of God's grace that was given me by the  
working of his power. Although I am the  
very least of all the saints, this grace was  
given to me to bring to the Gentiles the  
news of the boundless riches of Christ,  
and to make everyone see what is the plan  
of the mystery hidden for ages in God  
who created all things; so that through  
the church the wisdom of God in its rich  
variety might now be made known to  
the rulers and authorities in the heavenly

places. This was in accordance with the  
eternal purpose that he has carried out in  
Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have  
access to God in boldness and confidence  
through faith in him.

### GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus  
was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise  
men from the East came to Jerusalem,  
asking, "Where is the child who has been  
born king of the Jews? For we observed  
his star at its rising, and have come to  
pay him homage." When King Herod  
heard this, he was frightened, and all  
Jerusalem with him; and calling together  
all the chief priests and scribes of the  
people, he inquired of them where the  
Messiah was to be born. They told him,  
"In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has  
been written by the prophet: 'And you,  
Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by  
no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler who is to  
shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod  
secretly called for the wise men and  
learned from them the exact time when  
the star had appeared. Then he sent them  
to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search  
diligently for the child; and when you have  
found him, bring me word so that I may  
also go and pay him homage." When  
they had heard the king, they set out; and  
there, ahead of them, went the star that  
they had seen at its rising, until it stopped  
over the place where the child was. When  
they saw that the star had stopped, they  
were overwhelmed with joy. On entering  
the house, they saw the child with Mary  
his mother; and they knelt down and  
paid him homage. Then, opening their  
treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of  
gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having  
been warned in a dream not to return to  
Herod, they left for their own country by  
another road.

### POST COMMUNION

Lord God,  
the bright splendour whom the  
nations seek:  
may we who with the wise men  
have been drawn by your light  
discern the glory of your presence in  
your Son,  
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our  
Lord.



The Lord is king; let the earth - re-joice.