



## Notices Sheet - 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### Notices

**This weekend's Bible readings:** Acts 10:33-43 (p 1104) Matthew 3:13-end (p 967)

**PCC meetings cancelled:** The PCC meetings planned for 21<sup>st</sup> have been cancelled. Any relevant information from the Vacancy Team will be sent by email after their meeting this week. The next PCC meeting will be on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm at St Mary's.

**Café restarts:** The Little Munden café will open again this Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup>. We have lost some key people recently and the team is looking for more volunteers, to bake or to help at the café. If you can spare some time on Wednesday afternoons, or you are willing to bake for the café, please contact Carole or Lizzie B. If you're interested in helping with the children's work, please speak to Caroline.

**M&Ms restarts:** M&Ms restarts after the break on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January. We are a group of ladies who meet 2.30-4pm on the 2nd Wednesday and 7-8.30pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Sometimes we have Bible Study or we follow a Christian book and we always include prayer. We are all different, hence our name: Marthas and Marys! If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact Marion.

**New Seasons:** New Seasons will start again for the new year on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January in Puckeridge community centre from 2pm. Please contact Heather for information: 07909 065550.

**Sunday lunch at The Star:** Our next Sunday lunch will be Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January in the Star. Please contact Heather to book your place: 07909 065550.

**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. If you feel that God is calling you, please 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. It will be in the Church Times on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. If you wish to see it and read the Parish Profile, there is a link to the information on the homepage of our website. Alternatively you can look at the St Albans Diocese Vacancies page. 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.

**Food bank update:** You may have noticed that we weren't able to collect groceries for the food bank in our churches in the last few weeks of 2025. Unfortunately, they had a flood in their storage unit, and had to look for alternative accommodation. They have found that now, and have moved in, so our collection boxes are operational again. Our Advent appeal was, once more, to support the food bank, and we hope to report next week on the amount raised, but please remember we can give to the food bank all year round either directly through the church bank accounts or by marking any donations for that purpose. We will be sending another large order in the next week or two.

**FOSM Quiz Night:** This year, the Quiz Night, always on the last Saturday in January, is on 31<sup>st</sup>. 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.

## 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:

|                          |                |                        |                       |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 11 <sup>th</sup> January | 10.30 am       | Holy Communion         | St Mary's             |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> January | 8.00 am        | Holy Communion         | St Mary's             |
|                          | 10.30 am       | Holy Communion         | All Saints            |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> January | 10.30 am       | All age worship        | St Mary's             |
|                          | <b>3.00 pm</b> | <b>Choral evensong</b> | <b>St Catherine's</b> |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> February | 8.00 am        | Holy Communion         | St Mary's             |
|                          | 10.30 am       | Morning worship        | All Saints            |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> February | 10.30 am       | Holy Communion         | St Mary's             |

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

### Dates & meetings coming up:

|                                      |                                |                  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 12 <sup>th</sup> January, 2.00 pm    | Funeral of Maurice Debnam      | St Mary's        |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> January 12.00 (tbc) | Funeral of Christopher Saggars | St Mary's        |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> January, 2.00 pm    | Vacancy team meeting           | The Old Top Shop |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> January, 7.30 pm    | FOSM committee meeting         | 40 South Road    |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> January, 12.30 pm   | Midweek Music                  | St Mary's        |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> January, 7.30 pm    | FOSM Quiz Night                | Community Centre |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> February, 2.15 pm    | Libury Hall service            | Libury Hall      |

## 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).

### Appointment of new Bishop of St Albans:

Please pray for the interviews which will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> January for the next Bishop of St Albans, that God's wisdom and guidance will be deeply felt throughout this process:

Generous God, we pray for our Diocese of St Albans.

As we continue this journey of discernment for our new bishop, bless all involved with wisdom and grace. Be with those being interviewed for this ministry, with those making decisions, and with all who lead and serve us at this time. In this shared discernment, and always, draw us deeper into your love, that we may live it with joy and courage for your world.

In the name, and for the sake, of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### 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 Maurice Debnam and Christopher Saggars.
- We have heard that Frances' sister, Mavis, has died, leaving Frances the only surviving one of four sisters. Please pray for Mavis' husband, for Frances and for all who grieve for Mavis.

### Pray for our community

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

- our village activities, bringing people together and providing friendship as well as hospitality
- all who are sad or worried at this time
- our local walking groups, out enjoying our beautiful countryside as well as keeping fit

## Pray for our outreach, our service and our churches

This week we ask you to include in your prayers:

- our vacancy team, meeting this week to discuss our services, school work, publicity and more
- our leadership team, also meeting this week to attend to day to day matters
- our PCCs, as we look ahead to our annual meetings, still with no church warden at All Saints

## Pray for our mission partners

*This week, we ask for your prayers for CPAS Ventures holidays. CPAS Ventures run just over 50 Christian holidays for children aged 8-18. Orwell 3 is the 11-14 holiday which Lizzy F helps to lead, and which our young people attend. More information about our partners can be found on our website.*

Please pray for Orwell 3:

- Booking opens on Monday for the young people. Please pray for the young people and their families.
- We will be missing a few key leaders in the summer, pray that others will step up to fill roles
- Pray for the Ventures team whose work gets busier over the next few weeks with bookings questions from parents and camp leaders!

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](mailto: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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month)**

**7.00pm (4<sup>th</sup> 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:benefice.administrator@ubsms.org.uk)      07976 700902

**Safeguarding:** Lizzy Franks      [safeguarding@ubsms.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@ubsms.org.uk)      01920 822723

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

**Notices:** Caroline Franks      [caroline@ubsms.org.uk](mailto:caroline@ubsms.org.uk)