



Notices Sheet - 18th January 2026

Notices

This weekend's Bible readings: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (p 1144) John 1:29-42 (p 1064)

Sad news: As most of you know by now, very sadly, our good friend and sister in Christ, Julie Williams, died this week. Many of you spoke to Julie last Sunday, when there was no sign that she was unwell. She was taken ill on Tuesday and, despite the best efforts of the surgeons, died on Wednesday. Please pray for Julie's family and those who loved her as we all come to terms with this enormous shock.

Choral Evensong Sunday 25th January 3pm (please note the time) St Catherine's: Please join us at St Catherine's next 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.

Sunday lunch at The Star: Our next Sunday lunch will be Sunday 25th 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. 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. It will be in the Church Times on Friday. If you wish to see it and read the Parish Profile, there is a link to the information on 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: Our Advent appeal was, once more, to support the food bank, and we raised £1,584, 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.

In a recent email, Gemma writes: 'We are now at the Seth Ward community centre, we were given a room to work out of. It certainly has its benefits (heat and light!) but we can't access it at weekends, which is when we usually hand out food deliveries as more volunteers are on hand! Going forward we will be hoping to get people to collect from us instead of us delivering. Also, I am looking for someone to take over the running as of March as I have a new job starting and I can't really commit to both, so that's going to prove tricky! We have a fabulous band of volunteers who help out with deliveries, collections and sorting food so it's running really well currently. Thanks as ever to you and the parishioners for your continued support.' Please continue to pray for Gemma and her team.

FOSM Quiz Night: This year, the Quiz Night, always on the last Saturday in January, is on 31st. 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.

Kisiizi Hospital parcels: Thank you to everyone who knits for Kisiizi hospital. In 2025 we sent 36 boxes of knitted items, including 286 vests, 196 hats, 24 blankets and 73 teddies.

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:

18 th January	8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's
	10.30 am	Holy Communion	All Saints
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

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:

19 th January, 7.30 pm	FOSM committee meeting	40 South Road
21 st January, 2.15 pm	Libury Hall service	Libury Hall
28 th January, 12.30 pm	Midweek Music	St Mary's
31 st January, 7.30 pm	FOSM Quiz Night	Community Centre
4 th February, 2.15 pm	Libury Hall service	Libury Hall
18 th February, 7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday service	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.
- Please pray for Jo M's Mum, Anne, who is recovering at home after suffering a stroke over Christmas.
- Pray for all who grieve, especially the family and friends of Julie Williams, Maurice Debnam and John Sagers.

Pray for our community

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

- our local foodbank, Gemma and the team work to supply the need for food parcels
- those who visit our churchyards to tend to the graves of loved ones
- all who visit our churches outside service times, that they will experience the peace of Christ

Pray for our outreach, our service and our churches

This week we ask you to include in your prayers:

- the team undertaking our children's and youth work as they spend time in our church schools, at café and at Little Angels
- our pastoral team, as it visits and maintains contact with many of our church family
- those who look after our churchyards

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 Stephen & Catherine McGoldrick. *In June they were 'installed' as leaders of Acts 13 which is now called WEC Africa. They are responsible for over 50 workers who are mission mobilisers for African missionaries in 19 countries.* More information about our partners can be found on our website.

Please pray for:

- all of them as they fly to Burundi on 21st January and settle back into life there
- Catherine as she home schools Jacques & Asher
- the family as they pack up their house after 10 years and prepare to move to Tanzania
- Stephen not to have a flare up of his PMR (Polymyalgia rheumatica) or any more problems with his eyes

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