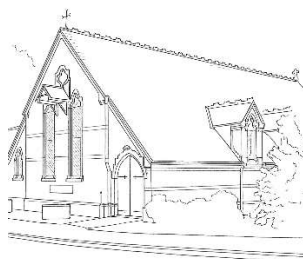


ST FAITH'S PARISH CHURCH

HITCHIN



26th of July 2026 @ 9:30

8th Sunday after Trinity

Morning Prayer Service

Welcome to St Faith's. Children of all ages are welcome. For the very young there is a small crèche area on the lectern side of the church near the front.

COLLECT

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern
both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws
and the works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Romans 8:26-39

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

God's Love in Christ Jesus

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

³¹ He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' ³³ He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

Three Parables

⁴⁴ 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Treasures New and Old

⁵¹ 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵² And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

Des, Jo, Mary Brenchley, Ted, Julie Amass, Luke Inglis, Joy Cox, Georgie Mayes, Seema Dehad, Tom Scullion, Learie Eversley, Paul Mackenzie, Sally, Chris and Angela, Margaret White, Rachel Merrill, Nicholas Slack, Valerie Rounden, Helen, Anne, Chris Ackroyd, Mark Russell and for the recently departed: Philip Rutt

July/August

Monday 27th July @ 6pm-6:30: Silent Prayer at St Faiths.

Sunday 2nd August @ 9:30: Morning Prayer Service

September

Monday 7th September @ 6pm-6:30: A service of Compline at St Faiths.

Saturday 12th September: Coffee Morning at St Faiths 10-12.

Tuesday 22nd September: 7:30pm Licencing service for our new vicar Revd Dr Kate Middleton

October

Monday 5th October @ 6pm-6:30: A service of Compline at St Faiths.

Saturday 10th October: Coffee Morning at St Faiths 10-12

Saturday 24th October: Market Stall

November

Monday 2nd November @ 6pm-6:30: A service of Compline at St Faiths

Saturday 14th November: Coffee Morning at St Faiths 10-12

Saturday 28th November: Christmas Fayre

December

Monday 7th December @ 6pm-6:30: A service of Compline at St Faiths

Saturday 12th December: Coffee Morning at St Faiths 10-12