



St Mary the Virgin and All Saints Potters Bar

26th July 2026

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

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

Refreshments are served in the hall after the Sung Eucharist

TODAY'S SERVICES

8.00am **SAID EUCHARIST**

10.00am **SUNG EUCHARIST**

Old Testament Reading: 1 Kings 3 vv 5-12 *Solomon has succeeded his father David on the throne. He prays for the gift of wisdom.*

New Testament Reading: Romans 8 vv 26-39 *Present sufferings are of no account compared with the glorious future which awaits us. God the Holy Spirit prays for us and supplies us with the courage and faith to fight on.*

Gospel: Matthew 13 vv 31-33, 44-52 *Jesus offers three parables which emphasize three different aspects of the Kingdom of heaven.*

Hymns: 334, 369, 295, 364, 393

5.00pm **EVENSONG** **Hymns:** 256, 362, 321

*Our flowers have been arranged by Trisha Salmon
and donated by Dave Miller*

The Week Ahead

Tuesday	No Morning Prayer today
10.00am – 12 noon	Church cleaning session
12 noon	Knit & Natter Group meets
5.00pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	Mary, Martha & Lazarus, friends of Our Lord
9.30am	Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament
10.30am – 12 noon	Church open for visitors
3.30pm	Service at Greenhill care home
5.00pm	Evening Prayer
Thursday	William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson, anti-slavery campaigners
9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)
10.30am – 12 noon	Church open for visitors
5.00pm	Evening Prayer
Friday	No Morning Prayer today
5.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Saturday	8.30am Churches Together Prayers at St Giles, South Mymms

**THIS SHEET IS FOR YOU TO KEEP
PLEASE TAKE IT HOME WITH YOU**

Next Sunday is the **Ninth Sunday after Trinity**

8.00am Said Eucharist

*Celebrant & Preacher: **The Revd Emma-Jane Wilkinson**,
Vicar of King Charles the Martyr, Potters Bar*

10.00am **SUNG EUCHARIST**

*Celebrant & Preacher: **The Revd Karen Turner**,
formerly Vicar of South Mymms and Ridge*

The readings next Sunday will be: Isaiah 55 vv 1-5;
Romans 9 vv 1-5 and Matthew 14 vv 13-21.

Parish Notices

The next lunchtime recital will be on **Tuesday 4th August** at 12.30pm, when we will welcome pianist Aleksandra Lipke. Lunches will be served from 12 noon.

Watchers & Welcomers Please let Heather Hawkes know of any holiday dates in September and October

Future dates to note in your diaries:

- **Sunday 6th September** – Patronal Festival with lunch in church hall following 10.00am Festival Eucharist
- **Sunday 4th October** – Pet Blessing service at 4.00pm for St Francis' Day. Further details to follow
- **Sunday 11th October** – Harvest Festival with lunch in the church hall following 10.00am Family Eucharist
- **Sunday 1st November** – All Saints Day celebration in the morning; All Souls' service of thanksgiving and remembrance at 3.00pm
- **Saturday 21st November** – Quiz Night in church hall

For your prayers

The sick Anna Downes, Carole Waller, Elizabeth Liney, Elizabeth Wiseman, Janice Neal, Valerie Taylor, Francoise Groves-de-Milleret, Joan Golden, Richard Peart, Judy & Bob Keefe, Robert Peters, Maureen Alderman, Alison Stevens, Ben Jones, Kirsty Edmunds, Marilyn Gibbs

We also pray for Margaret Terry, Keith Downes, Jayne Hutton, Janet Daniels, Susan North, Pauline Phillips, Ron Golden, Sasha Burt, Tessa, Nicola Stiff, Ricky Mella, David Evans, Richard Barnes, Dave Gough, Prussia Blake, Mary Healey

The recently departed Margaret Hill

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week Clifford Lavin, Clara Summers, Charles Beauchamp, Albert Beland, Fr Cyril Gray, Connie Cox, Ann Fox

Our parish We remember those who live in Elmroyd Close, Fairacres Close and Faringford Close

Please pray for the **Churches Together Holiday Club** taking place at King Charles the Martyr Church this week, for the children who will attend and the volunteers leading the activities & helping in other ways.

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Please send any items for this sheet to **Richard Osborn**

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Our livestreamed services are available at:

www.facebook.com/stmaryspb

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.

FIRST READING 1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from the first book of Kings.

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to
Solomon in a dream by night; and God
said, "Ask what I should give you." And
Solomon said, "You have shown great and
steadfast love to your servant my father
David, because he walked before you
in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in
uprightness of heart towards you; and you
have kept for him this great and steadfast
love, and have given him a son to sit on
his throne today. And now, O LORD my
God, you have made your servant king in
place of my father David, although I am
only a little child; I do not know how to
go out or come in. And your servant is in
the midst of the people whom you have
chosen, a great people, so numerous they
cannot be numbered or counted. Give
your servant therefore an understanding
mind to govern your people, able to
discern between good and evil; for who
can govern this your great people?" It
pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked
this. God said to him, "Because you have
asked this, and have not asked for yourself
long life or riches, or for the life of your
enemies, but have asked for yourself
understanding to discern what is right, I
now do according to your word. Indeed I
give you a wise and discerning mind; no
one like you has been before you and no
one like you shall arise after you."

Or **Genesis 29:15-28**

PSALM Psalm 119:129-136

R *The opening of your word gives light.*

Your testimonies are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.
The opening of your word gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. **R**

I open my mouth and draw in my breath,
as I long for your commandments.
Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your way with those who love
your name. **R**

Order my steps by your word,
and let no wickedness have dominion
over me.
Redeem me from earthly oppressors
so that I may keep your commandments. **R**

Show the light of your countenance upon
your servant
and teach me your statutes.
My eyes run down with streams of water,
because the wicked do not keep your
law. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 8:26-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

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. 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.
We know that all things work together for
good for those who love God, who are
called according to his purpose. 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. And those whom
he predestined he also called; and those
whom he called he also justified; and
those whom he justified he also glorified.
What then are we to say about these
things? If God is for us, who is against us?
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? Who will
bring any charge against God's elect? It
is God who justifies. 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. Who will
separate us from the love of Christ? Will
hardship, or distress, or persecution, or
famine, or nakedness, or peril, or
sword? As it is written, "For your sake
we are being killed all day long; we are
accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."
No, in all these things we are more than
conquerors through him who loved us. For
I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present,

nor things to come, nor powers, 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.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:31-33. 44-52

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

Jesus put before the crowd another
parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like
a mustard seed that someone took and
sowed in his field; 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." 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. 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. Again, the kingdom of heaven
is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;
on finding one pearl of great value, he
went and sold all that he had and bought
it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like
a net that was thrown into the sea and
caught fish of every kind; when it was full,
they drew it ashore, sat down, and put
the good into baskets but threw out the
bad. So it will be at the end of the age.
The angels will come out and separate the
evil from the righteous and throw them
into the furnace of fire, where there will
be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have
you understood all this?" They answered,
"Yes." 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."

POST COMMUNION

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word
be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your
praise be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens
of your love shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed
with your body be refreshed with the
fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever.



The op'-ning of your word gives light.