

## St Mary the Virgin and All Saints Potters Bar

27th September 2026

### The Seventeenth 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: Ezekiel 18 vv 1-4, 25-32  
*Ezekiel teaches the people that they are neither bound by their fathers' sins nor by their own past. God will forgive every individual who turns to Him.*

New Testament Reading: Philippians 2 vv 1-13 *St Paul urges the Philippians to be loving and humble and to help one another. He reminds them how Christ humbled himself for us.*

Gospel: Matthew 21 vv 23-32 *The chief priests challenge Jesus' authority and try to make him look foolish in the eyes of the people by a neatly prepared trap.*

**Hymns:** 332 (omit \* verses), 341, 383, 445, 486

5.00pm **EVENSONG** **Hymns:** 342, 346, 246

*Our flowers this week have been arranged by Trisha Salmon  
and donated by Chuma & Lilian Ofondu*

#### The Week Ahead

|                   |                                                                                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tuesday</b>    | <b>St Michael and All Angels</b>                                                     |
|                   | 9.00am Morning Prayer                                                                |
| 10.00am – 12 noon | Church cleaning session                                                              |
| 12 noon           | Knit & Natter Group meets                                                            |
| 5.00pm            | Evening Prayer                                                                       |
| <b>Wednesday</b>  |                                                                                      |
| 9.30am            | Said Eucharist                                                                       |
| 5.00pm            | Evening Prayer                                                                       |
| <b>Thursday</b>   |                                                                                      |
| 9.30am            | Said Eucharist (BCP)                                                                 |
| 10.30am – 12 noon | Church open for visitors                                                             |
| 5.00pm            | Evening Prayer                                                                       |
| <b>Friday</b>     |                                                                                      |
| 9.30am            | Morning Prayer                                                                       |
| 5.00pm            | Evening Prayer (BCP)                                                                 |
| <b>Saturday</b>   |                                                                                      |
| 8.30am            | Churches Together Prayers <u>here</u><br>followed by breakfast                       |
| 2.30pm – 5.30pm   | Potters Bar Choral Society's<br>Come & Sing Pirates of Penzance<br>(see next column) |

**Next Sunday** is the **Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**

8.00am Said Eucharist

10.00am **SUNG EUCHARIST**

4.00pm **Pet Blessing Service**

The Eucharist readings next Sunday are: Isaiah 5 vv 1-7;  
Philippians 3 vv 4b-14 and Matthew 21 vv 33-46.

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#### Parish Notices

Church cleaning will take place **this Tuesday** from 10.00am to 12 noon. If you could lend a hand, that would be much appreciated.

Potters Bar Choral Society is holding a 'Come and Sing Pirates of Penzance' here **next Saturday** from 2.30pm to 5.30pm. Full details are on the flyers in the narthex or have a word with Dave Miller

Our Pet Blessing Service is **NEXT SUNDAY** at **4.00pm**. Join us for a joyful and welcoming celebration of all God's creatures. All pets are welcome! It will be a short, informal service, lasting around 30-40 minutes.

The next recital is on **Tuesday 6th October** at 12.30pm when we welcome Bushey Winds. Light lunches will be available from 12 noon.

**HARVEST FESTIVAL** is on **Sunday 11th October**. Our Harvest gifts of produce will be donated to the Open Door Project for the homeless in St Albans and our gifts of money will go to the USPG Harvest Appeal to create healthier communities in Madagascar.

There will be a **Bring & Share Lunch** in the hall at 12 noon. Please sign the list on the noticeboard if you are coming to the lunch and also indicate the food you will be bringing. If you would prefer to make a donation instead of bringing food, just write a note to this effect on the list.

**Watchers & Welcomers** Please let Heather know of any dates you cannot manage in November & December.

**Fr Paul Reece**, Curate at St Mary's from 1989 to 1992, is celebrating the 40th anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood tomorrow evening at 7.30pm at a special Eucharist at the church where he is Rector, St Lawrence, Little Stanmore. We send him our congratulations and very best wishes.

#### For your prayers

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

**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

**Recently departed** Nigel Bain, Kathleen Byrne, Myrtle Guy

**Anniversaries of death this week** Walter Robertson, Sheila Rix, Fr Jeff Stratton (Vicar 1982-1994), Madge Hebburn, Dorothy Love, Anne Beland, Donald Jones, Nancy Brewster, Beryl Snook, Robert McNeill Love, Edna Witts

**Our parish** We remember those who live in Holly Drive, Honeywood Close and Hunter Close

Please note that when services are live streamed, those sitting in the rows in front of the Churchwardens' staves may be seen. If in doubt, please ask a welcomer where to sit if you wish to avoid the camera

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

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless till they find  
their rest in you:  
pour your love into our hearts and draw  
us to yourself,  
and so bring us at last to your heavenly  
city  
where we shall see you 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

**Either Ezekiel 18:1-4. 25-end**

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

The word of the LORD came to me:  
What do you mean by repeating this  
proverb concerning the land of Israel,  
"The parents have eaten sour grapes,  
and the children's teeth are set on  
edge"? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this  
proverb shall no more be used by you in  
Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the  
life of the parent as well as the life of the  
child is mine: it is only the person who  
sins that shall die. Yet you say, "The way  
of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house  
of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your  
ways that are unfair? When the righteous  
turn away from their righteousness and  
commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for  
the iniquity that they have committed  
they shall die. Again, when the wicked  
turn away from the wickedness they have  
committed and do what is lawful and  
right, they shall save their life. Because  
they considered and turned away from  
all the transgressions that they had  
committed, they shall surely live; they  
shall not die. Yet the house of Israel  
says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O  
house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it  
not your ways that are unfair? Therefore  
I will judge you, O house of Israel, all  
of you according to your ways, says the  
Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your  
transgressions; otherwise iniquity will  
be your ruin. Cast away from you all the  
transgressions that you have committed  
against me, and get yourselves a new  
heart and a new spirit! Why will you die,  
O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure  
in the death of anyone, says the Lord  
GOD. Turn, then, and live.

**Or Exodus 17:1-7**

## PSALM Psalm 25:1-8

**R** Remember, Lord, your compassion  
and love.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
O my God, in you I trust;  
let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies triumph over me.  
Let none who look to you be put to  
shame,  
but let the treacherous be shamed and  
frustrated. **R**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord,  
and teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you have I hoped all the day long. **R**

Remember, Lord, your compassion  
and love,  
for they are from everlasting.  
Remember not the sins of my youth  
or my transgressions,  
but think on me in your goodness,  
O Lord,  
according to your steadfast love. **R**

Gracious and upright is the Lord;  
therefore shall he teach sinners in the  
way.  
He will guide the humble in doing right  
and teach his way to the lowly. **R**

## SECOND READING Philippians 2:1-13

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

If then there is any encouragement in  
Christ, any consolation from love, any  
sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and  
sympathy, make my joy complete: be of  
the same mind, having the same love,  
being in full accord and of one mind. Do  
nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,  
but in humility regard others as better  
than yourselves. Let each of you look not  
to your own interests, but to the interests  
of others. Let the same mind be in you  
that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he  
was in the form of God, did not regard  
equality with God as something to be  
exploited, but emptied himself, taking  
the form of a slave, being born in human  
likeness. And being found in human  
form, he humbled himself and became  
obedient to the point of death – even  
death on a cross. Therefore God also  
highly exalted him and gave him the  
name that is above every name, so that  
at the name of Jesus every knee should  
bend, in heaven and on earth and under  
the earth, and every tongue should

confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the  
glory of God the Father. Therefore, my  
beloved, just as you have always obeyed  
me, not only in my presence, but much  
more now in my absence, work out your  
own salvation with fear and trembling;  
for it is God who is at work in you,  
enabling you both to will and to work for  
his good pleasure.

## GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the  
chief priests and the elders of the people  
came to him as he was teaching, and  
said, "By what authority are you doing  
these things, and who gave you this  
authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will  
also ask you one question; if you tell  
me the answer, then I will also tell you  
by what authority I do these things. Did  
the baptism of John come from heaven,  
or was it of human origin?" And they  
argued with one another, "If we say,  
'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why  
then did you not believe him?' But if  
we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid  
of the crowd; for all regard John as a  
prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We  
do not know." And he said to them,  
"Neither will I tell you by what authority  
I am doing these things. What do you  
think? A man had two sons; he went to  
the first and said, 'Son, go and work in  
the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will  
not'; but later he changed his mind and  
went. The father went to the second and  
said the same; and he answered, 'I go,  
sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two  
did the will of his father?" They said,  
"The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly  
I tell you, the tax-collectors and the  
prostitutes are going into the kingdom of  
God ahead of you. For John came to you  
in the way of righteousness and you did  
not believe him, but the tax-collectors  
and the prostitutes believed him; and  
even after you saw it, you did not change  
your minds and believe him."

## POST COMMUNION

Lord, we pray that your grace  
may always precede and follow us,  
and make us continually to be given to  
all good works;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



# St Mary's Church in The Walk

**Sunday 11th October** is our

## **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

*We would be delighted if you can join us !*

**Our services take place at:**

8.00am      **SAID EUCHARIST**

10.00am      **FAMILY EUCHARIST**

*followed by tea and coffee in church  
and a Bring & Share Lunch in the hall from 12 noon*

5.00pm      **EVENSONG**

We would welcome **Harvest gifts** towards the **St Albans Open Door Project** which provides a service to homeless people in our area. They need tins (e.g. vegetables, fruit, custard, soup), long-life milk, breakfast cereals, teabags, coffee, sweet biscuits, toiletries (e.g. shaving foam, disposable razors, toothpaste) washing powder, kitchen rolls, toilet rolls...

Gifts of money will be directed to the **USPG Harvest Appeal for Madagascar**, supporting a programme which trains youth and church leaders in recycling, organic composting, and sustainable agriculture to fight pollution and climate change.



For further details - please contact 01707 859028 or 07803 756088  
or visit our website: [www.stmaryspb.org.uk](http://www.stmaryspb.org.uk)