

St Mary the Virgin and All Saints Potters Bar

20th September 2026

The Sixteenth 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: Jonah 3 v 10 – 4 v 11 *God forgives the people of Nineveh and does not destroy them which displeases Jonah whose vindictiveness is rebuked.*

New Testament Reading: Philippians 1 vv 21-30 *St Paul writes to the Philippian church from prison and explains how his life is not his own but belongs utterly to Jesus Christ.*

Gospel: Matthew 20 vv 1-16 *Jesus tells the parable of the labourers in the vineyard.*

Hymns: 368, 357, 104, 456, 361

*Our flowers this week have been arranged by Pearl Shepherd
in memory of Beryl Snook*

The Week Ahead

All services this week will take place in the **choir vestry** as the church will be busy with the installation of our new sound system, speakers and cameras. Please enter for these services via the south door near the vestries

The church will **not** be open for visitors this week

Monday	10.30am	St Mary's Friendship Group meets at the Oakmere Tea Rooms – <u>all welcome</u>
Tuesday	<u>9.00am</u> 5.00pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer
Wednesday	9.30am 5.00pm	Said Eucharist Evening Prayer
Thursday	9.30am 5.00pm	Said Eucharist (BCP) Evening Prayer
Friday	<i>Lancelot Andrewes, bishop & spiritual writer</i> 9.30am 5.00pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer (BCP)
Saturday	10am – 1pm	Hertfordshire Chorus rehearsal in church

Next Sunday is the **Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**

8.00am Said Eucharist

10.00am **SUNG EUCHARIST**

5.00pm Evensong

Next Sunday's readings will be: Ezekiel 18, 1-4, 25-end; Philippians 2 vv 1-13 & Matthew 21 vv 23-32.

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Parish Notices

Geoff Foster offers his thanks to those who have sponsored him as part of the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Bike 'n Hike. He has been promised **£600** in sponsorship and is grateful for everyone's generosity.

Church cleaning will take place on **Tuesday 29th September** from 10.00am to 12 noon. If you could lend a hand that morning, that would be much appreciated.

The Knit & Natter Group will meet on **Tuesday 29th September** at 12 noon in the choir vestry.

Potters Bar Choral Society is holding a 'Come and Sing Pirates of Penzance' here on **Saturday 3rd October** 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 on **Sunday 4th October** 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.

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 give thanks for the improvement in the health of Kirsty Edmunds

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 Nigel Bain, Kathleen Byrne, Myrtle Guy

Anniversaries of death this week Gertrude Coverdale, Melanie Plummer, Philip Slow, Irene Holland, Diane Dyer, Arthur Cox, Charles Golden, Gerald Twyman

Our parish We remember those who live and work in Hill Crest, Hill Rise and Hollies Way

Please pray for **Bishop Andrew** as he begins his ministry as our Diocesan Bishop

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

COLLECT

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you;
and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;
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 Jonah 3:10 – end of 4 *A reading from the book of Jonah.*

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not

know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Or Exodus 16:2-15

PSALM Psalm 145:1-8

R Great is the Lord and highly to be praised.

I will exalt you, O God my King,
and bless your name for ever and ever.
Every day will I bless you
and praise your name for ever and ever.
Great is the Lord and highly to be praised;
his greatness is beyond all searching out. **R**

One generation shall praise your works to another
and declare your mighty acts.
They shall speak of the majesty of your glory,
and I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. **R**

They shall speak of the might of your marvellous acts,
and I will also tell of your greatness.
They shall pour forth the story of your abundant kindness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
The Lord is gracious and merciful,
long-suffering and of great goodness. **R**

SECOND READING Philippians 1:21-end *A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.*

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well – since you are having the

same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

GOSPEL Matthew 20:1-16

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Great is the Lord and high-ly to be praised

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