St Mary the Virgin & All Saints Potters Bar

25th October 2026

Bible Sunday
(The Last 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**

*We welcome **The Revd Hugh Wikner** as our celebrant & preacher*

Old Testament Reading: Nehemiah 8 vv 1-4a, 8-12 *Ezra reads the law to the people.*

New Testament Reading: Colossians 3 vv 12-17 *St Paul exhorts the Colossians to live in close union with our Lord and gives practical advice.*

Gospel: Matthew 24 vv 30-35 *God has revealed himself through the ages and his words remain as a guide to how we should live our lives.*

Hymns: 466, 407, 438, 385, 475

5.00pm **EVENSONG** **Hymns:** 377, 335, 476

Our flowers this week have been arranged by Jessica Hollings and donated by Steve Reid in memory of baby Noah Reid

The Week Ahead

Tuesday 9.30am Morning Prayer
10.30am – 12 noon Church open for visitors
12 noon Knit & Natter Group meets
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday ***St Simon and St Jude***
9.30am Said Eucharist
Celebrant: Fr Tom Baron
10.30am – 12 noon Church open for visitors
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Thursday ***James Hannington, bishop & martyr***
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)

Next Sunday is **ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY**
8.00am Said Eucharist
10.00am **FESTIVAL EUCHARIST**
Guest Preacher: The Revd Karen Turner
3.00pm **ALL SOULS' SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & THANKSGIVING**

The Eucharist readings will be: Revelation 7 vv 9-17; 1 John 3 vv 1-3 and Matthew 5 vv 1-12.

Fr Stefan Chrysostomou, *Vicar* Tel: 01707 859028
Email: **vicar@stmaryspb.org.uk**

Please send any items for this sheet to **Richard Osborn**
Email: **rmosborn@hotmail.com**
Tel: 07803 756088 / 020 8363 8197

Website: www.stmaryspb.org.uk

If you wish to avoid the camera when services are livestreamed, it is best to sit in the side aisles

Parish Notices

COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS

Our annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving is **next Sunday** at **3.00pm.** If you can **provide a cake** for the refreshments, please sign the list on the noticeboard. And if you could help with **serving the refreshments**, please let Richard know.

A **Requiem Eucharist for All Souls** will take place on **Wednesday 4th November** at **9.30am**. If you wish names to be remembered at this service, please let Richard know by email, phone or in writing. Names to be submitted by **lunchtime** on **Tuesday 3rd November**.

There will be a recital on **Tuesday 3rd November** at 12.30pm when we will welcome Mary Pilbury, Miriam Kramer and Nicholas Durcan (bassoon, violin & piano).

The PCC meets that same evening, **Tuesday 3rd November**, at 8pm, preceded by a Eucharist at 7.30pm.

Remembrance Sunday is **Sunday 8th November**. The Sung Eucharist will be at **9.30am** on that day. This will be followed by the War Memorial ceremony.

Our **Quiz Night** is on **Saturday 21st November** at 7pm in the church hall. A sign-up sheet for tickets (£10) is on the noticeboard. No food will be provided, so please bring your own nibbles/snacks. Drinks will be available to purchase, or you can bring your own.

We are sending **£1,000** to the USPG Harvest Appeal for Madagascar. Thank you for your generosity.

Watchers & Welcomers Please let Heather Hawkes have any holiday dates during December and January.

Gift Aid To comply with HMRC regulations, we need everyone to complete a new Gift Aid declaration form. Forms are available at the back of church and can be returned to Richard or put in the donations box.

The local Rotary Club is collecting **warm winter coats** for those in need. Further details are in the weekly bulletin and on the noticeboard – and a collection box is available at the back of the church.

Carole Waller wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes during her treatment for cancer. Last week she was given the 'all clear' by the hospital and we join with her and her family in giving thanks to God.

We are updating our **prayer lists for the sick**. If you wish names to remain on the lists, please indicate this on the sheet on the noticeboard by the end of this week.

For your prayers

The sick Margaret Terry, Joan Golden, Elizabeth Liney, Anna Downes, Sally, Elizabeth Wiseman, Valerie Taylor, Francoise Groves-de-Milleret, Maureen Alderman, Judy & Bob Keefe, Robert Peters, Marilyn Gibbs, Ben Jones, Richard Peart, Alison Stevens, Judy Makin

We give thanks for the improvement in the health of Carole Waller

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

Recently departed Mary McCarthy, Joyce Bowry, Kaz Nowak

Anniversaries of death this week Margaret Dare, Marjorie Roberts, Tony Moore, Geoffrey Embleton, Keith Anthony Downes, Michael Whittle, Rhoda King, Brian Warren

Our parish We remember those who live in Manor Road, Manor Way and Margaret Close

Sunday 25 October 2026 Bible Sunday

COLLECT

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures
to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly
digest them
that, through patience, and the
comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold
fast the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our
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

Nehemiah 8:1-4*a* [5-6] 8-12

A reading from the book of Nehemiah.

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; [And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.] So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved." And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

PSALM Psalm 119:9-16

R *Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes.*

How shall young people cleanse their
way to keep themselves according to
your word?
With my whole heart have I sought
you;
O let me not go astray from your
commandments. **R**

Your words have I hidden within my
heart,
that I should not sin against you.
Blessed are you, O Lord;
O teach me your statutes. **R**

With my lips have I been telling
of all the judgements of your mouth.
I have taken greater delight in the way
of your testimonies
than in all manner of riches. **R**

I will meditate on your commandments
and contemplate your ways.
My delight shall be in your statutes
and I will not forget your word. **R**

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

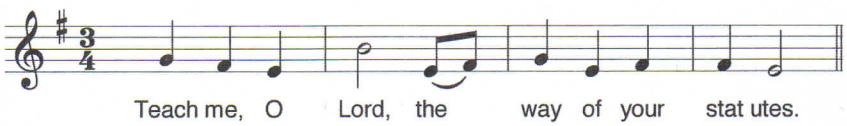
GOSPEL Matthew 24:30-35

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see 'the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven' with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

POST COMMUNION

God of all grace,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life
and the word of his kingdom:
renew your people with your heavenly
grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living
bread;
who is alive and reigns, now and for
ever.



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