

St Mary the Virgin & All Saints Potters Bar

15th November 2026

The Second Sunday before Advent

A warm welcome to St Mary's
especially if this is your first time here.
Refreshments are served after the Sung Eucharist.
We look forward to meeting you and seeing you again.

TODAY'S SERVICES

8.00am **SAID EUCHARIST**

10.00am **SUNG EUCHARIST**

Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 1 vv 7, 12-18 *The prophet warns Judah that the day of the Lord is near.*

New Testament Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5 vv 1-11 *St Paul turns our thoughts to the Second Coming of Christ and bids us ever be ready and expectant.*

Gospel: Matthew 25 vv 14-30 *Through the parable of the talents, we learn that we must prepare to receive the Lord while there is yet time, and use every quality and gift he has given us.*

Hymns: 377, 490, 378, 302, 449

Our flowers this week have been arranged by Jessica Hollings and donated by Mavis Haylock in memory of Julie Moore.

The Week Ahead

Tuesday ***St Hugh of Lincoln, bishop***
9.30am Morning Prayer
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday ***St Elizabeth of Hungary, princess & philanthropist***
9.30am Said Eucharist
10.30am – 12 noon Church open for visitors
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Thursday ***St Hilda of Whitby, abbess***
9.30am Morning Prayer (BCP)
10.30am – 12 noon Church open for visitors
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Friday ***St Edmund, king and martyr***
9.30am Morning Prayer
5.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

Saturday 7.00pm **QUIZ NIGHT** in church hall

Next Sunday is the **FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING**
8.00am Said Eucharist
10.00am **SUNG EUCHARIST**
5.00pm Evensong (BCP)
The readings will be: Ezekiel 34 vv 11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1 vv 15-23 and Matthew 25 vv 31-46.

Fr Stefan Chrysostomou, *Vicar* Tel: 01707 859028
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If you wish to avoid the camera when services are livestreamed, it is best to sit in the side aisles

Parish Notices

Today is our **Commitment Sunday**. There should be a letter for everyone at the back of church; if you can't find yours, please do help yourself to a blank envelope. Thank you for prayerfully reviewing your giving and considering whether you can join the Parish Giving Scheme. We are asking everyone to complete and return a pledge form by **Sunday 3rd January**.

TODAY is the last chance to sign up for next Saturday's **Quiz Night.** This will begin at **7.00pm prompt** in the hall. No food will be provided, so please bring your own nibbles/snacks. Drinks will be available to purchase, or you can bring your own. It would be a great help if payment (£10 per ticket) could be made before the event either in cash (to Liz Nethercott) or by bank transfer. If you have already paid using the card machine, please let Liz know as it is not possible to identify payments made via that method. We would be grateful for help in **setting up the hall** on Saturday afternoon from 3.00pm.

The Knit and Natter Group will meet on **Tuesday 24th November**, 12 noon to 2pm. This is the last meeting of 2026. The group resumes on Tuesday 26th January.

Advent Sunday is **Sunday 29th November**. We shall mark this with the Advent Procession at **5.00pm** - an atmospheric service of music & readings when we shall be joined by members of other churches. We would like to offer tea, coffee and biscuits after this service. Please let Richard know if you could help with this.

The funeral of Margaret Terry will be in church on **Monday 30th November** at 11.00am.

The next lunchtime recital is on **Tuesday 1st December** at 12.30pm when we welcome back organist Anthony Gritten. Light lunches will be served from 12 noon.

Watchers & Welcomers Please inform Heather of dates when you will be unavailable in January & February.

For your prayers

The sick Elizabeth Liney, Anna Downes, Elizabeth Wiseman, Valerie Taylor, Francoise Groves-de-Milleret, Judy Makin, Sally, Maureen Alderman, Richard Peart, Alison Stevens, Pauline Phillips

We also pray for Keith Downes, Jayne Hutton, Susan North, Joan & Ron Golden, Sasha Burt, Nicola Stiff, Richard Barnes, Ricky Mella, David Evans, Tessa, Dave Gough, Prussia Blake

The recently departed Margaret Terry, Pauline Gamby, Pauline Gallacher, Pam Worster, Joyce Bowry, Gilly Rickards

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week
Gwen Clark, Marjorie Butcher, Hugh Wiggins, Geoffrey Follett, Ronald Johnson, Ian Blackwood, Pat Brett

Our parish We remember those who live and work in Mountway, Mutton Lane and Northlands

Please send any items for this sheet to **Richard Osborn**
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Website: www.stmaryspb.org.uk

Our livestreamed services are available at:
www.facebook.com/stmaryspb

Sunday 15 November 2026 Second Sunday before Advent

COLLECT

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7. 12-end

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

PSALM Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 (or 90:1-8)

R *O Lord my God, in you I take refuge.*

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the earth and the world were formed,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God. **R**

You turn us back to dust and say:
"Turn back, O children of earth."
For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday,
which passes like a watch in the night. **R**

You sweep them away like a dream;
they fade away suddenly like the grass.
In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered. **R**

For we consume away in your displeasure;
we are afraid at your wrathful indignation.
You have set our misdeeds before you
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance. **R**

[When you are angry, all our days are gone;
our years come to an end like a sigh.
The days of our life are three score years and ten,
or if our strength endures, even four score;
yet the sum of them is but labour and sorrow,
for they soon pass away and we are gone. **R**

Who regards the power of your wrath
and your indignation like those who fear you?]
So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

POST COMMUNION

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.



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