

SUNDAY LINK

St. Mary's Potton † All Saints' Sutton † St. John's Cockayne Hatley

Diary (For Sunday Worship please see final page)

Potton church open each day 10am – 4pm

Sutton church open each day 9am – 4pm

Sunday 22 March

12 noon: Lent Lunch, St. Mary's Hall Potton

Tuesday 24 March

6:45pm Worship Leaders Meeting, McKeown Residence

Wednesday 25 March

6pm: Pizza & Chat, Sandy Parish Rooms

7.30: Scout Visit to St. Marys

Thursday 26 March

4pm: Sutton PCC, Hollington Residence

Friday 27 March

1pm: Internment of Ashes, Sue Mitchell, All Saints Sutton

Saturday 28 March

Together March (see notice on page 5)

10am – 1pm: Link Café, Potton Community Centre, Brook End

Sunday 29 March

HOLY WEEK BEGINS

Please see separate programme.

Wednesday 1 April

3-5pm: Afternoon Tea, All Saints Sutton

Wednesday 8 April

7:30pm: SHORT Potton PCC

Wednesday 21 April

12 noon: Hall Communion, St. Marys Church Hall Potton

Key Contacts

Rev. Alex Wheatley:

01767 764062

alex.wheatley.rector@gmail.com

(not available on Mondays)

Mrs. Rosemary Kimber

(Churchwarden, Potton)

07753638278

Mr. William Hollington:

(Churchwarden, Sutton):

01767 261910

Mrs Christine Armistead

(Churchwarden, Cockayne Hatley):

07446 211217

Safeguarding Contacts

George Price

(Whole Benefice):

07922 421915

gpoct1965@gmail.com

Jeremy Hirst

(Diocese)

01727 818107

safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org

Websites:

Potton: <https://www.pottonparishchurch.org>

Sutton: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7396/>

Cockayne Hatley: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7398/>

Prayer

Those Who Have Asked for Our Prayers

Deanery: Revd. Liz Lavelle,

Potton: Chris, Dave & Fran, Rob & Lynn & Family, Paula, Sandra, Vivienne, Joyce, Susan, Maggie, Nigel, Ade, Pat, Shelly, Sophie, Michael, Bill, Janet, Eve, Sheila, Michelle, Santos, Clive, Louise, Robert,

Prayer for Growth

God of Mission who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give:
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Current Conflict List

It's easy for our prayers for peace to only rest on those places we see in our news headlines. Below is a more complete list. We provide this not to depress, but to give a focus for your prayers for peace. (Source: Wikipedia)

Myanmar	Afghanistan Somali
Israel-Palestine	Nigeria
North Africa insurgency, various nations)	Congo
Sudan	Mexico
Ukraine—Russia	Syria
Ethiopia	Cameroon Yemen
Colombia	Haiti
	US/ Israel – Iran

Those Who Have Died

Recently

Amy Bettle
Linda McCole
John Penfare

A Prayer for the Start! Group

Father, we pray for the Start! group, for those participants who have been drawn to it. We pray that this might be the beginning for them and that they might come to find in you and your son a foundation for life. Amen

Upcoming Sunday Readings

22 March: Ezekiel 37: 1-14 --- Romans 8:6-11 --- John 11:1-45

29 March (PALM SUNDAY): Psalm 118:1-2, 19 -end --- Matthew 21:1-11

5 April (EASTER DAY): Jeremiah 31: 1-6 --- Acts 10:34-43 --- Matthew 28: 1-10

12 April: 1 Peter 1:3-9 --- Acts 2:14a, 22-32 --- John 20:19-end

Notices

Potton Lent Lunch

This coming Sunday, following the 10:30 service there will be a Lent lunch of homemade soup and bread in St. Marys Hall.

Donations to charity. All welcome.

Sutton Village Quiz



**Sat 28th March at
Sutton Village Hall**

**7 for 7:30, Contact:
Pippa – 260 226**

Teams of up to 6
2 course hot supper & licensed bar

£15.00 per person

(Transfer to "FOSC": Sort code 20-74-81 Account 2085 2066 at
Barclays bank)



In aid of Friends of Sutton Church

Electoral Roll

After Easter we will soon enter the time in which all three churches will have their annual meetings (APCMs) in which we will review our work in 2025, discuss our ministry and elect church officers.

However to take part in elections you must be on the electoral roll of the church you wish to vote at. Most of you will have reapplied last year when we renewed our roll, but some of you may have joined us since then. If you want to add yourself to the roll please contact the relevant Electoral Roll Officer:

Potton:

Katy Savage
kegooding@hotmail.com

Sutton:

Jo Hollington
joannahollington@btinternet.com

Cockayne Hatley:

Christine Armistead
armisteadcm@gmail.com

Bowl Cancer UK Knitting Challenge with Salvation Army Potton

A team of knitters at Salvation Army Potton are knitting every day in March to raise money for Cancer Research UK. They are doing this in memory of their dear friend Tricia Dunham who died last year. The squares they are knitting will eventually be formed into a cross for Easter.

If you wish to donate you can do so by the link here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/pamela-richardson-1?>

(or there is a paper form in their citadel)

Easter Saturday Coffee Morning at Salvation Army Potton

If you are looking for company and fellowship on Easter Saturday (**4 April**) then look no further than the coffee morning at the Salvation Army Citadel between **10 -11:30!**

Important Notice About the Maundy Thursday Service

The Benefice service for Maundy Thursday (see Holy Week Program for details), includes the sharing of a meal together. The organisers need to know numbers for catering, therefore if you know you are coming then please let us know in advance, either by signing up on the sign up sheets or by contact Rev. Alex, ESPECIALLY if you have dietary requirements beyond vegetarianism.

Easter Monday Pilgrimage!

On Easter Monday (**6 April**) the Diocese holds a pilgrimage to our cathedral: St. Albans Abbey. People are encouraged to walk from their church but as we live so far away we walk from Harpenden. We leave our cars in a St Albans car park and take the train to Harpenden. Everyone (including dogs) are welcome whatever your age.

We picnic in the orchard outside the Abbey and then process into the Abbey for an informal communion service. If you don't want to or can't walk, you are welcome to join us in the orchard.

If you would like to join us, there's a sign up sheet on the welcome desk at St. Mary's

Can you help at Little Saints?

Little Saints is St. Mary's wonderful Friday Morning Toddler group and it needs a helping hand!

Ideally they are looking for someone who can **join the other volunteers set up and run each Friday morning (8am-11:30pm)**, **BUT even if someone were willing to just help set up the space (8am for just 30 mins)** that would solve a big issue they are having!

Either way the helper really needs be able to move chairs and heavy(ish) tables.

First Communion Course

A fun and interactive group to prepare children 8 years and older to regularly receive Holy Communion.

The group begins on

22 April

and continues for the following four Wednesdays

(29 April, 6 May, 13 May, 20 May)

3:30pm for games.

4pm for content start.

Sessions end at 5pm

(Venue TBC, but Sutton Based)

Parents/ guardians are asked to attend with their child.



Admission to Holy Communion.

This is a special moment where children receive Holy Communion for the first time.

This will then take place at our

Pentecost services on the 24th of May.

Families can choose between either:

9am at All Saints' Sutton

10:30am at St. Mary's Potton

A Message & Invitation from Rev. Alex

I'm sure many of us are very ill at ease with the rise of far-right ideologies in our nation that speak abhorrently about migrants, especially asylum seekers and those who would use the Christian faith to vilify other religions and cultures. We particular saw this from the speakers and leaders of the 'Unite the Kingdom Rally' in September, though, I hasten to add, not necessarily from all those who simply attended. Indeed, to be clear I am speaking about ideologies with hateful intent and not everyone who has concerns about immigration impact.

Personally, I have felt like I should in some ways be 'doing more', that somehow, I'm not living out my baptism, & ordination promises by joining in countering the rise of the hateful rhetoric and the co-option of our faith for hurtful purposes. I'm not saying everyone should feel that way, only that I do and that perhaps some others do too.

This is why I am considering attending the 'Together March' on **28 March** in London. This is led by the Together Alliance, a 'committee' of different organisations including *Amnesty International*, *Stand up to Racism* and various Unions. It also includes a number of Christian organisations and churches (see image below) which are overseeing the Christian cohort for this event, including the leading of a prayer service at Oasis Church Waterloo at **10:30am** before the main event starts at **12 noon** at Park Lane. (I would probably set off home from London at about **3pm**.)

I am wondering if anybody from our three churches might like to join me?

I appreciate that this isn't for everyone, but if you are interested please do get in contact with me and we can discuss logistics, travel etc. Please note that this event clashes with Potton's Link Café and so you need to think carefully about any commitments you have made to this event etc.



Next Bishop of St Albans Announced

The following text is adapted from the Diocese website

The Diocese of St Albans is delighted to welcome the appointment of The Right Reverend Dr Andrew Paul Rumsey as the next Bishop of St Albans..

Bishop Andrew is currently the Suffragan Bishop of Ramsbury in the Diocese of Salisbury. This move is something of 'homecoming', as he was born and baptised and spent his early life here, his father being a parish priest in the Diocese.

He trained for ordination at Ridley Hall in Cambridge (*Rev. Alex will try not to hold that against him having been trained at Ridley's 'rival' college of Westcott*). Ordained deacon in 1997 and priest in 1998, after which he served in a range of parish contexts. He became Bishop of Ramsbury in 2019



Are there dustbins in heaven?



*A five session group course on
CHuRCH and climate change.*

Meeting monthly in St Swithun's Sandy Thursdays 7.30 – 9pm

April 23rd, May 21st, June 4th, July 2nd, August 6th

What has your Christian faith got to say about climate change? Is there any hope for the future? Does the Church have a role in speaking about climate change? Is the bible any help with climate discussions? How can we cope with climate anxiety? Why is CHuRCH written as it is at the top of this page? What is the link between global warming and other major 21st Century threats?



*Bible discussion, conversation, challenge,
practical projects and much more ...*

All welcome.

Lent 2026

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Lent is a time when Christians reflect and prepare for the celebrations of Easter. Traditionally it is a time to fast from rich foods, though in recent years most people simply eat frugally or give up treats. These practices follow the example of Jesus, who fasted for forty days in the wilderness.

HOWEVER Lent is also a time of renewed commitment, and people are encouraged to take up a new action such as giving to charity, setting aside time to study the Bible and meet with other Christians to reflect on Jesus' life and prepare for the events of Holy Week and Easter.

On these two pages you will see some of the new 'habits' that we offer to you as a team of churches, as well as other events linked to Lent.

[The Women of Holy Week Preaching Series](#)

Our Deanery (local parish churches) has organised a preaching series on the often overlooked women of the Holy Week story. Each sermon will have a different preacher and take place in a **6pm** service of prayers, readings and songs. Different churches host different weeks.

~~22 February – St. Mary's Potton~~

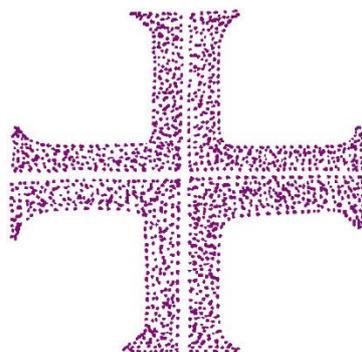
~~1 March – St. Andrews Biggleswade~~

~~8 March – All Saints Great Barford~~

~~15 March – St. Mary's Northill~~

~~22 March – All Saints Cople~~

If you would like to go, but need transport let Rev. Alex know and he will sort something.



Lent 2026

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Study Groups

We are having three groups running during Lent each looking at a different topic and meeting at different place & time.

The Apostle Paul: His Life Work

**Mondays (23 Feb onwards),
7pm,**

The Old Rectory Sutton

This group will focus on the fascinating life and important Epistles of the Apostle Paul, the "little, ugly man" so vital to the understanding of the Christian Faith.

**Contact Rev. Lucy McKeown for more
information:
gardenlucy@outlook.com**

'Grandparenting for Faith'

**Wednesdays (4 March onwards),
1.45pm-3.15pm,
St. Mary's Hall**

This course produced by 'Parenting for Faith' and is concerned with equipping grandparents and grandparent figures, to share God with their grandchildren. The foundation of this course rests on the belief that it is God's plan that children and young people learn about God at home too, because that's where ordinary life is lived!

**Contact Dawn Kerridge for more
information:**

dkerridge@hotmail.com

***This can be accessed via zoom upon
request.***

'Fruits of the Spirit'

**13 Feb, 27 Feb, 13 March, 27 March
10:30am,**

Gutteridge Household

Our monthly Friday group will be switching to meeting fortnightly during Lent and will be continuing their exploration of the 'Fruits of the Spirit'. (Due to the size of this pre-existing group there are only space for one or two new faces)

**Contact Simon Gutteridge for more
information:
sgutteridge14@gmail.com**



The Link Café

Connecting St. Mary's Church with the Community

A place for people of all ages to meet for friendship, refreshment and cake!

10am-1pm at the Community Centre Book End, Potton

Saturday 29 November

No café in December. Instead, there will be two cafes in January!

Saturday 3 January

Saturday 31 January

Saturday 28 February

Saturday 28 March

Saturday 25 April

Saturday 30 May

Saturday 27 June

Saturday 25 July



Includes Children's Area with toys and fun craft activities!

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
SUTTON

AFTERNOON TEA

First Wednesday of the month
at 3 p.m.

ALL WELCOME

4th March	5th August
1st April	2nd September
6th May	7th October
3rd June	4th November
1st July	2nd December

Café's & Coffee Mornings at Salvation Army Potton



We host a range of meet ups and opportunities' for fellowship in our building on Chapel Street.

We' look forward to welcoming you!

Monday

Open door 10.am -11.30am
Meet for tea/coffee and chat

CAMEO: - come and meet each other
And have soup 12noon (£3)
Starts 2nd September



Wednesday

Open door 10.am -11.30am
Meet for tea/coffee and chat
Knit And natter



Friday

Open door 10.am -11.30am
Meet for tea/coffee and chat

**Saturday
10-11.30am**

Coffee Morning
First Saturday of the month (Bacon Rolls)
Third Saturday of the month (Sausage Baps)



Discover more at

Potton Salvation Army Chapel Street 01767 261128



Spring and Summer Are Coming!

Save the date for these future special events....

St. Marys Events Team:

Future Events

18 April: Medieval Banquet

6 June: Summer Banquet

11 July: Jane Austen Tea Party

16 August: Patronal BBQ

Sutton Plant Sale 2026

A Message from Jo Hollington

This will take place on the weekend of

16th - 17th May

with the Duck Race on the Sunday afternoon

Please let me have any seed trays/pots/hanging baskets you don't need so that we can recycle them. If you would like to help in anyway, please

do contact me on

01767 261910

or 07889 255043

ST MARY'S CHURCH

POTTON

PRESENTS



THE JOY OF MUSIC CONCERT

From Bach to British Folk Songs ...

Saturday 16th May at 7pm

**FREE ENTRY:
DONATIONS
IN AID OF
CRISIS &
ST MARY'S
CHURCH**



**ST MARY'S CHURCH
HATLEY ROAD
POTTON SG19 2RP**

Upcoming Sunday Services

For Holy Week and Easter services, please see separate programme.

Date	Cockayne Hatley (Sunday Morning)	Sutton (Sunday Morning)	Potton (Sunday Morning)	Evening Services
22 March (Lent 5) 4 th Sunday of the Month		9am Service of the Word	10:30am Choral Communion	4pm: Evening Prayer
29 March (PALM SUNDAY) 5 th Sunday of the Month	10am JOINT SERVICE	Joint Service ←	Joint Service ←	
5 April (EASTER DAY) 1 ST Sunday of the Month		9am Easter Day Communion	10:30am Communion with Easter Egg Hunt	
12 April (Easter 2) 2 nd Sunday of the Month	9am Holy Communion	<u>10am</u> Breakfast Church	10:30am Holy Communion	7.30pm Nightlight
19 April (Easter 3) 3 rd Sunday of the Month		9am Holy Communion	10:30am Shorter Communion	

Our Apologies...

At present it is not possible to access any of our services via Zoom (except for **Nightlight which is still available**). We're aiming to get this resolved in time for Holy Week.

**St Mary's Church Hall
Communion Services
(at 12 noon)**
21 April
19 May

Morning Prayer
9am
Thursday: Sutton
Friday: Potton

Polite Covid & Flu Safety Notice We ask that if you have symptom of Coronavirus consider staying at home and letting us know how you are. **If you should get a positive test result in the 48 hours after a service or event** please let us know and we can pass the message on (probably by email) so people can make their own assessments.

If at any time you wish to unsubscribe from these emails then please contact Rev. Alex

(see page 1 for contact details)