



THE FRIDAY EMAIL
Friday 9th February 2024



Unfortunately, due to ill health, today's Friday Email is only going to include essential notices for this weekend.

➤ **READINGS FOR SUNDAY MORNING**

The Second Book of Kings, chapter 2, verses 1-12:

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Gradual Psalm 50, verses 1-6:

- 1 The Lord, the most mighty God, has spoken
and called the world from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth;
our God comes and will not keep silence.

Response: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

- 3 Consuming fire goes out before him
and a mighty tempest stirs about him.
- 4 He calls the heaven above,
and the earth, that he may judge his people:

Response

- 5 'Gather to me my faithful,
who have sealed my covenant with sacrifice.'
- 6 Let the heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.

Response

St Mark's Gospel, chapter 9, verses 2-9:

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

➤ The collect for the Sunday Before Lent:

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.



➤ **Details of Sunday 9.30am Parish Eucharist which is also live-streamed**

❖ President:	Fr Simon (Vicar)	
❖ Preacher:	Fr Simon (Vicar)	
❖ Sunday Club:	Becky Burton	
❖ Reader:	Viv O'Leary	
❖ Intercessions:	Huw Lewis	
❖ Mass setting:	Mass of St Thomas (music: David Thorne)	
❖ Processional:	'Tis good, Lord, to be here (tune: Carlisle)	CP 248
❖ Gradual:	Christ, whose glory fills the skies (tune: Ratisbon)	CP 2
❖ Offertory:	Alleluia, sing to Jesus (tune: Hyfydol)	CP 278
❖ Communion:	Christ is the world's true light (tune: Darmstadt)	CP 396
❖ Motet:	The Call (music: Ralph Vaughan Williams)	CP 405ii
❖ Final:	Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart (tune: Slane)	CP 386

INTERCESSIONS FOR THIS WEEK

For the world-wide Church:

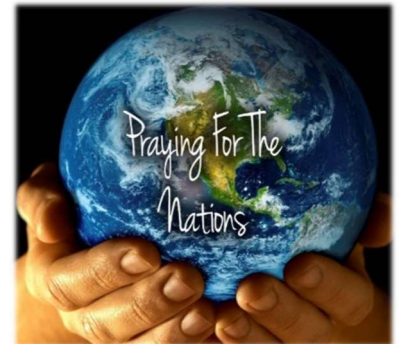
- ❖ Bishop Alan - Bishop of St Albans
- ❖ Bishop Jane - Bishop of Hertford
- ❖ The Venerable Janet Mackenzie - Archdeacon of Hertford
- ❖ The Revd Gaz Tracey - Area Dean
- ❖ Archbishop Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury
- ❖ In the Anglican cycle of prayer for the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
- ❖ In the Diocesan cycle of prayer for the parish of St John the Baptist, Chipping Barnet in the Barnet Deanery
- ❖ In our Deanery cycle of prayer for the parish and people of St James, Thorley
- ❖ For those being martyred or persecuted for their Christian faith



(<https://releaseinternational.org/>)

For our world:

- ❖ For the victims of Israel and Gaza during the current Israel-Palestinian conflict
- ❖ For the people of Ukraine, be they in their homeland or refugees in Europe.
- ❖ For just and peaceful governance throughout the world, not least in Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, Sudan, Somalia, China, Haiti, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Yemen, Iran, Pakistan, Myanmar, North Korea, and the DRC.
- ❖ For the victims of conflict, terrorism, and violence.
- ❖ For the victims of tragedy.
- ❖ For those suffering from the effects of climate change or natural disaster.
- ❖ For those working to reduce the effects of climate change.
- ❖ For those working to relieve suffering throughout the world.
- ❖ For emergency and keyworkers, scientists and leaders, medical and care workers, and, in this country, particularly for the NHS and social services at this time of particular winter pressure on their resources.
- ❖ For those being unjustly held captive or being persecuted.
- ❖ For those who have been abused in body, mind, or spirit.
- ❖ For those who are victims of modern-day slavery and human trafficking.
- ❖ For those who are victims of famine or poverty, praying for the work of the *Shiksha Rath* educational project in New Delhi which we support.
- ❖ For those struggling with addiction.
- ❖ For those who are homeless, and for the work of the *Holy Trinity Night Shelter* in Bishop's Stortford which we support.
- ❖ For those involved in the migrant and refugee situation.
- ❖ For the work of organisations which are working to bring an end to poverty.



For our town:

- ❖ For the staff and patients of our Central Surgery, the Princess Alexandra, Rivers, and Herts & Essex hospitals, for our care homes, social services, voluntary care sector.
- ❖ For our Member of Parliament - Julie Marson MP
- ❖ For Sawbridgeworth Town Council, including our Mayor - Cllr Ruth Buckmaster.
- ❖ For East Herts District Council and our councillors.
- ❖ For local businesses in these uncertain times.
- ❖ For our emergency services.
- ❖ For groups and organisations, including The Hailey Centre and library.
- ❖ For our youth organisations and uniformed brigades.
- ❖ For those supporting the elderly of our community.
- ❖ For the pupils, teachers, staff, governors, and parents associated with our local schools including our church school in Spellbrook.
- ❖ For those feeling isolated and lonely; particularly those living alone.
- ❖ For those who are concerned about making ends meet, and for organisations such as Harlow Foodbank and the evangelical church's pop-up store seeking to bring aid.



For the people of:

Sunday:	Rowan Walk & Hailey Place
Monday:	Sheering Mill Lane & Lock View
Tuesday:	Gilders & Roman Rise
Wednesday:	Cutforth Road & Barnard Road
Thursday:	The Meadows, Waterside Place & Priors Court
Friday:	Vantorts Road & Alders Walk
Saturday:	Sun Street

For the sick, tired, and bereaved, including:

Angela Alder, June Allen, Linda Bowler, Pam Brown, John Butler, Robert Davis, Elsa Duce, Katrina Evangeli, Kathy Hanratty, Steven, Wendy, Doug Knights, Paul Mackin, Geoff Pavely, Bishop Alan, Anne Smith, Mick Steward, Jackie White.

For those who have died, including:

- ❖ Bryan Ellis RIP

For our dearly departed ones, remembered at their year's mind:

- ❖ Leslie Dodd RIP (12th February)
- ❖ Michael Giles RIP (16th February)



And for the following five Wednesdays in Lent (**21st, 28th February & 6th, 13th & 20th March**), as part of your commitment to Lent, it would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible in Parish Hall for this year's Lent Course, each of which will last about an hour. More details will appear in next week's Friday Email.

➤ **Betty Taylor's funeral - Monday 19th February - 1pm**



It was with sadness that we learnt of Betty Taylor's peaceful passing at Falcon House Care Home in Little Hallingbury on Monday 15th January. No doubt a number of you will want to attend her funeral, the time of which has now been confirmed as 1pm on Monday 19th February in Great St Mary's.

➤ **Christian Aid Big Breakfast - a call for volunteers - Saturday 18th May**



After several years away, 2024 will see the return of the *Christian Aid Big Breakfast* in Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall, marking the end of this year's *Christian Aid Week* (12th-18th May). It's being organised by members from all of Sawbridgeworth and High

Wych's churches, and, for those of you who have been involved before, you will know how many people it takes to make it a success. Therefore, if you'd like to be involved, please speak to Hazel Mead who, if you don't have her contact details, can be contacted via the Parish Office.

➤ **Content for the Newsletter**

If you have a notice for the Friday Email, please let us know by lunchtime on Thursday.

Website: www.sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com and search for 'Great St Mary's, Sawbridgeworth'

YouTube: www.youtube.com and search for 'Great St Mary's, Sawbridgeworth'

➤ **Contact us**

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Thank you for your ongoing support of Great St Mary's