



THE FRIDAY EMAIL

Friday 13th September 2024

Friday Thought from Di Kitson:

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday as you know, Archdeacon Janet presided at the Eucharist and afterwards joined us for lunch. It was a truly humbling experience knowing what Mary went through in being the Mother of Our Lord, but the time spent together at the Eucharist celebrating our Patronal Festival, and afterwards sharing our lunch together, was a truly good experience for us all. Whilst continuing in the Interregnum we shall continue the various celebrations that take place in the Church calendar. The Bike 'n Hike takes place this Saturday, where people ride around various churches within their area and raise money for the Historic Churches Trust which gives grants to various churches of which, in the past, we at Great St. Mary's have benefitted.



This week sees a reading from the prophet Isaiah and also from St Mark's gospel. The Old Testament reading offers us a great deal of encouragement and advice. Isaiah describes to us the close, intimate and continuous communion that he has with God. Through his complete self-surrender to the voice that guides him, Isaiah tells us that God's word and in prayer there is always comfort and strength.

I quote; 'The Lord has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. The Lord God helps me, therefore I have not been disgraced'. We too can stand with Isaiah by keep reading the scriptures and also praying to our heavenly Father who loves us so much.

In today's Gospel reading Jesus is asking 'who do people say I am'? After various answers, Peter says; "You are the Messiah".

Perhaps here is a time for us to pause, to make space, to listen to the invitation for us to 'Take up our Cross and to follow our Lord'. Hearing these words gives us the opportunity to renew our own sense of discipleship as of those who claim Jesus as the Christ. At the Eucharist each week we repeat the Creed where the opening words are, "We believe". Do we say it with conviction? My prayer is for us to stand as the body of Christ here on earth and say together with great conviction, "WE BELIEVE"!

Yours in Christ,

Di Kitson

➤ **READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY**

Isaiah 50:4-9a:

The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.
I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

Psalm 116:1-8:

I love the Lord, because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
Then I called on the name of the Lord:
'O Lord, I pray, save my life!'

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;
our God is merciful.
The Lord protects the simple;
when I was brought low, he saved me.
Return, O my soul, to your rest,
for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.

Mark 8:27-38:

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi;
and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?'
And they answered him, 'John the Baptist;
and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.'
He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?'
Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.'
And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man
must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders,
the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed,
and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly.
And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.
But turning and looking at his disciples,
he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan!
For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'
He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them,
'If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
For those who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake,
and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.
For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?
Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?
Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this
adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man
will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

The collect for the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



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

- ❖ President: Revd Tim Weeks
- ❖ Preacher: Revd Tim Weeks
- ❖ Reader: Becky Burton
- ❖ Intercessions: Sandie Abery
- ❖ Sunday Club: Gilly Squire
- ❖ Processional: New every morning is the love (tune: Melcombe)
- ❖ Gradual: In the cross of Christ I glory (tune: Wychbold)
- ❖ Offertory: I danced in the morning (tune: Lord of the Dance)
- ❖ Communion: Be still my soul, the Lord is on your side (tune: Finlandia)
- ❖ Choir Motet: Lord, I trust Thee (music: Handel)
- ❖ Recessional: O Jesus I have promised (tune: Wolvercote)

INTERCESSIONS FOR THIS WEEK

For the world-wide Church:

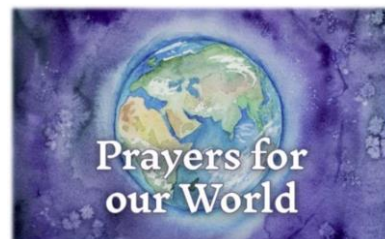
- ❖ Bishop Alan - Bishop of St Albans
- ❖ Bishop Jane - Bishop of Hertford
- ❖ The Venerable Janet Mackenzie - Archdeacon of Hertford
- ❖ The Revd Gaz Tracey - Area Dean - whilst on study leave
- ❖ Archbishop Justin - Archbishop of Canterbury
- ❖ In the Anglican cycle of prayer for the Anglican Church of Nigeria
- ❖ In the Diocesan cycle of prayer for the people and parish of Woodside, St Andrew, Luton
- ❖ In our Deanery cycle of prayer for the parish and people of Holy Trinity, Bishop's Stortford
- ❖ For those being martyred or persecuted for their Christian faith



[\(https://releaseinternational.org/\)](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 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.
- ❖ 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 Sawbridgeworth Town Council and 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 the pupils, teachers, staff, governors, and parents associated with our local schools, including our church school in Spellbrook, as they prepare for the new school year
- ❖ 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: Heron Close, Bonks Hill & Griffin Way

Monday: Cambridge Road, Walnut Tree Avenue & School Lane

Tuesday:	Parkway, Cedar Close & Hornby Way
Wednesday:	Chalks Avenue & Coney Green
Thursday:	Hazel Gardens & Moorlands Reach
Friday:	Cherry Gardens, Marlands & Law Close
Saturday:	Church Walk, Church Crescent & Forebury Crescent

For the sick, tired, and bereaved, including:

Sue Adams, Angela Alder, June Allen, Linda Bowler, Pam Brown, John Butler, Jeanette Dedman, Rachael Dineen, Elsa Duce, Katrina Evangeli, Jimmy Galvin, Kathy Hanratty, John Ireland, Douglas Rose, Jackie White, Mark White.

For those who have died, including:

- ❖ Nicola Frayne RIP

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

- ❖ Frances Lane RIP (15th Sept)
- ❖ Eileen Bourne RIP & Levi Smith (16th Sept)
- ❖ John Ansell RIP (17th Sept)
- ❖ Lilian Dance RIP (19th Sept)
- ❖ Wallie Aberly RIP (21st Sept)

*God of mission,
who alone brings growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit
to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions,
joy to our worship, 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.*

NOTICES

➤ Services and events in church this week:

- ❖ **Sun 15th September** **9.30am** **Parish Eucharist (CW)**
Sixteenth after Trinity *Followed by refreshments in Church House*
- ❖ **Wed 18th September** 10am Service of the Word (CW)
- ❖ **Sun 22nd September** **9.30am** **Parish Eucharist (CW)**
Seventeenth after Trinity *Followed by refreshments in Church House*

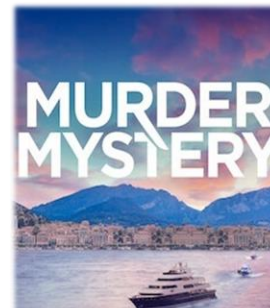


➤ **Bike 'n Hike Event – tomorrow**

The annual Beds and Herts Historic Churches Bike 'N Hike will be taking place tomorrow, between 9am and 5pm. We will be setting up a table with some water, juice and biscuits to help them on their way. It would be lovely to be able to welcome the hikers and bikers into the church, if you are able to spend some time in the church welcoming them, please let Anthony or Gilly know.

➤ **Murder Mystery Evening - Saturday 12th October**

This autumn we're going to have a bit of fun with a murder mystery evening in Church House entitled *'The Jewel of the Ocean'*, performed by *Quintessence* - an amateur dramatics group from Hunsdon. The cost of the evening will be £15 which will include a welcome drink and Ploughman's Supper. Embarkation at 7pm. Whether you choose to come dressed for a cruise on the high seas or not is optional!



Tickets now on sale from the Parish Office.

➤ **Mothers' Union Notice**



Have you heard about Herts Connected?

Want to find out more?

Then come along to our MU Meeting on Tuesday 17th September at 2.00pm in Church House.

A member of East Herts Police is coming to talk

about it. Please try and come - there will be tea and cake. Everyone is welcome.

➤ **GDPR**

GDPR renewal is due, therefore we will be requiring everyone to re-sign permissions. Forms will be sent out via email or hard copies will be available at the back of church.

➤ Save the Date

Festival of Light – Saturday 30th November
Christmas Tree Festival – Saturday 7th & 8th December

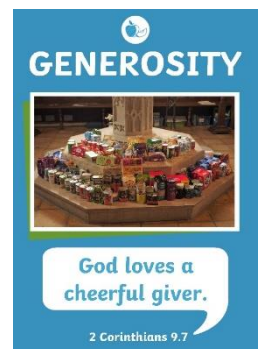


➤ News from our associated CoE School in Spellbrook

Mr Fisher – our Headteacher – writes:

We have just started to learn about our value for this half term, 'generosity'. We have reflected on what we remember from two years ago, when we last focused on this value and many children remember our part in a Food Bank contribution that was collected at Great St Mary's

Church. We have used this on our Value Poster. Others have recalled the funds that we collected last year through a sponsored event to enable three children to attend the Shiksha Rath After School Project in Delhi, India. We are delighted to be able to provide support for others and are looking forwards to finding more about these children and the impact of this expression of generosity.



Meanwhile, this week the children in Y1 have been enjoying learning outside. Having just moved up from Reception, they still benefit from a very practical and more informal approach to their learning.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Mr Fisher



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

Content for the Newsletter

If you have a notice for the Friday Email, please contact Angela Kenny in the Parish Office by Wednesday lunchtime.

➤ Contact us

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Website:

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Facebook:

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

YouTube:

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

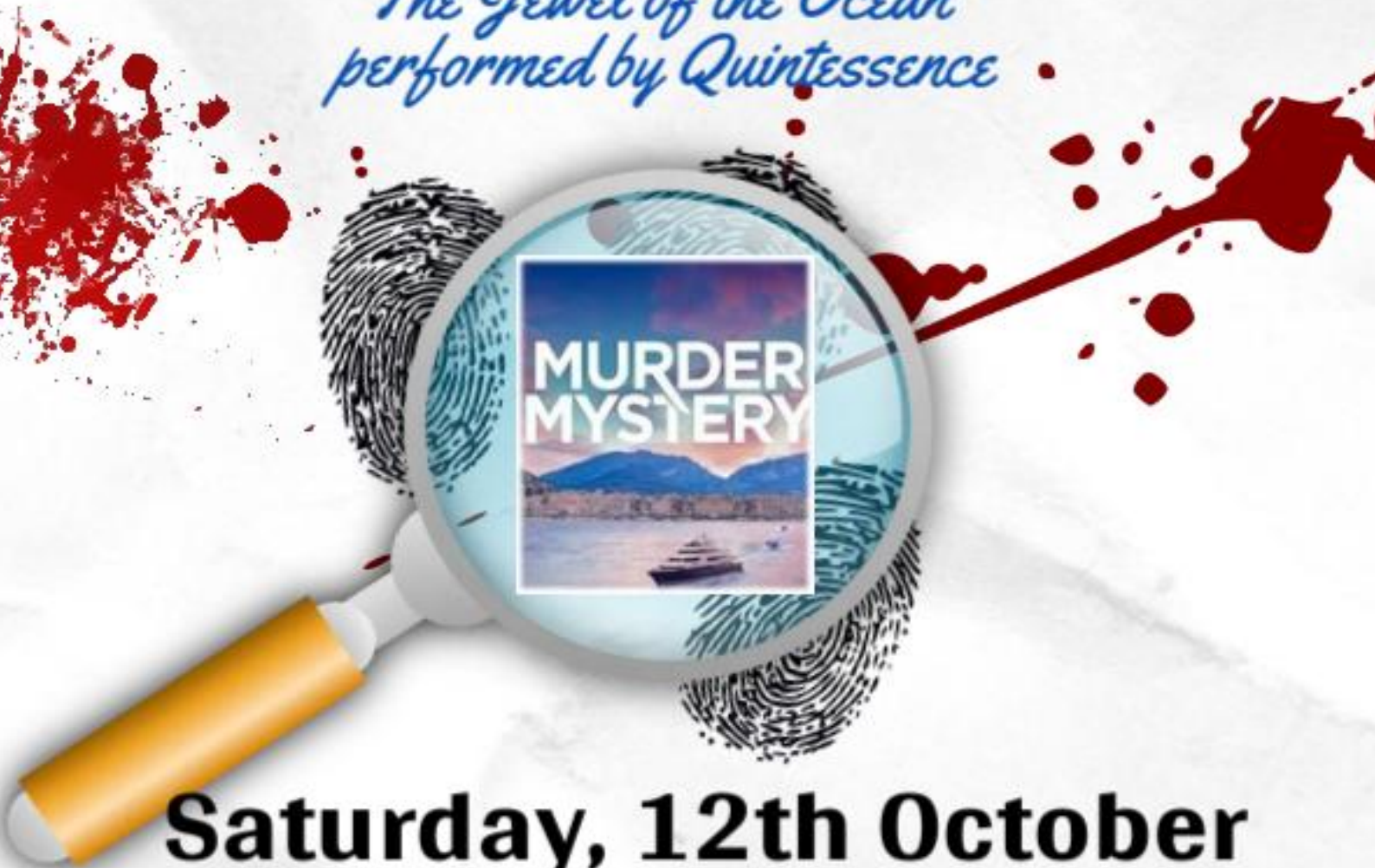


Great St Mary's
Sawbridgeworth

Passion for Christ - Compassion for all

MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT

*'The Jewel of the Ocean'
performed by Quintessence*



**Saturday, 12th October
at Church House
Embarkation at 7pm**

*Tickets £15 pp
includes welcome drink and ploughmans
Available from the Parish Office*



Great St Mary's
Sawbridgeworth

Passion for Christ - Compassion for all

*Mustard Seed -
our monthly
short, informal
service
with crafts and
activities*



*Followed by a
party tea for
children
and hot
refreshments for
grown-ups.*

**Why not join us at 4pm
on the following
third Sundays of the month?**

2024

20th October

17th November

15th December





GDPR Consent

Your privacy is important to us and we would like to communicate with you about our church and its activities. To do so, we need your consent. Please fill in your name, address and other contact information below and confirm your consent by ticking the boxes below. Please return the completed form either by email to office@sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk, or by post to the Parish Office address shown below, you can also withdraw your consent at any time, please contact the Parish Office. You can find out more information about how we use your personal data by reading our privacy notice on our website.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone/Mobile Number: _____

I consent to the church contacting me by: email post by mobile/landline

Please confirm your consent below:

- To keep me informed about future and relevant services at Great St Mary's
- To keep me informed about general news, events and activities at Great St Mary's
- I consent to using photographs and/or video recordings of me taken by the church or by persons or organisations authorised on behalf of the church for the purposes of internally and externally promoting the church.
- I hereby give permission for my child, name: _____ to be photographed/filmed by the Great St Mary's. Consent is hereby given for the photograph/filmed material to be used by Great St Mary's and to promote on its website.

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____

Please note that all processing of your personal data will cease once you have withdrawn consent, other than where this is required by law, but this will not affect any personal data that has already been processed prior to this point.

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