



THE FRIDAY EMAIL

Friday 25th October 2024

Friday Thought from Di Kitson:

Dear Friends,

Last Monday, 59 children came from the Fawbert & Barnard School for a tour of the church and to also talk about the meaning of Harvest Festival and why we celebrate it in the church. We talked about the font and the big oak door that is used at present as the main entrance to the church. I also brought attention to the brass regarding Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and Corporal Joseph Vick, who was in the Crimean War and survived, who came to live in the village and his grave is in the churchyard. The Leventhorpe Tomb was of great interest as well. It was a delight to have the children in the church and to tell them some history of the building, of which there is so much to impart. The children were all very interested and asked many questions. I do hope that they will come again so that I may share some more of the history of our magnificent building with them all.



This week we celebrate The Feast of Dedication. If you are Jewish, I would be saying "Happy Hanukka" to you. It is a Jewish festival, the same as the festival of lights, where people visit the Temple in Jerusalem.

Every day, we are constantly bombarded with news filled with tragedy and every news story has a sad note to it, buy this or buy that, and one gets the feeling we are not in control of our own lives anymore.

In our reading from St John's Gospel we hear the crowds wanting Jesus to prove to them who he actually is. They need some authentication from him but instead of that he turns the question around. 'My sheep hear my voice, and I know my sheep and they follow me, and I give them eternal life'. So unless we are listening out for that voice we won't be able to follow him and therefore not be one of his sheep. Jesus at the beginning of his ministry and gathering his disciples said to each of them, 'Come follow me!' Even after his resurrection and he was at the table, he repeats his words again. 'Come follow me!' When we hear him, we follow him as he says to each of us 'You hear my voice. I know you, and you follow me. I give you eternal life, and you will never perish, for no one will take you from me!' Once we belong to Christ we are his forever, Jesus offers this promise to us today as he did to his followers over 2,000 years ago. Come follow me!

Amen.

Di Kitson

Genesis 28:11-18:

He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set.
Taking one of the stones of the place,
he put it under his head and lay down in that place.
And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth,
the top of it reaching to heaven;
and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.
And the Lord stood beside him and said,
'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac;
the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring;
and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth,
and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the
south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.
Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go,
and will bring you back to this land;
for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.'
Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said,
'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!
And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place!
This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'
So Jacob rose early in the morning,
and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar
and poured oil on the top of it.

Psalm 122:

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'
Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together.
To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
For there the thrones for judgement were set up,
the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

'May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls,

and security within your towers.'

For the sake of my relatives and friends

I will say, 'Peace be within you.'

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,

I will seek your good.

John 10:22-29:

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem.

It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon.

So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.'

Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe.

The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me;

but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep.

My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.

No one will snatch them out of my hand.

What my Father has given me is greater than all else,

and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.

The collect for this Sunday

Almighty God,

to whose glory we celebrate the dedication

of this house of prayer:

we praise you for the many blessings

you have given to those who worship you here:

and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find

you,

and, being filled with the Holy Spirit,

may become a living temple acceptable to you;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

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: Revd Sue Stillwell

❖ Preacher: Revd Sue Stillwell

❖ Reader: Jane Johnson

- ❖ Intercessions: Sandie Aberly
- ❖ Processional: Through all the changing scenes of life (Tune: Wiltshire)
- ❖ Gradual: Thine for ever! God of love (Tune: Newington)
- ❖ Offertory: I bind unto myself today (Tune: St Patrick/Gartan)
- ❖ Communion: God moves in a mysterious way (Tune: London New)
- ❖ Choir Motet: Teach me, O Lord (Music: Thomas Attwood)
- ❖ Recessional: Immortal love forever full (Tune: Bishopsthorpe)

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 Scottish Episcopal Church
- ❖ In the Diocesan cycle of prayer for the people and parish of Aldenham, St Albans
- ❖ In our Deanery cycle of prayer for the parish and people of 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:	Brook Road, Buttersweet Rise & Merefield
Monday:	Northfield Road & Edens Mount
Tuesday:	Knight Street & Knights Court
Wednesday:	Hedgerows & Sappers Close
Thursday:	Spellbrook
Friday:	Station Road, River Court & The Maltings
Saturday:	Walnut Cottages, Barn Court & Trojan Terrace

For the sick, tired, and bereaved, including:

Sue Adams, Angela Alder, Pam Brown, Jeanette Dedman, Rachael Dineen, Elsa Duce, Jimmy Galvin, John Ireland, Georgina King, Douglas Rose, Jackie White, Mark White.

For those who have died, including:

- ❖ Bryan Corbey RIP

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

- ❖ Ronald Griffiths RIP (29th October)
- ❖ David Needham RIP (30th October)
- ❖ Maurice Jones RIP (1st November)
- ❖ Margaret Leighton RIP (1st November)
- ❖ Fred Johnson RIP (2nd November)

*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:

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| ❖ Sun 27th October
<i>Feast of Dedication</i> | 9.30am | Parish Eucharist (CW)
<i>Followed by refreshments in Church House</i> |
| ❖ Wed 30 th October | 10.00am | Midweek Service of the Word |
| ❖ Sunday 3rd November
<i>Feast of All Saints</i> | 9.30am | Parish Eucharist (CW)
<i>Followed by refreshments in Church House</i> |
| | 3.00pm | <i>All Souls' Memorial Service</i>
<i>Followed by refreshments in Church House</i> |
| ❖ Wed 6 th November | 10.00am | Midweek Service of the Word |
| ❖ Sunday 10th November
<i>Third before Advent</i> | 9.30am | Parish Eucharist (CW)
<i>Followed by refreshments in Church House</i> |
| | 3.00pm | <i>Civic Remembrance Service</i> |

➤ **All Souls' Memorial Service – Next Sunday at 3pm**

Next Sunday will be our annual All Souls' Memorial Service when we'll gather to remember our loved ones who have died. There will be an opportunity to hold them in our thoughts and prayers, and to light a candle in their memory. The service will be followed by an opportunity to talk more in Church House over light refreshments. If you intend to be at the service and would like the name of a loved one prayed for by name, please put their details on one of the slips of paper to be found at the back of church and place it in the blue box.



➤ **DEC Appeal**



**DISASTERS
EMERGENCY
COMMITTEE**

Over the past year, conflict in the Middle East is devastating lives. Millions of people across Gaza, Lebanon and the wider region urgently need shelter, food and basic supplies.

Save lives. Donate now.

[Please give: Middle East Humanitarian Appeal \(dec-emergency.org.uk\)](https://dec-emergency.org.uk)

➤ **Churchyard Working Party – tomorrow at 9.30am**

If you are able to join Chris tomorrow, he would be most appreciative of your support. All welcome from 9.30am, with thanks in advance.



➤ **Clocks go back – this Sunday, 27th October**



A reminder that daylight saving ends at 2am this Sunday, don't forget to move your clocks back one hour.

➤ **Lifeline Romania and Chesterfords Aid**

Can you help? There is a lorry planned to take goods to Romania in November 2024. Suggested donations of: shopping bags, rucksacks, holdalls, beddings (single & double sets), boots/shoes, clothes for adults and children (all sizes). A full comprehensive list can be found on the church noticeboard in the porch.



If you need further information, please contact:

Roger & Marvyn Amos

Tel: 01279 723934

Email: rogerandmarvyn@gmail.com

➤ **Help Wanted!**

Festival of Light



Friday 29th November

Help required from 6.45pm-7.45pm to move furniture from the Church into storage (and back again after event.)

Saturday 30th November

Help required to set up the church with the candles and lanterns from 10.30am onwards. Help also required at the event to welcome people to the church and help sell refreshments outside.

Christmas Tree Festival

Thursday 5th December 9am-6pm & Friday 6th December 9am - 8pm

Help needed to welcome participants and their trees to the church.

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th December

Help in the church for welcoming and watching and also in Church House (refreshments /tombolas/Father Christmas).

Donations of Cake will also be welcomed!



Gazebo

Does anyone have a 2m x 2m Gazebo (including roof) that we could use to accommodate Father Christmas over the weekend? (Would be needed on Friday to prepare his grotto).

➤ **Safeguarding at Great St Mary's**



The Church of England introduced its new National Safeguarding Standards last year and parishes have certain obligations to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. The PCC is required to review its safeguarding policies and processes every year, and to display these in church and on our website. I am the Parish Safeguarding Officer and Hazel Mead is our deputy PSO; you may have seen our pictures on display so that you know who

we are if you need to speak to us. Safeguarding is, however, the responsibility of everyone at Great St Mary's. In Jesus's name we all look out for each other.

At a recent meeting the PCC agreed a new Safeguarding Policy and Volunteer Code of Conduct. We have a new safeguarding noticeboard at the back of church near the font where you can find documents relating to safeguarding including our Safeguarding Policy. We also display information in the porch.

I will be giving all volunteers a copy of the new Code of Conduct, CofE Code of Safer Working Practice and the Safeguarding Pocket Guide. The latter tells you what to do if you have a concern about a child, young person or adult within the church. These documents are not only designed to help you identify when there is a problem, but also to keep you safe as someone who so generously gives of your time and talents.

Jane Johnson

➤ News from our associated CoE School in Spellbrook

Mr Fisher – our Headteacher – writes:



At the end of last week, after a period of miserable weather, we finally saw an end to the rain and the children in Year 2 were able to have their Scooterbility lesson. Sarah Elliott, the Sustainable Travel Officer from Hertfordshire County Council, led a great session for the children helping them to develop understanding and start to develop the habits that will help to keep them safe whilst being out and about on scooters.

They learned:

- How to scoot safely
- How to stop using the back brake
- How to avoid and go around things on the pavement
- Look carefully
- What to do when crossing roads
- Stop at the other side and wait for your adult
- Check with your adult when to go



It was an enjoyable session and is an annual part of our sustainable travel activities in school. The children learned a lot of useful skills and hopefully over half term will have more opportunities to put this into practice.

Have a lovely weekend and half term,

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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anthony@sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk

Gilly Squire (Churchwarden)

gilly@sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk

Di Kitson (Lay Minister)

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01279 723212

Angela Kenny (Parish Administrator)

office@sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk

Office hours: Tues to Friday 9am-1pm

01279 726629

Jane Johnson (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

safeguarding@sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk

07808 684357

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'



Great St Mary's
Sawbridgeworth

Passion for Christ - Compassion for all

ALL SOULS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

*Remembering our loved ones
with gratitude*

*Our annual opportunity to gather
and remember those who have died,
and to light a candle in their memory*

Sunday 3rd November
3pm

**Followed by light refreshments
in Church House**

