



**THE FRIDAY EMAIL**  
**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Friday Thought from Di Kitson:**



Dear Friends,

It doesn't seem possible that we are celebrating the beginning of a new liturgical year this Sunday and that we will be lighting our first Advent Candle. A time shared together which is filled with expectancy.

This week's readings speak of justice and triumph. We read and hear of wars and cruelty in our world, some of which some have had first-hand experience of. Sometimes it seems an never ending series of cruelty being served on people. Yet running through our reading for Advent Sunday is a clear, bright theme of strong exhilarating hope, which we can grab hold of and make our own.

Advent as we all know, is a time of reflection – our waiting for the re-birth of Christ into our lives, our families and our church and of course the world. As we continue through Advent, let it be a time of reflection and preparation as we once again prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ into our lives.

As a preparation, the church will be open to all to share in the magnificent show of lights which will light up our Chancel area. This is the third year that Great St Mary's has put on this wonderful event and it is certainly worth seeing. You will also be able to light a candle in memory of a loved one. The magnificence of those thousand lights celebrates that the light of the world is coming and that we must be ready to receive him into our lives and share his love with others. Please do take time to come and see the beauty and wonder of this day.

The following weekend is our Christmas Tree Festival, where many organisations, shops and offices will be decorating a Christmas tree to celebrate their shop, business or club/organisation. A time to celebrate and walk around the church to see and note the enormous trouble that people have gone to, to make our church look so beautiful at such a special time of the year in the church calendar. The Community Christmas tree that is annually given by a family in memory of their loved ones will be available for you to write a note and put on the tree and a decoration of which there are many provided to remember your loved one.

Do come along, I look forward to meeting you at Great St. Mary's.

*Di Kitson*

## ➤ READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

### **Jeremiah 33:14-16:**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

### **Psalm 25:1-9:**

Of David.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right,

and teaches the humble his way.

### **Luke 21:25-36:**

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

### **The collect for the this Sunday**

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him 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 Eucharist which is also live-streamed**

- ❖ President: Revd Canon Lindsay Dew
- ❖ Preacher: Revd Canon Lindsay Dew
- ❖ Reader: Fay Clark
- ❖ Intercessions: Julie Patterson
- ❖ Sunday Club: Gilly Squire
- ❖ Processional: The advent of our King (Tune: St Thomas)
- ❖ Gradual: Creator of the starry height (Tune: Conditor Alme)
- ❖ Offertory: Tis good, Lord, to be here (Tune: Carlisle)
- ❖ Communion: The son of God his glory hides (Tune: This Endris Nyght)
- ❖ Choir Motet: People look east (Music: Archer)
- ❖ Recessional: Lo, he comes with clouds descending (Tune: Helmsley)

## 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 Anglican Church of Kitale (Kenya)
- ❖ In the Diocesan cycle of prayer for the people and parish of Christchurch, Watford
- ❖ In our Deanery cycle of prayer for the parish and people of Hockerill, Bishop's Stortford
- ❖ For those being martyred or persecuted for their Christian faith



[\(https://releaseinternational.org/\)](https://releaseinternational.org/)

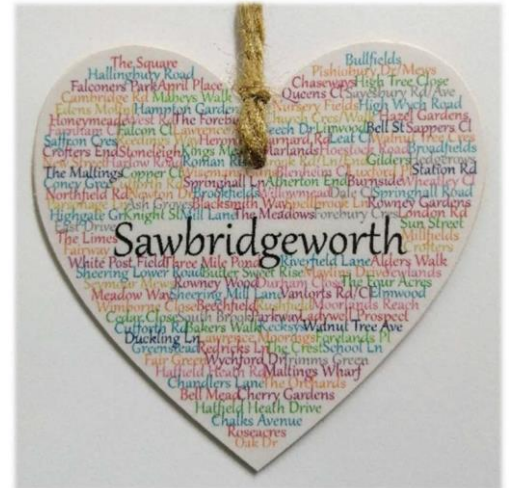
### For our world:

- ❖ 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:	Reedings Way, Kecksy's & Queens Close
Monday:	Leat Close, Mill Lane & Burtons Mill
Tuesday:	London Road, Farriers, Kings Head Court & The Smithy
Wednesday:	Willow Court, Maylins Drive, The Drive & The Maples
Thursday:	Springhall Road & Willow Mead
Friday:	New Street, The Orchards & Spinney Court
Saturday:	Pishiobury Drive, Pishiobury Mews & Seymour Mews

## For the sick, tired, and bereaved, including:

Sue Adams, Angela Alder, June Allen, Pam Brown, Linda Bowler, Jeanette Dedman, Rachael Dineen, Elsa Duce, Jeanette Ehlers, Jimmy Galvin, Jill Howard, John Ireland, Georgina King, Jackie White, Mark White.

## For those that have died, including:

- ❖ Jane Frazer RIP
- ❖ Julie Argent RIP
- ❖ Brigid Trillo-Blanco RIP

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

- ❖ Colin Griffiths RIP (4<sup>th</sup> Dec)
- ❖ Hilda Crossley RIP (5<sup>th</sup> Dec)
- ❖ David Bowler RIP (5<sup>th</sup> Dec)
- ❖ Mervyn Riches RIP (5<sup>th</sup> Dec)



*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:

- ❖ **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 3-6.30pm Festival of Light**  
*Great St Mary's is lit with candles for an immersive experience as the town's Christmas lights are switched on. Refreshments available*
  
- ❖ **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 9.30am Parish Eucharist (CW)**  
*Advent Sunday*  
*Followed by refreshments in Church House*
- ❖ **5.00pm Advent Carol Service**
  
- ❖ **Wed 4<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am Midweek Service of the Word**
  
- ❖ **Sat 7<sup>th</sup> December 9am-5pm Christmas Tree Festival**  

  - 10-12pm **Father Christmas in the Church House grotto**  
*With refreshments and tombola*
  - 1-3pm **Father Christmas in the Church House grotto**  
*With refreshments and tombola*
  
- ❖ **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 8.00am Service of the Word**  
*Second Sunday of Advent*
- ❖ **9.30am Parish Eucharist (CW)**  
*Followed by refreshments in Church House*
- ❖ **11am-5pm Christmas Tree Festival**
- ❖ **3.00pm Christingle Service**
  
- ❖ **Wed 11<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am Midweek Service of the Word**

➤ **Festival of Light – tomorrow – 3pm to 6.30pm**



Several thousand people will be in town tomorrow afternoon to witness the switching on of the town's Christmas lights. Many of those people will also come into Great St Mary's to explore our Festival of Light when we not only light the church with hundreds of candles but when we'll have the opportunity to appreciate the many lanterns which children in the schools and have been making and decorating. Please do come along and enjoy the atmosphere and have a mulled wine or hot drink!

A big thank you to all those of you who have already committed some of your time to helping to set up, welcome members of the public, or tidy up afterwards. If anybody else happens to be free, do pop by and enter into the spirit.

➤ **Advent Carol Service – this Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December – 5pm**

This Sunday we'll be marking the beginning of the new Church year and the start of our preparations for Christmas with our annual candlelit Advent Carol Service - a musical extravaganza from the choir, with all the wonderful Advent hymns to sing too. It's always one of the most special services of the year, so do come along.



➤ **Annual revision of Year's Mind list**



Every year, we update our Year's Mind document which lists the names of our dearly departed ones who are included each week in the intercession section of this Friday Email and whose names are, on the appropriate Sunday, read out in memoriam at our services. If your departed loved one is already on our Year's Mind list and has been remembered this past year, they will remain on the list. However, if you would like to add a name, please complete a blue form and place it in the box at the back of church, and a box in which to place the forms.

➤ **Friends of Great St Mary's, Christmas Cards on Sale**

Di is selling Christmas cards for the Friends of Great St Mary's, featuring a picture of GSM with the Northern lights in the background, they are £6.50 for 10 cards. 2025 calendars also on sale for £10. If you are interested please see Di in church or contact her via telephone on 01279 723212.

➤ **News from our associated CoE School in Spellbrook**



*Mr Fisher – our Headteacher – writes:*

Last week, Ruby Class (Nursery and Reception) had a wonderful experience in our woods. On a cold morning what could be more fun than sitting in the woods with your friends watching the flames dancing on a bonfire, singing ten fat sausages, having a chance to hold and make shapes with your own sparkler and then eating toasted marshmallows? As a four or five year old, probably not a lot.

When one of the children said this is the best day ever, I think he really meant it. At least until the next exciting experience comes along. They had a super time, and their excellent behaviour made it easy for the adults to ensure it was calm, safe and thoroughly enjoyable. This has become a Ruby Class annual tradition and, thanks to the help of our site manager, is one I hope continues long into the future giving the children a great experience and some lovely memories.



Have a good 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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Facebook:

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for '[Great St Mary's, Sawbridgeworth](#)'

YouTube:

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for '[Great St Mary's, Sawbridgeworth](#)'



## *Christmas at Great St Mary's*

### **Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Dec at 5pm – Advent Carol Service**

*A candlelight service of Advent hymns and readings marking the beginning of our preparations for Christmas*

### **Sat 7<sup>th</sup> & Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Dec – Great St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival**

*The magic of Christmas will be on display as Great St Mary's host an array of Christmas trees decorated by the town's many organisations*

### **Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Dec onwards - Decorate the Community Christmas Tree**

*Bring your own decoration or use ours, perhaps to remember a loved one*

### **Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Dec at 3pm – Christingle Service**

*A fun all-age service with oranges, candles and Christmas carols*

### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec at 12noon – Advent Lunch**

*Enjoy a light lunch in Church House of homemade soup, cheeses, fruit and treats, all in aid of The Children's Society*

### **Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at 5pm - Christmas Carol Service**

*The traditional carol service followed by mulled wine and mince pies*

### **Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 3pm - Crib Service**

*A shorter, fun, all-age service, particularly suitable for young children*

### **Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Dec at 11.30pm - Midnight Mass**

*The first eucharist of Christmas with traditional carols*

### **Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Dec at 9.30am - Christmas Morning Eucharist**

*Dress as your favourite Bethlehem character for a scratch nativity and traditional carols*

***All are welcome to these or any  
of our other services and events***







# *Christmas*

## **TREE FESTIVAL**

**SAT 7<sup>th</sup> & SUN 8<sup>th</sup> DEC**  
**11am-5pm**

**ALSO**

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 10am-12pm & 1-3pm**

❖ **MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS**

❖ **SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS**

❖ **TOMBOLA**

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 3pm**

❖ **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

*Come, wander,  
and experience  
some of the  
magic of Christmas  
with all the family*





**Great St Mary's**  
Sawbridgeworth

*Passion for Christ - Compassion for all*

***Come join us for a delicious charity***

## ***ADVENT LUNCH***

***on SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER***

***12pm-2pm at Church House, Sawbridgeworth***

***Everybody welcome, just turn up!***



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**Homemade soup – Crusty bread – Cheeseboard – Festive treats**  
*Suggested donation £5 per head*

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**Don't miss our *AMAZING* raffle  
with *FANTASTIC* prizes!!!**

***EVERY PENNY WE RAISE WILL GO TO THE  
CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHARITY***