



## THE FRIDAY EMAIL

### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025



#### ➤ READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

##### **Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25:**

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone;

I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.' Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

### **Psalm 65:**

To the leader. A Psalm of David. A Song.

Praise is due to you,

O God, in Zion;

and to you shall vows be performed,

O you who answer prayer!

To you all flesh shall come.

When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,  
you forgive our transgressions.

Happy are those whom you choose and bring near  
to live in your courts.

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,  
your holy temple.

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,

O God of our salvation;

you are the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas.

By your strength you established the mountains;  
you are girded with might.

You silence the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves,  
the tumult of the peoples.

Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;  
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

You visit the earth and water it,  
you greatly enrich it;  
the river of God is full of water;  
you provide the people with grain,  
for so you have prepared it.  
You water its furrows abundantly,  
settling its ridges,  
softening it with showers,  
and blessing its growth.  
You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.  
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the hills gird themselves with joy,  
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy.

### **Luke 8:22-25:**

One day he got into a boat with his disciples,  
and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.'  
So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep.  
A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water,  
and they were in danger.  
They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!'  
And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves;  
they ceased, and there was a calm.  
He said to them, 'Where is your faith?'  
They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he  
commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'

### **The collect for the Second Sunday before Lent**

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth  
and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works  
and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,  
now and for ever.  
Amen



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

- ❖ President: Revd Tim Weeks
- ❖ Preacher: Revd Tim Weeks
- ❖ Reader: Andrew Passfield
- ❖ Intercessions: Huw Lewis
- ❖ Processional: Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
- ❖ Gradual: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation
- ❖ Offertory: Eternal Father, strong to save
- ❖ Communion: Be still, for the presence of the Lord
- ❖ Choir Motet: A Gaelic Blessing - Rutter
- ❖ Recessional: Thou, whose almighty word

## **INTERCESSIONS FOR THIS WEEK**

### **For the world-wide Church:**

- ❖ Bishop Alan - Bishop of St Albans
- ❖ Bishop Jane - Bishop of Hertford
- ❖ Archdeacon Janet of Hertford
- ❖ The Revd Gaz Tracey - Area Dean
- ❖ In the Anglican cycle of prayer for the Episcopal Church of Brazil
- ❖ In the Diocesan cycle of prayer for the people and parishes of Christchurch, Bedford
- ❖ In our Deanery cycle of prayer for the people of our own parish
- ❖ 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 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:	Newton Drive & Lowfield
Monday:	The Crest, Dale Court & High Tree Close
Tuesday:	Elmwood & Yewlands
Wednesday:	Roseacres & Trustwell Crescent
Thursday:	Brook Road, Bittersweet Rise & Merefield
Friday:	Northfield Road & Edens Mount
Saturday:	Knight Street & Knights Court

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

Sue Adams, Angela Alder, June Allen, Pam Brown, Linda Bowler, Patrick Copeard, Jeanette Dedman, Rachael Dineen, Elsa Duce, Jimmy Galvin, Tim Glover, Jill Howard, John Ireland, Georgina King, Paul O'Leary.

### For the recently departed:

- ❖ Richard Evans RIP

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

- ❖ David Passfield RIP (23<sup>rd</sup> Feb)
- ❖ Carol Battson RIP (24<sup>th</sup> Feb)
- ❖ Eric Este RIP (28<sup>th</sup> Feb)



*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:**

- ❖ **Sunday 23rd February**      **9.30am**      **Parish Eucharist**  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Before Lent*      *Followed by refreshments in Church House*
  
- ❖ *Wed 26th February*      *No Mid-Week Service*
  
- ❖ **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**      **9.30am**      **Parish Eucharist**  
*Sunday Next before Lent*      *Followed by refreshments in Church House*
  
- ❖ *Wed 5<sup>th</sup> March*      *No Mid-Week Service*  
*Ash Wednesday*      *8pm Sung Eucharist with imposition of ashes (CW)*
  
- ❖ **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March**      **9.30am**      **Parish Eucharist**  
*1<sup>st</sup> of Lent*      *Followed by refreshments in Church House*

### ➤ **Churchyard Working Party – tomorrow, 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

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



### ➤ **Outstanding Foodbank Donations**



As the cash machine was out of order last week, please can those folk who owe donations for items taken at the foodbank sale held on 7<sup>th</sup> February, please see Ann or Cathy.

➤ **World Day of Prayer – A service for everyone**

Please join us on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am at Most Holy Redeemer Church, Sayesbury Road. Everyone welcome to the service and refreshments afterwards.

➤ **Our Mission Giving**

During 2024 there was a marked shift from ad hoc giving to regular stewardship via standing order. Although the overall amount of donations was similar, it helps to have certainty of income. *A big thank you to all donors.*

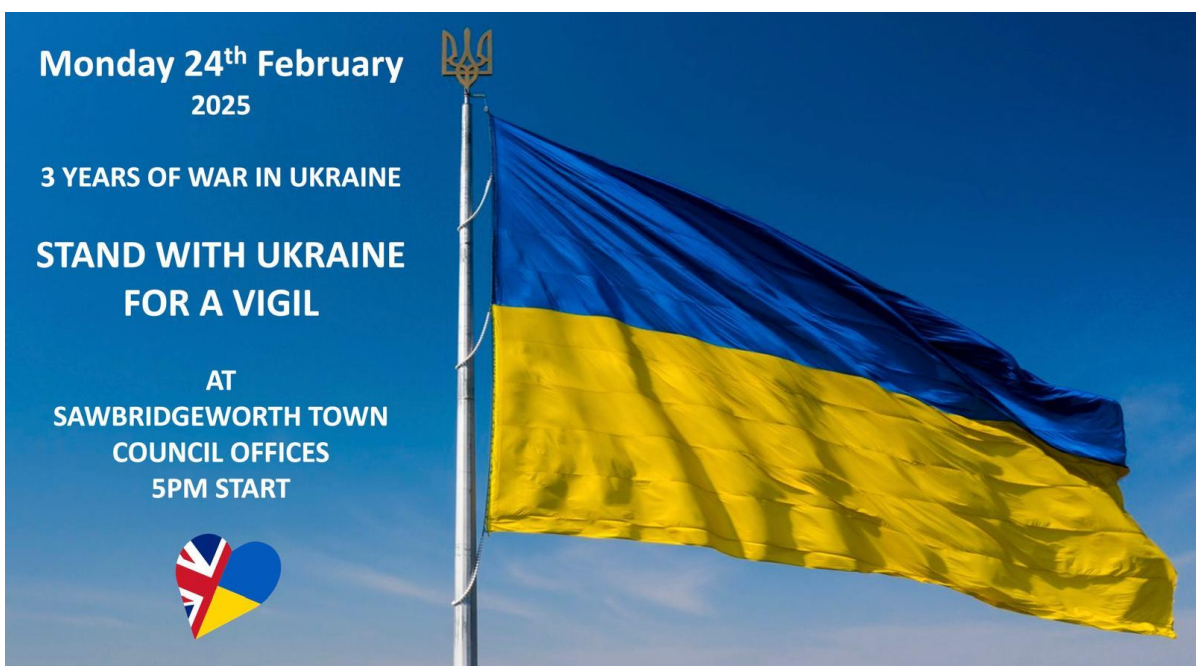
The shift has another impact, though. For many decades Great St Mary's has given to other charities, not only via special collections, but also out of the church's own coffers (mission giving). The total mission giving each year is currently 10% of the regular stewardship received in the previous year. The amount we must give in 2025 from 2024 stewardship is £4,900, a lot more than the £3,682 we gave in 2024.

The PCC wishes to maintain the church's long-standing practice of mission giving and has decided that mission giving in 2026, based on stewardship received this year, will be 7.5% (the level it was several years ago). This will mean that the actual amount we give will be similar to our giving in the past few years.

➤ **Re-imagining Update**

The Re-imagining Group hope you found the presentation insightful last week. If you would like a copy of the update, these are available at the back of church. There are also forms to complete to gauge feedback, please feel free to complete and leave in the blue box.

➤ **Ukraine Vigil**



## ➤ Conservation Work Update



Skillingtons have now finished their conservation work on the Hewytt Monument, on behalf of the Friends of Great St Mary's, please do go and admire the amazing job they have done.



## ➤ Jane Johnson's quiz in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust



It's quiz time again! You've all been kind enough to support Teenage Cancer Trust by buying one of my quizzes before, and the 2025 quiz is now ready. The total you have helped raise for TCT since my first quiz in 2013 now stands at over £15,000. Thank you!

The theme this year is food – just think of phrases, song titles, books, famous people, flowers etc that contain a word related to food. How about; couch potato, full of beans, a taste of honey, ham-fisted, bring home the bacon?

Please find below ways to buy a quiz for £2:

- From Jane at church
- Please send an SAE and cheque payable to Jane Johnson, Gable End, 5 Sayes Gardens, Sawbridgeworth, Herts CM21 9BL (07808-684357).
- Email [jane@timnjane.co.uk](mailto:jane@timnjane.co.uk).
- Pay via my fundraising page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tctquizjj>
- From Nisa in Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth (no contactless payments - cash or cheques payable to Jane Johnson only).

*Closing date for entries into the quiz is 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025.*

*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.

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