

## THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

### Regular Services

St Mary's: Sundays at 8am and 9.30am, Wednesdays at 10.30am

St Paul's: Sundays at 11.15am, Thursdays at 9.30am

### Notices

**New Team Administrator.** Last Monday Ali Smith joined us as our new Hemel Team Administrator. We are delighted to welcome Ali, who is known to so many of you. She will be working mostly from home but will also be in the Team Office for a couple of hours on Friday mornings, please make her welcome and remember that she – like us all – is on a learning journey!

**St Paul's Patronal Festival** will be at 4pm on the afternoon of January 25<sup>th</sup> when, as well as celebrating St Paul and St Paul's church, we will also say 'farewell and thank you' to Norma Howie and Sheila Neep. The Churchwardens are organising a suitable presentation which you can support via an envelope or bank transfer marked 'office farewell'. Bishop Rob will preside at this service.

**Secret Supper Club**, Burns Night Supper, will take place inside St Mary's on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 7pm. Three course traditional menu, piping in of the haggis, ode to the haggis, haggis, neeps and tatties (veggie option available), flambé of whisky, film. £35/head, details from Canon John, Penny or Sheila, bookings and payment via hotsecretsupperclub@gmail.com

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January** is Holocaust Memorial Day. Special Civic Service with the Worshipful Mayor and other dignitaries at 6pm at St Mary's. Theme for HMD 2026 is 'Bridging Generations'

### Diary

Thursday 7.30pm: Bell Ringing practice, St Mary's

Next Sunday: The Second Sunday of Epiphany. Intergenerational GTG meets at 11am in St Mary's Hall.

**St Mary's Churchwardens:** stmarychurchwarden@stmaryandstpaulhemel.org.uk

Rosamund Russell Tel: 01442 217754      Andrew Darby Tel: 01582 943200

**St Paul's Churchwarden:** stpaulchurchwarden@stmaryandstpaulhemel.org.uk

Gordon Gaddes Tel: 07561 450633      Rosina Gaddes Tel: 07720 897037

**Team Rector:** The Revd Canon John Williams:

Tel: 07522 504087 vicar@stmaryandstpaulhemel.org.uk

**Team Clergy:**

St Albans, Warners End: The Revd Pete Stevenson Tel: 01442 251897 rev\_pete@onetel.com

St Barnabas, Adeyfield: The Revd Matt Renyard Tel: 0749 355742: revmattrenyard@gmail.com

The COR, Grovehill & Woodhall Farm: The Revd Austin Janes Tel: 01442 270585: revaustin@sky.com

**Team Office:**

Ali Smith Tel: 07901 359117 admin@stmaryandstpaulhemel.org.uk

**Newsletter:** News to the Team Rector by last thing on Wednesday.

**Payments:** Cheques should be made payable to "St Mary and St Paul PCC".

*The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary and St Paul, Hemel Hempstead, Reg. Charity 1130644*

## READINGS & PRAYERS

### COLLECT

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;  
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.**

## FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

*Acts 10.34–43*

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius.

'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all.'

That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

Alleluia.

## GOSPEL

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. *Matthew 3.13–17*

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?'

But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented.

And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## COMMUNION ANTIphon

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

## POST COMMUNION

Lord of all time and eternity,  
you opened the heavens  
and revealed yourself as Father  
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:  
by the power of your Spirit  
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth  
through the waters of the new creation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**