



## All Saints' Church

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## Sunday 14th January

### 10 am Holy Communion led by Revd John Kirkby

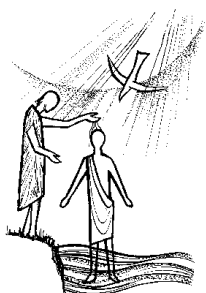
### 4pm Messy Church

#### Readings

Revelation 5 vv 1-10  
John 1 vv 43-end

#### Hymns

113 O worship the King  
155 Come Holy Ghost  
593 Lord enthroned  
228 Hail to the Lords anointed



Dear All Saints',

Firstly, I think its worth recognising that it was a good service last Sunday with Bishop Alan. It was a privilege to be able to share the service with him and I know many of you appreciated him visiting.

I would also like to say thank you to all of you who have given money for me to take out to Ghana. It looks as though there will be a really good amount for me to take with me and I know the Ghanaians will be very grateful. I fly to Ghana on Monday and will return in the early morning of 26th. Looking at the itinerary, we will be spending time in Accra, the capital city, visiting an orphanage there and the Methodist Conference Office. We will then travel to Sekondi/Takoradi further along the coast where we shall visit a school and Cape Coast Castle which was used in the days of slavery. I'm told that that can be an emotional visit. The third area we will visit is in the north of Ghana where we will visit Methodist churches and circuits there. It certainly looks

as though it will be an interesting trip and I am intrigued to see how I get on - it will be very different to anything I have done before, but a good reminder that we are part of the worldwide church and so in many ways, I am going to visit family.

This Sunday's readings take us into the Gospel of John and the intriguing story of Nathanael's meeting with Jesus. As I was reading the passage this week, I particularly noticed Nathanael's response to being told that Jesus comes from Nazareth. "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" he asks. We don't know why Nathanael has a problem with Nazareth, but it made me think about how often God meets us in unexpected places. In the rubble of a bombed out city, in a stranger, in a chance encounter, or even on a cross, Jesus meets us. At the beginning of a service I sometimes find myself saying 'Let us come into the presence of God' and then have to tell myself off, because we are always in the presence of God. Even in the most unlikely of places, God is there and has been there before us and will continue to be there when we leave.

The Old Testament passage comes from the beginning of 1 Samuel and tells the story of God's calling of Samuel. You will probably remember that he is lying down in the temple when he hears his name being called. He initially believes that it is his master Eli calling, but when it happens another two times, Eli realises that it is God calling to Samuel and instructs him to say 'Speak Lord, for your servant is listening' and God speaks to him. It's also worth noting the words at the beginning of the passage "the word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread." There was no expectation that God would speak. Are we expecting to hear God speak? and if he does, are we ready to listen?

The epistle reading takes us into 1 Corinthians and Paul's thinking about the value of the body which he describes as the temple of the Holy Spirit within you. What difference might it make to our lives if we were to truly understand what that means?

Blessings,  
Rachael

**Morning Prayer** at 9am and **Eucharist** at 9.30am continue on Tuesday mornings.  
**Evening Prayer** is on Fridays at 4pm.

**"Coffee, Chat and Toddlers"** is on **Tuesday mornings**. Everyone of any age is welcome to drop in to the hall anytime between 10 - 11am.

**Peace candle:** we are going to continue to light the peace candle, which we lit along with the candles in the Advent ring, until Candlemas. Along with the candle there is a picture the nativity set among the rubble which is in the Lutheran church in Bethlehem. As we light the candle we remember our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land and across the world who suffer because of war and violence and we pray for an end to hostilities.

**Newsletter:** Our next issue will come out just before Lent, so please could you write something about Lent for our newsletter. It could be about something you did during a previous Lent – a book you read which excited you, something you did or gave up, which you found rewarding. OR it could be about your hopes and plans for this year's Lent – a new book you plan to read, something new you plan to do. Ash Wednesday is on February 14th. OR, of course, we would love to have some articles on other topics – holidays, expeditions, ponderings, book reviews, etc. Thank you! Chris Billington

The next **Zoom Compline** service, led by Ruth Treves Brown, will be on **Thursday 18th January** at 8.45pm.

Everyone is very welcome and the Zoom link is below:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77848924020?pwd=PsxubExsvWChZZBWGbjux1DLNs3M5h.1>

Meeting ID: 778 4892 4020

Passcode: 0AGe1B

We were sorry to hear this week that Margaret Field passed away on Thursday morning. Margaret was a member of the church during her time in Berkhamsted and before her move to a home in Norfolk. Please remember her family in your prayers at this sad time.

**Date for your diary:** Easter is early this year and **Ash Wednesday** falls on **14th February**. There will be a short service at 12 noon followed by a light lunch to which everyone is welcome. Donations will go to Christian Aid.

## Prayer Requests:

For: Leslie; Ray and Jean Emsall; Margaret Harding; Sue Danbury; Penny Perry; Barbara and Alan Conway; for Margaret Field, who has died, and her family and friends;

We pray for our neighbours throughout the world whose lives have been changed by recent events, praying particularly for all those impacted by the conflict in Israel-Palestine;

We pray too for those who are caught up in war in other parts of the world, including Sudan and Ukraine;

We pray for those who are injured or lost loved ones or homes due to the recent earthquake in Japan;

We also pray for:

Our political leaders;

All who are refugees, especially those who are not receiving help to rebuild their lives in safety;

We pray that the issue of climate change may not be forgotten and all the nations may act to secure the safety of our world;

Nearer to home we pray for:

Those who struggle to provide sufficient food for their family;

the children and their families of our church and town;

all who work in the NHS; Social Services and the charities who are supporting the sick or frail;

We also pray for those who are helped by Karibuni Children; the Leprosy Mission; Phakamisa, DENS; the Way Inn with Open Door and for all those who work in these organisations.

We continue to pray for those whose need is ongoing: Paul Sear and his wife, Peggy; Marnie Taylor; Tara Ginn; Julia Wright; Corinne & William; Julie Murdock; Gary Andersen; Charlie; Chris Billington; Graham Rule; Clare Hancock; Heather Gifford; John Malcolm; Betty Harding; Valerie Ruddock; Jenny Wells; Jonathan and Ann Hayes; Martin Turner; Catherine Treves Brown; Sue Judd; Madeleine Brownell;

