



All Saints' Church

Minister: Revd Rachael Hawkins

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Sunday 28th January

10 am Holy Communion led by Revd Rachael Hawkins

Covenant Service

Readings

Exodus 24 vv 3-11
Jeremiah 31 vv 31-34
Mark 14 vv 22-25

Hymns

STF 83 Praise my soul, the King of heaven
STF 673 Will you come and follow me
STF 549 Come let us use the grace divine
STF 594 Lord Jesus Christ
STF 563 O Jesus, I have promised

Dear All Saints',

Thank you for your prayers while I have been on my travels. They have been gratefully appreciated. I arrived back very early on Friday morning and am still recovering! I hope to give a short insight into the trip on Sunday morning and am thinking about doing a full presentation one Sunday afternoon soon. I'm sure that there will also be many stories appearing in sermons over the next few months. It's been a fantastic experience and has certainly been thought provoking. We were warmly welcomed by the Ghanaians and they really appreciated the gifts that we were able to give which included laptops, drums and brass instruments, chairs and a photocopier. We visited an orphanage, 2 schools, Methodist headquarters, 2 village chiefs and several churches. There was a lot that was very different, but there was also a sense of unity with all the Methodists that we met and it was really good to see their energy and pride in the church and their desire to serve God.

Many of you will be reading this on Saturday which is Holocaust Memorial Day. One of the most emotional moments of our trip to Ghana was visiting Cape Coast Castle which was used in the slave trade. To hear the stories of the horrendous way that these people were treated was very sobering. It is difficult to remember that we did not learn our lesson and that this was followed by the Holocaust and that there have been other genocides since, with some arguing that it is happening in Gaza today. Cape Coast Castle was however, also a place of hope. A plaque on the wall says this: "In everlasting memory of the anguish of our ancestors. May those who died rest in peace. May those who return find their roots, may humanity never again perpetrate such injustice against humanity. We, the living vow to uphold this." The people who placed that plaque have now died, but their vow comes down to us. We have our differences, but we share so much as humans. Every human is a child of God and deserves respect. It is so important that we show that in the way we live our lives day by day.

On Sunday we have our Covenant service as we renew our covenant with God. As we prepare for that service, I've printed below the words of the covenant prayer that we will be saying. What do those words mean to you as you come to this service this year?

Blessings,
Rachael

I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things, wherever you may place me,
in all that I do and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me and when there is none;
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.
Your will be done
when I am valued and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;
when I have all things, and when I have nothing.
I willingly offer
all I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose.

Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
May it be so for ever.
Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.

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.

Friendship Club meets on Tuesday afternoons. This week will be a bake and taste evening.

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.

Zoom Compline: the next service will be on **Thursday 1st February** at 8.45pm. Everyone is welcome and the Zoom link is below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78366756378?pwd=UTiVi8OczNREp24z2fNzIzNI9C2AvA.1>

Meeting ID: 783 6675 6378

Passcode: 1y9Utd

From the Church Administrator:

As you would have seen from previous notices, I started work at the start of the month. My part-time (10 hours a week) position entails assisting Rachael with the church administration (Safeguarding; Risk Assessments, GDPR; Church Council minutes etc.) as well as helping with the administration of the building maintenance. In addition, I will be taking over the hall lettings and the setting of the heating from February. I usually work on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, but this is flexible. My contact email is:

allsaintsberkhamsted@outlook.com

If you have any queries, please see me at church or send an email. David Pain

This year's service for the **World Day of Prayer** has been written by the women of Palestine. All are welcome to come and celebrate for Berkhamsted and surrounding villages at St Mary's Church, Northchurch at 12 noon on **Friday 1st March**. This year's theme is '*I beg you, bear with one another in love*'. Palestinians are a scattered population with over 12 million living all over the world. Estimates suggest that just over 5 million Palestinians currently reside in Palestine and Israel. There is a small Christian minority in this predominantly Muslim country, making up about 2% of the Palestinian population. If you would like to take part in this service please contact Peggy Sear on 01442 877341 or p.sear1925@gmail.com

Eco Hub - a new local group has been set up in Berkhamsted to help support the community adapt to greener and more planet-friendly choices. They meet on the first Sunday of the month (so the next meeting is on **4th February**) from 2.30 - 5pm at the Quaker Meeting House on the High Street. Each month has different speakers or activities - for details see their website <https://theecohub.org.uk/>

Date for your diary: Easter is early this year and **Ash Wednesday** falls on **14th February**. There will be a short service of Holy Communion 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;



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