



All Saints' Church

Minister: Revd Rachael Hawkins

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Sunday 19th May *Pentecost*

**10 am All Age Holy Communion
led by Revd Rachael Hawkins**

4pm Messy Church

Readings

Acts 2 vv 1-21

John 15 vv 26-27, 16:4b-15

Hymns

STF 372 - Come down, O Love divine

STF 383 - Holy Spirit, gift bestower

STF 394 - Spirit of God, unseen as the wind

STF 398 - There's a spirit in the air

Dear All Saints',



With the starting of the roof works I've been reflecting quite a bit on the church as a building, but this week we celebrate Pentecost, often known as the birthday of the church. Church in this context is clearly not the building, but the people, the community who gather week by week in worship. Birthdays are an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for a particular person, a day when we remember what they mean to us. As we celebrate Pentecost this week, perhaps it's an opportunity to celebrate what the church means to us, what we value about it.

From the first days of Christianity, Christians have gathered together. Jesus gave the example by gathering together his 12 disciples, and these and other disciples who followed Jesus during his life continued to gather after his death, his resurrection and his

ascension, praying together as they waited, as Jesus had told them to do. On the day of Pentecost with the coming of the Holy Spirit, Luke tells us in Acts that 3000 were added to their number and that “they devoted themselves to the apostle’s teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers”. We don’t do much different today - we continue to pray, to celebrate communion, to listen to the Bible readings and hear reflections on them and spend time socially together.

It’s one of the things that we may value about the church, that link with those who have gone before. For centuries, in all sorts of different ways, people have gathered as the church to pray, to share bread and wine, to read the Bible and reflect on it, to spend time together. We are their descendants and our inheritance is the rich variety of prayers, hymns, writings and reflections that we can access today, alongside the knowledge of their prayers for us and the world and our continued connection with them, the ‘communion of saints’ as it is often called.

We are also part of a worldwide church. As I have said before, it was one of the things that I really valued about my time in Ghana, that sense of connection with those in Ghana, through God, that we were brothers and sisters in Christ. We are part of one great big family that spreads across the world. Whenever I sing the hymn ‘The day thou gavest’ I am struck by the image of the voice of prayer that ‘is never silent, not dies the strain of praise away’. As each continent moves into daylight so prayers and praise continue as God’s people bring their worship. We are part of something so much bigger.

But we are also part of something much smaller, and perhaps the value of the church for you is focussed on the local and our church at All Saints. What do you value about All Saints? The people, the fellowship, the worship, the history, the music, the environment? Perhaps a mixture of several, perhaps something else. How could we celebrate what All Saints means to us?

Whatever comes into our minds when we think about ‘church’, we are here because the Holy Spirit joins us together, the Holy Spirit whose coming we celebrate at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit who sends us out of our church buildings to share the good news of God’s kingdom with the world. We gather, but we are then sent, not in our own power, but in the power of the Holy Spirit, to live and work to God’s praise and glory.

Blessings,
Rachael

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

“**Coffee, Chat and Toddlers**” runs on Tuesday mornings. Everyone of any age is welcome for coffee/tea/refreshments in the hall anytime from 10 - 11.15am.

Friendship Club meets on Tuesday afternoons. This week there will be a speaker from the Herts Hearing Advisory Service,

Messy Church - Revd Rachael is in need of about ten 2 litre plastic bottles for Messy Church this week. If anyone has any that they could bring along on Sunday morning that would otherwise be recycled, she would be very grateful.

We are coming to the end of **Christian Aid Week** and there will be a cake stall outside Tesco **this Saturday (18th May)** from 9 am setup until 12 noon. If you are able, please pop down and support this. You can also make a donation online at www.christianaid.org.uk

Zoom Compline: the next Compline will be on **Thursday 23rd May** at 8.45pm and the Zoom link is below. Everyone is welcome.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74149586857?pwd=TARWRm7CBMBjb36rbvejMb8lhaVFIE.1>

Meeting ID: 741 4958 6857

Passcode: 8MctDb

First Aid: the Church Council and Leadership Team would like to ensure that we have adequate first aid provision within the congregation. We are looking to either arrange a First Aid course at the church or, if numbers do not permit, use an existing course at a centre such as the Red Cross Centre in Moorgate, London. If you are interested in doing an Adult First Aid course, could you please let David Pain know by the end of the month. If you hold a current first aid certificate, could you also please let David know.

Mission Planning: as a follow-up to the Circuit Mission Planning workshop attended by Revd Rachael and David Pain, we are now going to work on mission planning at All Saints. David has agreed to co-ordinate our response to mission within the life of our church. There is material from the workshop to use and to prayerfully respond to. Ideally, we need a group of a few members of the congregation who would be willing to meet for a few sessions. If you feel called to participate in this opportunity, please let David know. A convenient date and time of any meetings can then be arranged. If you have any questions about this, or any thoughts on our mission to the wider community please let him know.

The funeral of David Burbidge will take place on Thursday 13th June at 11.30 am at St Peter's Church Berkhamsted. The burial, family only, will follow at Kingshill Cemetery.

Praying for those affected by Climate Change: as part of our EcoChurch journey, the Eco Church resources challenge us to pray for a specific overseas environmental project, alongside the people and places that regular feature in our prayers of intercession. Having done some research, we are proposing that for the next 6 months we pray for Bangladesh and especially for people who live in Bangladesh. Prayers for them will be included in our prayers in church and in the prayer requests in our notices each week. With so many needs around the world, we plan to pray for Bangladesh for the next 6 months, before moving on to look at similar needs elsewhere.

Notices: Our administrator, David Pain, will be preparing and sending out the notices for the next three weeks, so please send any items for inclusion to him at

allsaintsberkhamsted.co.uk

Prayer Requests:

For: Leslie; Ray and Jean Emsall; Margaret Harding; Sue and Tony Danbury; Penny Perry; Tara Ginn; Marnie Taylor; Sarah; Jenny; for Keith and Ruth and all the family following the death of Catherine; for David Burbidge who has died and for Margaret and all their family and friends;

From our website: for Daniel Chandra from the Fiji Islands and his son Akshat and daughter Akiriti.

We pray for all those who are working on our church roof at this time, that they may be safe and able to complete the work without unforeseen delays.

We pray for our neighbours throughout the world whose lives have been changed by the events in Israel and Palestine, and pray especially for all those who have lost loved ones and homes due to the conflict. We pray that this conflict may not escalate further into neighbouring countries. We pray too for those who died recently while trying to bring supplies to those in need and for their families.

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

We also pray for:

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. We pray too for all whose lives have been badly affected by climate changes in the areas where they live, especially the people of Bangladesh;

We continue to pray for:

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 pray for those who are helped by Embrace the Middle East, 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; Julia Wright; Corinne & William; 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; Sue Judd; Madeleine Brownell; Barbara Conway; Ida Rance; Lesley Whittaker



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