



All Saints' Church

Minister: Revd Rachael Hawkins
01442 866324 Email: rachael.hawkins@methodist.org.uk

www.allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk

Sunday 28th July

10 am Holy Communion led by Revd Rachael Hawkins

Readings

Ephesians 3 vv 14-21
John 6 vv 1-21

Hymns

STF 25 - God is here! As we his people
STF 401 - Come, sinners, to the gospel feast
STF 581 - Come, my table is a meeting place
STF 465 - Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Dear All Saints'

This is the last notice sheet before September, so I shall begin by saying thank you to all those who are involved in faithfully producing the notices each week. It is an important way that we all keep in touch with what is going on and are reminded of those we need to pray for, so thank you!

I also want to take the opportunity to wish you all a lovely summer. We are finally getting a bit of warm weather which is lovely. Summer is a time when things go a bit quieter. Many clubs and activities take a break and many will go on holiday, although I'm also aware that those without children at school avoid August holidays and go in June or September instead. For some it is an opportunity to rest and refresh, but there are those for whom it can be a lonely time. Perhaps this is a time to reconnect with someone you haven't been in touch with for a while? And don't forget the pastoral tea party on the 11th August. I hope to see you there.



While we are on the summer break, the Gospel passages in the lectionary will all be coming from John 6 as we gradually read through the chapter together. As we begin, can I suggest sitting down and reading the chapter in one go,

and maybe the chapter before and after as well. The Gospels were written as books, not as little sections and so it's good sometimes to get an idea of the whole of what is being said before focussing on particular passages.

As a very rough overview:

28th July - John 6:1-21 - *the feeding of the 5000 and Jesus walking on the water*

4th August - John 6:24-35 - *the crowds look for Jesus and ask for a sign, Jesus says "I am the bread of life"*

11th August - John 6:35, 41-51 - *Jesus again says "I am the bread of life" and explains something of what that means*

18th August - John 6:51-58 - *Further reflection on what it means to say that Jesus is the bread of life and what it means to eat his flesh and drink his blood*

25th August - John 6:56-69 - *The disciples say that the teaching is difficult and some turn away. Simon Peter says that Jesus has the words of eternal life.*

On Sunday morning we will be focussing on the reading from John, however, I want to just mention the Old Testament reading from 2 Samuel 11:1-15, the story of David and Bathsheba. Placing the story of David and Bathsheba alongside the feeding of the 5000 in the lectionary means that I suspect you've rarely heard a sermon on the story. I'm pretty sure I've never preached one. The subject matter doesn't help either when you can never be quite sure who will be in the congregation. It's a story that marks an important point in the reign of David however. Up to this point David has been doing well, he's had many victories, he has brought the spoils of those victories back to Jerusalem and his fame has spread, he has expressed his desire to build a great house for God, but great heights can lead to a great fall. Instead of leading his army into battle as a good king would have done, he stays behind in Jerusalem and seeing something he wants, Bathsheba, he takes without thought. When Bathsheba becomes pregnant and David's cover up plans fail, he moves to murder. It is a terrible abuse of power in so many ways and marks the start of a descent in David's reign. Betrayal and heartache is to come. It is a warning about the dangers of power and how easily we can get it wrong, particularly if we feel comfortable with where we are. We all have power of some kind, some more than others, how do we use our power? The word humility comes to mind and the need for humility. Not always easy when we believe we are right. I am grateful that our powerful God is also our God of love and can be trusted to use the power he has for the purposes of love, always.

Blessings,
Rachael

Roof Update - The work continues! But I'm sure that you can see the progress, with lots of tiles relaid. It's interesting isn't it how long finishing details can take, hopefully by September all will be done however or nearly done. I mentioned the timber cladding on the west wall last week. We have now had faculty permission for that work. I haven't spotted any work on there yet, but I may have missed it. If it hasn't yet begun it is likely to begin soon.

Blessings,
Rachael

Morning Prayer at 9am and **Eucharist** at 9.30am continue on Tuesday morning. There will be **no Evening Prayer** on Fridays until the roof work is completed. It will resume in September.

“Coffee, Chat and Toddlers” is taking a summer break but will return on **Tuesday 3rd September**.

Friendship Club is also taking a break for the summer.

Tickets for the **concert** on **Saturday 21st September** are now on sale. The concert features **Hemel Hempstead Band** alongside a vocal group called Haxechord. Music starts at 4pm until around 6pm. Tickets cost £10 for adults and children are free. Get them from Andrew or at this link <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DRCI>. All profits will go to All Saints' so please support this event, invite your friends and neighbours!

The next **Pastoral Tea Party** will be on **Sunday 11th August** at 3 - 4.30pm in the Lower Hall. Everyone welcome. If you could provide a cake, please speak to Margaret Ingram or sign up on the list at church.

Action for Children – the collection last week raised £1,695 including gift aid. Thank you to all who contributed.

Bike 'n Hike: the annual Bike n Hike to raise funds for the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Fund will be on **Saturday 14th September**. As usual we shall offer simple refreshments to the riders and walkers calling into All Saints' so if you could help with that, please speak to Revd Rachael. It would also be good to have some who would like to visit some of the local churches and be sponsored to do so - again please speak to Revd Rachael if you are interested. Thank you!

John Sayer Almshouses are having an **Open Day** on **Saturday 17th August** from 10am - 2pm. Tea and cake in the garden. Entry free, donations welcome! 235-241 High Street Berkhamsted (opposite the Post Office).

Pastoral Coordinators Meeting on **Monday 16th September** at 2.30pm in the Lower Hall.

St Martin-in-the-Fields Autumn Lectures. These begin in September. The theme is '**Inspiration: The Influences That Have Shaped My Life**'. Speakers include: William Dalrymple, Philippe Sands, Rowan Williams, Zadie Smith, Sam Wells, Zeinab Badawi, Neil McGregor. For further information see <https://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/congregational-life/lectures/>

Summer notices: although there will be no notice sheet during the month of August the Zoom link will still be sent out by email.

Collections - Nearly all of our regular congregation are donating to the church by monthly bank standing order so we are not receiving offertory collections during our services, but there is usually a plate by the door for a retiring collection. You can donate to us in several ways. Please see our [Support Us](#) page on our website for more information.

Prayer Requests:

For: Leslie; Sue and Tony Danbury; Penny Perry; Marnie Taylor; Sarah; Ida Rance; Margaret; for Jean Emsall and all their family and friends; for Colin and the family and friends of Sarah Garrett;

From our website: for Mary and Sofia;

We pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire and guide a few people from our congregation to become church stewards and support those who are presently stewards in sharing the privilege of serving in this way;

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 all aid workers who have died or been injured 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 pray for all those recently elected to Parliament. May they serve their constituents and country with integrity and care for all they serve.

We continue to pray for the children and their families of our church and town and 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; Graham Rule; Clare Hancock; Heather Gifford; John Malcolm; Valerie Ruddock; Jenny Wells; Jonathan and Ann Hayes; Sue Judd; Madeleine Brownell; Barbara Conway; Doug and Chris Billington; Lesley Whittaker.



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