



## All Saints' Church

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## Sunday 4th January *Covenant Service*

### 9.45am Holy Communion led by Revd Caroline Wickens

#### Readings

Deuteronomy 29 vv 10 –15  
Jeremiah 31 vv 31 – 34  
Romans 12 vv 1 – 12  
Mark 14 vv 22 – 25

#### Hymns

499 Great God, your love has called us here  
556 Just as I am  
549 Come, let us use the grace divine  
503 Love divine  
563 O Jesus, I have promised

#### **Thought for the week: Covenant Service**

What God offers is a loving relationship. The Covenant is not a contract in which God and human beings agree to provide particular goods and services for each other! It is not something that we have to do to create a relationship with God. God has freely and graciously already made it possible.

Rather, the Covenant is the means of grace by which we accept the relationship and then seek to sustain it. It is not about acquiring a relationship with God, but living within the loving relationship that God has already offered us.

Blessings,  
Caroline

**Morning Prayer** at 9am and **Eucharist** at 9.30am continue on Tuesday morning.  
All welcome.

“**Coffee, Chat and Play**” is back on **Tuesday 6th January**. Everyone is very welcome to drop in to the Lower Hall for refreshments and fellowship between 10am-11.15am.

**Christmas Appeal** – almost £2,500 (including gift aid) has been raised so far for The Children’s Society and Action For Children. Any additional donations in the next week will be very welcome. Details for giving are as in the email of 15th December from Michael Robinson and on the home page of our website.

**Newsletter:** the copy date for the newsletter is the **Friday 9th January**. Chris would welcome articles - perhaps you could write up anything interesting you have done over Christmas? Or any decent concerts you’ve enjoyed or any good books? Any films? It doesn’t have to be long. She would welcome anything and especially February- type early spring photographs. Thanks in advance!

At our congregational meeting in November it was suggested that we could have a church tea party this weekend. In the light of the current very cold weather we have decided to postpone it until the spring, and will circulate a new date as soon as we can.

Our Christmas card gallery is a delight and will be left for some time in order for everyone to read the lovely messages sent. New Year is upon us - perhaps an opportunity to add your name to 2026 flower rota, which is just above the card display. Maybe also a good time to renew a resolution to recycle whenever you can. A reminder to check out the labels on packaging, particularly biscuit wrapping, which can often be recycled at the local supermarkets. Every little helps! Sylvia Smith

**Food pantry:** All Saints’ is hosting a food pantry once a week. There is a cupboard in the church porch, which will be **open on Tuesdays**, from 10am - 4pm. Donations will be welcome; there will be a box in church, along with one in the entrance to the halls. We will also receive supplies from the town’s working party.

**Service streaming:** the link to watch the service on Sundays is: <https://www.youtube.com/@Allsaintshp4/live>.

## Prayer Requests

For: Jonathan and Ann Hayes; Helen and Sarah; Marion and Julian; Audrey and Paul Cox; Mark, Nicola and family; Terry; Heather Gifford; Ida; Penny; Priscilla;

For all those affected by extreme weather events;

We give thanks for the ceasefire in Gaza and pray that it will lead to a lasting peace;

We pray for our neighbours throughout the world whose lives have been changed by the events in Israel, Palestine and Lebanon, and pray especially for all those who have lost loved ones and homes due to the conflict. 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.

We pray that all MPs may serve their constituents and country with integrity and care for all they represent.

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; the Swan Youth Project and for all those who work in these organisations.

We continue to pray for those whose need is ongoing:

Julia Wright; Corinne & William; Gary Andersen; Charlie; Graham Rule; Clare Hancock; John Malcolm; Valerie Ruddock; Jenny Wells; Barbara Conway; Marnie Taylor; Leslie; Lesley Whittaker; Chris Billington; Jean Emsall



All Saints' Church, Berkhamsted

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