



ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH

SANDPIT LANE | ST ALBANS | AL1 4DF

stsavioursstalbans.com

7 DECEMBER 2025
2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome to St Saviour's

The **Parish Pantry** and food bank collection takes place at the back of the church after the 10am service.

Families at Four is at 4pm this afternoon at the back of the church. There will be craft activities, games and stories for adults and children together, usually ending with a shared tea-time meal.

Bible Study is taking a break until the New Year.

Women's Group Don't forget our Christmas lunch. Wednesday 10 December, noon. Info from Jan.

December's **broken/** is CANCELLED because of the Christmas Tree Festival.

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 2.00pm Bible Study in the Vicarage
Tuesday	10.00am Low Mass with Lectio Divina 2.00pm Compassionate Café (See Notices)
Wednesday	12 noon Women's Group Christmas Lunch
Thursday	2.30pm House Group Meeting (See Notices) 7.00pm Mass for the Mission of the Church followed by prayer before the Sacrament & Benediction
Friday	9.30am Tots Time
Saturday	Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304 Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784 10.00am Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary followed by the Parish Walsingham Group

Evening Prayer is said at 5.30pm Monday to Thursday & 4.30pm Friday at the High Altar

NEXT SUNDAY

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00am	Low Mass
10.00am	Parish Mass & Sundays at Ten

Readings Isaiah 35.1-10; Matthew 11.2-11

Mass Setting New English Folk Mass
(See service booklet)

Organ Prelude Settings of Advent Chorale
'Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes-Sohn' [Lord
Jesus Christ, the only Son of God], BWV 601
JG Walther 1684–1748 & JS Bach 1685–1750

Introit O Radiant Dawn
James Macmillan b.1959

*O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light,
Sun of Justice:*

*Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death.*

*Isaiah had prophesied, The people who
walked in darkness have seen the great light.
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom,
a light has shone. Amen.*

HYMN 32 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and
wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

READING *Isaiah 11.1-10*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of
Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his
roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on
him, the spirit of wisdom and
understanding, the spirit of counsel and
might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear
of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear
of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his
eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the
poor, and decide with equity for the meek
of the earth; he shall strike the earth with
the rod of his mouth, and with the breath
of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his
waist, and faithfulness the belt around his
loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the
leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf
and the lion and the fatling together, and a
little child shall lead them. The cow and the
bear shall graze, their young shall lie down
together; and the lion shall eat straw like
the ox. The nursing child shall play over the
hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall
put its hand on the adder's den. They will
not hurt or destroy on all my holy
mountain; for the earth will be full of the
knowledge of the LORD as the waters
cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the
nations shall inquire of him, and his
dwelling shall be glorious.

Listen for the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm 72.1-7

Response **May all nations be blessed in him**

1 Give the King your justice O God, And your
righteousness/ to a King's son.

2 May he judge your people with
righteousness, and your/poor with justice.

3 May the mountains yield prosperity, /for
the people. And the /hills, in righteousness.

4 May he defend the cause of the poor, /of
the people. Give deliverance to the needy,
and crush/ the oppressor.

5 May he live while the /sun endures, and as
long as the moon, throughout all/
generations.

6 May he be like the rain that falls/ on the
mown grass, Like showers that wat/er the
earth.

7 In his days may right/eousness flourish, and
peace abound until the moon/ is no more.

THE GOSPEL *Matthew 3.1-12*

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”’ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Father Tony

THE CREED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE

HYMN 34 On Jordan's Bank

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE COMMUNION

Agnus Dei *James Macmillan*

Motet O Comfort My People *Trad. Irish melody, arranged David Ogden b.1966.*

Words C Waddell 1930–2009, based on Isaiah 40

*O comfort my people and calm all their fear,
And tell them the time of salvation draws near.*

*O tell them I come to remove all their shame.
Then they will forever give praise to my name.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him in the
humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

HYMN 26 Hark a thrilling voice is sounding

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Organ Voluntary Setting of Advent Chorale
‘Nun komm der Heidem Heiland’ [Saviour
of the nations, come], BWV 599 *JS Bach*

Please join us for tea or coffee after the
service at the back of the church

NOTICES

Please pray for

Those who are sick and in need Leverne Johnson, David & Mavis Atkinson, Hilary Miller, Nicky Brown, Joan Hammerton, Che, John, David, Sally, Fred Ward, Philip Milton, Clare Vermeulen.

Those whose Year's Mind falls this week

Sunday Simon Jackson, Henry Johnson, Annie Lack, Geoffrey Parker, Winifred Ward; **Monday** Katherine Du Boulay; **Tuesday** Eileen Catlin, Doris Hollis, Raymond Sheppard; **Wednesday** Edith Bird, Julie Fuller, Daisy North, Elsie Sirett, Charles Smedley, Olive Taylor, Violet Brazendale; **Thursday** Jack Dumbleton, Kitty English; **Friday** Roland O'Dell, Frederick Rance; **Saturday** Nina Bailey, Mabel Figg, Winifred Lawson, Florence Scott, John Wharton.

The **Parish Administrator** is on leave of absence until the end of February. During this period all enquiries and communications related to the role should be diverted to the churchwardens.

Compassionate Café on Tuesday 9 December from 2–3.30pm in the church hall is a welcoming space for anyone affected by any type of loss who would like to drop in, have a cuppa and a chat. For more information, please see Libby.

House Group The next meeting is this Thursday, 11 December, at Nonita's home. 2.30–4pm. All welcome.

Christmas Tree Festival postcards are available now for delivery. The list of roads in the parish is at the back of church if you are able to sign up for a street (or two!). If you live outside the parish and would like to deliver to your neighbours then feel free

to do so! It's a lot of leg work, but if we can share it between those who are able to help it saves us a lot of money, and with the added guarantee that they actually get delivered!

Christmas Tree Sponsorship Over 70 groups are coming to decorate trees. We have a few trees that can be sponsored! A couple for charities who can't afford to pay, our lovely St Saviour's prayer tree and the 6 pillar trees, which we are pairing up and calling 'the past', 'the present' and 'yet to come'. If you are interested, please speak to Father Richard, Laura or email treefest.stsaviours@gmail.com. Six foot trees are £38. A pair of pillar trees is £50.

Christmas Tree Festival Raffle Prize Appeal

If you can help with prizes for the Christmas Tree Festival raffle, or know of local businesses or organisations that might be able to help, please contact Ellie Matthews. Thank you.

Gifts for the Homeless Could donations be returned by next Sunday, 14 December, please, and thank you to those who are being so generous. Info from Jan.

Please Donate St Saviour's relies on your donations. You can make a card payment by the door, or use the QR code on the right. Alternatively, please use the 'Donate' page on the website. Thank you.



Contact Us Vicar - Fr Richard Watson, vicar.stsaviours@gmail.com, 01727 851526; Curate - Mthr Emily Lloyd, curate.stsaviours@gmail.com; Administrator - Imogen de la Bere, parish.stsaviours@gmail.com, 07768 963395; Website www.stsavioursstalbans.com