



# Weekly News

## Sunday 20th September 2026

### A family following Jesus

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. *1 Peter 4 v 10*

**Welcome to our Morning Service with communion led by Revd Karen Bugg**

### Order of Service

Welcome and notices

Call to worship

Opening prayer

**Hymn 200:** Great is thy faithfulness

**Song 1016:** When the music fades

*Children go to their group*

Bible reading: Matthew 25.14-30

Talk

Communion

Commissioning prayer

Intercessions

**Song BPW 548:** When we walk with the Lord (Trust and obey)

Blessing and the Grace

Next Sunday is our **Harvest lunch**. To get an idea of numbers, please let us know you are coming via the sign-up sheet on the wall. There is a black box in the hall for your voluntary contributions. If you are able to contribute financially to the lunch we are asking for an optional donation of £2.50.

Margaret and Megan did the **sponsored walk** on the 12th and gently request those who have not yet paid to please bring the money on Sunday.

**First Steps**, our parent/carer and toddler group, is on Thursdays 1.30 – 2.45 pm. Please pray for the families and our small team.

**Meet & Make** takes place on **Tuesdays, 1.30 – 3.00 pm** in the Lower Hall, using the Holliday Street entrance. Come and join us for a time spent doing arts and crafts or jigsaws and puzzles. All welcome.

**Open Church** is on **Thursdays 10.00 am until noon**, but **only on the first and third** Thursdays of the month. Our next two meetings are therefore **1st and 15th October**. Do join us for tea/coffee and cake in the Lower Hall.

**St Albans Cathedral** hosts a monthly Free Church Communion service on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:00 am in the Lady Chapel. On **7th October** this will be led by Revd Andrew Openshaw, **CBA regional minister**. Details are on the notice board.

### Notices

There will be a **church meeting today** in the Lower Hall after the service. This will include an opportunity to look at and discuss the things people have shared on our summer daily devotions board. Do keep adding to it over the next few weeks.

We will also be choosing who will receive our Gift Day offering; suggestions welcome!

This **Wednesday** is our opportunity to **pray on Zoom**. We will be reflecting on what God might want us to do together. We'll read scripture, listen, and pray together. A link will be sent by email.

We are continuing to collect food and other grocery items for the DENS Foodbank; these are delivered to Hemel Hempstead each week. Please leave your contributions in the box in the church entrance.

Their urgent needs include:

- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned peas
- Tinned carrots
- Tinned sweetcorn
- Cooking sauces
- Custard
- Shower gel
- 2-in-1 shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Liquid hand soap
- Laundry liquids/tabs/powder
- Carrier bags

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## Prayers

Please pray for

- the Sunday School team
- those unwell or awaiting surgery
- our government
- our Christian brothers and sisters unable to worship freely

*From BMS World Mission*

Pray for the people of Iran as they hope for freedom from fear and release from oppression, both from their own government and from other countries

As we journey together  
in the footsteps of faith  
may we never lose  
our sense of direction,  
keep eyes focused  
upon our destination,  
drink from the well  
and eat of the bread  
that will bring us life,  
and hold out our hand  
to any who may falter  
or stumble along the way.

From <https://www.faithandworship.com/>

Almighty God, Father of all creation, Lord of love and light,  
we open our minds to the wonders of the universe.  
We give praise for the beauty and grace your spirit brings,  
and to the miracle of life, in all its variety and abundance.

As we pray for the world, we ask that you awaken our souls,  
And lead us to understand your heart for all you have made.

**Motto text 2026:** So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.  
Colossians 2 vs 6 - 7 (NIV)

Father, there is such suffering, such sorrow and distress across humanity.

May your Spirit move across the lands to bring change and transformation.

Lord, help us to engage with the issues in the world and be part of the change you seek to bring.

May we see justice for the poor, freedom for those in chains and peace in lands torn apart by war and conflict.

Help us to work and pray so that your love and truth break through every stronghold and overcome every darkness.

O Holy One, we pray that you would bring your light and life into every nation across this Earth, until the day that your glory covers the lands, as the waters cover the seas.

We ask all this in the wonderful name of Jesus.  
Amen.

(prayer by Julie Palmer copyright © 2022  
[www.prayerscapes.com](http://www.prayerscapes.com))

How can we praise you  
in life's ordinary moments,  
bus, car or train,  
pedestrian moments,  
at home and employment,  
with all those distractions?  
How can we praise you?

How can we praise you  
when time is so precious,  
appointments and targets  
distracting our focus,  
muddying waters,  
made clean for your purpose?  
How can we praise you?

How can we praise you?  
Through all of our actions,  
a smile and a greeting,  
a shoulder to lean on,  
a word in due season,  
love and compassion,  
in all situations.

From <https://www.faithandworship.com/>

## And finally...

His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" *Matthew 25 v 21*

*Items for the next News Sheet to Chris Hayward by Thursday 24th September, please*

