



THE PARISH OF ST MARY & ST PAUL



THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL

Feast of Title - St Paul, Highfield

I know the one in whom I have believed and I am sure that he, the just judge, the mighty, will keep safe what is my due until that day.

Regular Services

St Mary's: Sundays at 8am and 9.30am, Wednesdays at 10.30am
St Paul's: Sundays at 11.15am, Thursdays at 9.30am

Notices

Today:

Last day of the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. We pray for the unity of all Christians, The body of Christ. "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling." Ephesians 4:4
St Paul's Patronal Festival is THIS AFTERNOON at 4pm when Bishop Rob Wickham will lead us as a Team Ministry in the celebration of St Paul and we also mark the retirement of Norma Howie and Sheila Neep from the Team Office.

NEW Team & Parish Office Phone number!

See below for the new office number which has now been changed.

Tuesday 27th January is Holocaust Memorial Day. Special Civic Service with the Worshipful Mayor and other dignitaries at 6pm at St Mary's. Theme for HMD 2026 is 'Bridging Generations'

Diary

Tuesday: HMD at St Mary's, see above. *Thursday* 7.30pm: Bell Ringing practice, St Mary's.

Friday 6pm: Verso Vineyard in St Mary's

Next Sunday: The Feast of The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (commonly called Candlemas). Old Town Market takes place.

St Mary's Churchwardens: stmarychurchwarden@stmaryandstpaulhemel.org.uk

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Team Rector: The Revd Canon John Williams:

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Team Clergy:

St Albans, Warners End: The Revd Pete Stevenson Tel: 01442 251897 rev_pete@onetel.com

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The COR, Grovehill & Woodhall Farm: The Revd Austin Janes Tel: 01442 270585: revaustin@sky.com

Team Office:

Ali Smith Tel: **07522 504087** (NOTE, new number!) admin@stmaryandstpaulhemel.org.uk

Newsletter: News to the Team Rector by last thing on Wednesday.

Payments: Cheques should be made payable to "St Mary and St Paul PCC".

The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary and St Paul, Hemel Hempstead, Reg. Charity 1130644

READINGS & PRAYERS

COLLECT

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Acts 9. 1-22

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptised, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! I chose you from the world, to go and bear fruit that will last, says the Lord. **Alleluia.**

GOSPEL

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

Matthew 19. 27-30

Glory to you, O Lord

Then Peter said in reply, "Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

This is the gospel of Christ.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we celebrate the divine mysteries, O Lord, we pray, may the spirit fill us with that light of faith with which he constantly enlightened the blessed Apostle Paul for the spreading of your glory. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I live by faith in the Son of God, who has loved me and given himself up for me.

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**