

In Touch

Sunday 23rd August 2026
Twelfth Sunday after Trinity



Isaiah 51.1–6
Romans 12.1–8
Matthew 16.13–20

9.30am Family Praise
10.30am Morning Prayer

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear
than we to pray
and to give more than either we
desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance
of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which
our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and
mediation
of 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.

Post Communion Prayer

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside
our sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made
whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this
broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer List

The Sick and those in need

Kuldip Dhadda	Penny Havercroft
Vera -	Maureen West
(Karen's Mother)	Jenny Cleaver
Andy Jackson	Lindsay Westcott
Lee Roberts	Jean Rose
David Kinchen	Frances Freebrey
Elliott Bridge	Steve Channer
Jenny Sparks	Simon Woodhams
David Moncrieff	Stephen Watkins
Margaret Barnes	Eleanor Keen
Will Dickinson	Greg Watson
Ann Clark	Maria Budd
	Lesley Baldwin

Those who mourn the loss of

Miguel Santos

Next Sunday 30th August 2026 Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 15.15–21
Romans 12.9–end
Matthew 16.21–end

9.30am Family Praise
10.30am Parish Communion
5th Sunday

This Week at St Lawrence

Thurs 10-12	Welcome Café
Friday 6.00pm	Choir practice

Readings

Isaiah 51.1-6

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.
I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be for ever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Romans 12.1–8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

/cont...

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16.13–20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Children's Worker

We are looking for someone with a love of working with small children to develop our work with children aged 0-7 and their families. This is a part-time (10 hours/week) role.

Working closely with volunteers, our Youth Leader and Vicar you will establish a new parent and toddler group, draw baptism families into the life of the church and make relationships with pre-school organisations in the parish.

For more information, a Job Description and an application form contact Charles vicar@stlawrencebovingdon.com Applications close on 31st August.

This role is subject to Enhanced DBS disclosure

NOTICES

We will be supporting **Teams4U** again this year by donating Christmas shoeboxes for vulnerable children in eastern Europe. We have a supply of empty shoe boxes to share, we just need you to wrap and fill them! There are leaflets to pick up after services on Sunday with advice about what items to collect or you can go to the Teams4U website <https://teams4u.com/shoebox-appeal/> Helen and Paul Campbell are travelling out to help distribute shoeboxes in December and there is a fundraising Quiz Night in October to support this trip – see details below.

Would you be interested in joining a **home group**? It's a great way to deepen both friendships and faith in an informal setting. We currently have groups meeting on a Tuesday evening and Wednesday afternoon but would love to have more. Have a word with Flick Crockett, Val Rolls or Charles.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 2nd September at 3.30pm: **back to school BBQ**

Saturday 19th September at 2.00pm: Installation of Bishop Andrew as Bishop of St Albans. Most tickets for this service have already been allocated (2 per parish) but public booking is now open via the Cathedral website.

Friday 16th October at 7.00pm: **Quiz Night** to support Helen and Paul Campbell's journey to deliver shoeboxes in Eastern Europe with Teams 4U. Start to organise your table of 8 now!

As well as DENS we are supporting local families who are struggling to put food on the table. **We badly need more essential items!** A barrier to buying something for the food collection can be remembering. A good technique is to buy two of a favourite item and donate one.

To donate to St Lawrence using your mobile phone, please scan this QR code, or navigate to: bit.ly/donate-slcb



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