



# Welcome to St Alban's

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent

*Before the children leave for Children's Church we pray....*

**Dear God, this church is a family.  
Help us to learn together, to worship together,  
to share together and to pray together. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *Walter Chalmers Smith (1825-1908)*

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes.  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all.  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All laud we would render: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.**

*We are gathered together as one body*

† In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

My brothers and sisters, as we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ in word and sacrament, let us call to mind and confess our sins.

**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, † pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

GLORIA *Michael Perry (1942 - 1996) © Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns*

**Glory be to God in heaven, peace to those who love him well;  
on the earth let all his people speak his grace his wonders tell.  
Lord we praise you for your glory, mighty father, heavens king;  
Hear our joyful adoration and accept the thanks we bring.**

**Only Son of God the Father lamb, who takes our sins away;  
now with him in triumph seated, for your mercy, Lord we pray.  
Jesus Christ, most high and holy, saviour you are God alone.  
In the glory of the Father, with the Spirit three in one.**

THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation:  
stir us from apathy,  
restrain us from excess  
and revive in us new hope  
that all creation will one day be healed  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Malachi 4.1-2a

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13

*After each reading...* This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

GRADUAL HYMN *Noel and Tricia Richards © 1987 Kingsway's Thankyou Music*

**All heaven declares  
the glory of the risen Lord;  
who can compare  
with the beauty of the Lord?**

**Forever He will be  
the Lamb upon the throne;  
I gladly bow the knee,  
and worship Him alone.**

**I will proclaim  
the glory of the risen Lord,  
who once was slain  
to reconcile man to God.**

**For ever You will be  
the Lamb upon the throne;  
I gladly bow the knee,  
and worship You alone.**

THE GOSPEL – Luke 21.5-19

*We sing...Alleluia, Alleluia; Alleluia, Alleluia*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**Glory to you O Lord**

*At the end of the reading:* This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES CREED *Please stand if you are able*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;**

he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*RESPONSE:* Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayers we say together:*

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

THE PEACE *Please stand if you are able*

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We share a sign of peace with those nearest us.*

#### OFFERTORY HYMN *Arthur C. Ainger (1841-1919)*

**1. God is working his purpose out,  
as year succeeds to year;  
God is working His purpose out,  
and the time is drawing near;  
Nearer and nearer draws the time,  
the time that shall surely be,  
when the earth shall be filled  
with the glory of God,  
as the waters cover the sea.**

**2. From utmost East to utmost West,  
where'er man's foot hath trod,  
by the mouth of many messengers  
goes forth the voice of God;  
give ear to me, ye continents,  
ye isles, give ear to me,  
that the earth may be filled  
with the glory of God,  
as the waters cover the sea.**

**3. March we forth in the strength of God  
with the banner of Christ unfurled,  
that the light of the glorious gospel of truth  
may shine throughout the world:  
Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin,  
to set their captives free,  
that the earth may be filled  
with the glory of God,  
as the waters cover the sea.**

**4. All we can do is nothing worth,  
unless God blesses the deed;  
vainly we hope for the harvest-tide  
till God gives life to the seed;  
yet nearer and nearer draws the time,  
the time that shall surely be,  
when the earth shall be filled  
with the glory of God,  
as the waters cover the sea.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*The president blesses the elements, and the response each time is*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The president prays the preface then invites us to join with the whole company of heaven to sing....*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.** *New People's Mass, A Gregory Murray © 1975, 1987 McCrimmon*

*The president recalls the last supper*

Great is the mystery of faith

**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

*The president continues to praise God for his mighty acts. At the end we say...Amen*

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;**

**Your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,**

**now and for ever. Amen**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

*New People's Mass, A Gregory Murray © 1975, 1987 McCrimmon*

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own churches are welcome to receive communion. Any member of the congregation may come to receive a blessing*

COMMUNION HYMN *Gerald Markland©1978 Kevin Mayhew Ltd*

***Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name;  
you are mine.***

**1. When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you;  
you will never sink beneath the waves.**

**2. When the fire is burning all around you,  
you will never be consumed by the flames.**

**3. When the fear of loneliness is looming,  
then remember I am at your side.**

**4. When you dwell in the exile of a stranger,  
remember you are precious in my eyes.**

**5. You are mine, O my child, I am your Father,  
and I love you with a perfect love.**

*Post communion prayers...*

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope:  
bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen**

**Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen**

**THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

The Lord bless you and watch over you,  
the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you,  
the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace,  
and the blessing ...

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen**

**Lord, the light of Your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,  
set us free by the truth you now bring us,  
shine on me, shine on me.**

***Shine, Jesus, shine,  
fill this land with the Father's glory;  
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire!  
Flow, river, flow,  
flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light.***

**Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,  
from the shadows into Your radiance;  
by the blood I may enter your brightness,  
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me, shine on me.**

***Shine, Jesus, shine ...***

**As we gaze on Your kingly brightness  
so our face display Your likeness,  
ever changing from glory to glory,  
mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me.**

***Shine, Jesus, shine ...***

*Please do stay for refreshments. Everyone is welcome here and if you are new or just visiting please feel welcomed as one of the family*

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## SERVICES AT ST ALBAN'S

*Everyone is very welcome*

### **SUNDAY SERVICES:**

Sung Eucharist 9:30am weekly

'Out of the Box' family worship on 2nd Sunday of each month 11.15 to 12 noon

### **WEEKDAY SERVICES:**

Said Eucharist (Thursday 9:30am) Followed by Community Morning 10am-12pm

Morning Prayer 9am Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Saturday Prayers 9am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month

**Vicar:** Rev'd Ann Alexander 01293 277078  
*vicar@stalbangossopsgreen.co.uk*

**Curate:** Rev'd Lizzi Green 01293 421155  
*curate@stalbangossopsgreen.co.uk*

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**Website: [www.stalbangossopsgreen.co.uk](http://www.stalbangossopsgreen.co.uk)**

**Facebook: St Alban's Gossops Green & Bewbush**

## **Our Prayer for Vision and Leadership**

Lord, we come before you with grateful hearts  
for the tremendous talent within our church.

We are a body filled with gifts yet  
we sometimes lose sight of why  
we were so richly blessed in the first place.

Forgive us when we fail to heed Your calling in our lives,  
or as a community.

Despite our forgetful nature, we know you love us dearly  
and want us to partner with you:  
not as servants, but as your children.

Bring us a renewed vision of ourselves from your perspective.  
Help us to embrace your love  
so that we may share it with others.

Guide us as we look to the future  
of this Parish of Gossops Green and Bewbush.

Grant us a renewed vision as we seek you in your word.

Give us dreams that make us come alive because  
we are doing what you created us to do.

Let our joy overflow from the vision of the future you give us.  
Let us honour you with our work,  
with our families and with our lives.

**Amen**