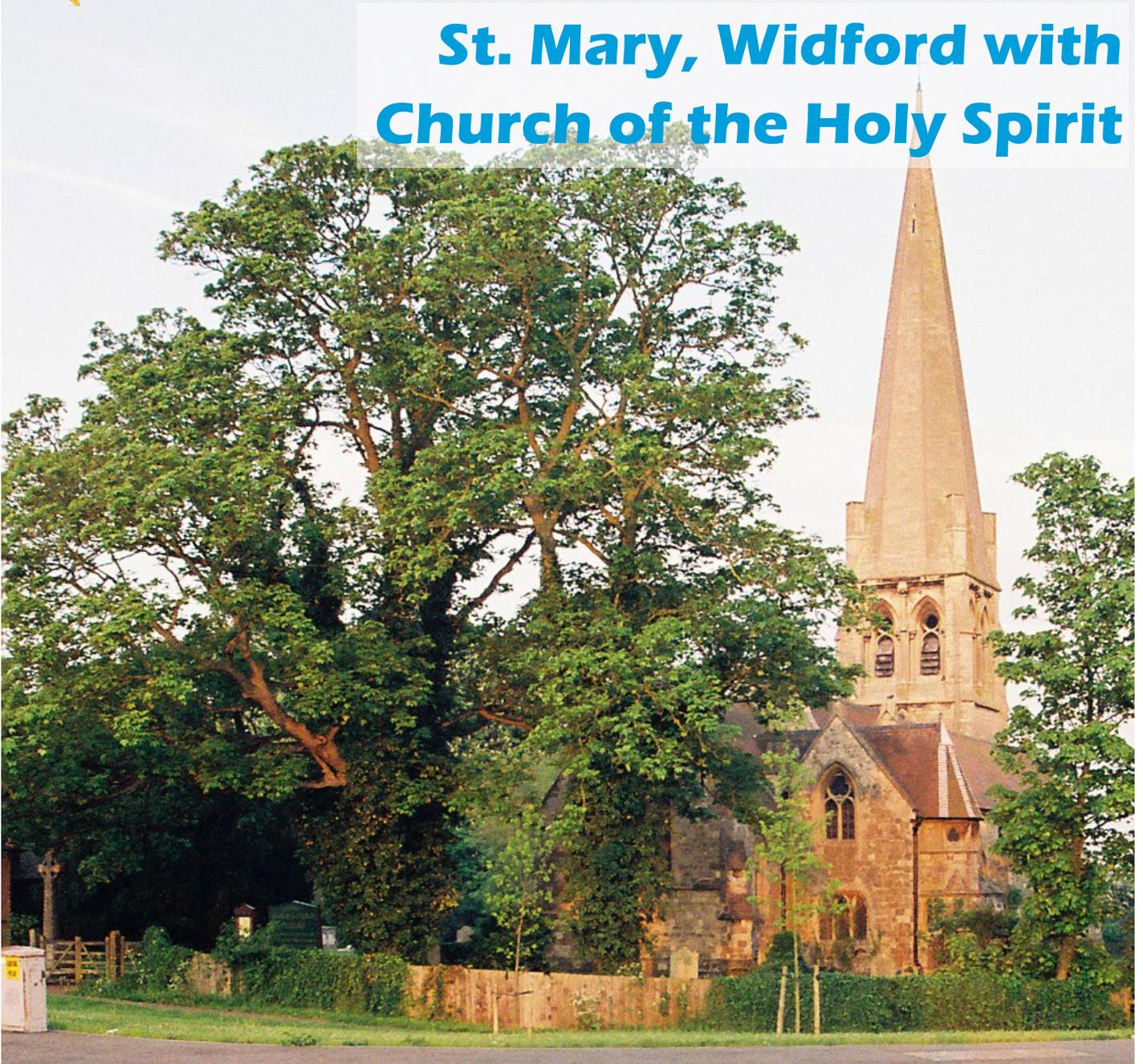




**St. Mary, Widford with  
Church of the Holy Spirit**



**Morning Prayer**



Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, be with you.

**All And also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**All Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**The leader may say;**

We have come together in the Name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Jesus says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand."

So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**All Lord God,  
we have sinned against You;  
we have done evil in Your sight.  
we are sorry and repent,  
have mercy on us according to Your love.  
Wash away our wrong doing and cleanse us from  
our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the  
joy of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in His image to the praise and glory of His Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

Blessed is the Lord,  
**All for He has heard the voice of our prayer;**

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy,  
**All and in our song will we praise our God.**

## *The Word of God*

### **Old Testament Canticle**

#### *A Song of the Wilderness*

1. The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice; the desert shall blossom and burst into song.
2. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weary hands, and make firm the feeble knees
3. Say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not, your God is coming with judgement, coming with judgement to save you.'
4. Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
5. Then shall the lame leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.
6. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert;
7. The ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing, with everlasting joy upon their heads.
8. Joy and gladness shall be theirs, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now and shall be for ever. **Amen.**

### ***A Song of the Messiah***

1. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, upon them, the light has dawned.
2. You have increased their joy and given them great gladness; they rejoiced before You as with joy at the harvest.
3. For You have shattered the yoke that burdened them; the collar that lay heavy on their shoulders.
4. For to us a child is born and to us a Son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulder.
5. And His Name will be called: Wonderful Counsellor; the Mighty God; the Everlasting Father; the Prince of Peace.
6. Of the increase of His government and of peace, there will be no end,
7. Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness.
8. From this time forth and for evermore; the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Glory to the Father and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning  
is now and shall be for ever.  
**Amen.**

## *A Song of the New Jerusalem*

1. Arise, shine out for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.
2. Though night still covers the earth, and darkness the peoples;
3. Above you the Holy One arises, and above you God's glory appears.
4. The nations will come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.
5. Your gates will lie open continually, shut neither by day nor by night.
6. The sound of violence shall be heard no longer in your land, or ruin and devastation within your borders.
7. You will call your walls, Salvation, and your gates, Praise.
8. No more will the sun give you daylight nor moonlight shine upon you;
9. But the Lord will be your everlasting light your God will be your splendour.
10. For you shall be called the city of God, the dwelling of the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning  
is now and shall be for ever. **Amen**

## *A Song of David*

1. Blessed are You, God of Israel, for ever and ever, for Yours is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty.
2. Everything in heaven and on earth is Yours, Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all.
3. Riches and honour come from You and You rule over all.
4. In Your hands are power and might; Yours it is to give power and strength to all.
5. And now we give You thanks, our God, and praise Your glorious Name.
6. For all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. **Amen.**

## *Scripture Reading(s)*

**One or more readings appointed for the day are read.  
The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence.**

The reader may say;

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

# *Gospel Canticle*

## *The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)*

1. Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, who has come to His people and set them free.
2. He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of His servant David.
3. Through His holy prophets God promised of old, to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,
4. To show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember His holy covenant
5. This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
6. Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in His sight all the days of our life.
7. And You, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare His way,
8. To give His people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins.
9. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
10. To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning  
is now and shall be for ever. **Amen.**

## *Sermon*

### *The Creed*

***All*** 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*

***Intercessions are offered.***

### ***The Collect***

# The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, as our Saviour has taught us, so we pray;

**All** 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.  
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.

## *The Conclusion*

### *Blessing*

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life.

**All** Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

**All** Thanks be to God.





Widford Parish Office,  
Forest Drive,  
CHELMSFORD,  
Essex.  
CM1 2TS

**t:** 01245 355 989

**m:** 07777 641 694

**e:** [admin@chschelmsford.com](mailto:admin@chschelmsford.com)

**w:** [stmaryswidford.com](http://stmaryswidford.com) / [chschelmsford.com](http://chschelmsford.com)