

WELCOME TO THE WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR ST MARY'S APSLEY END

Sunday 3rd May 2020 (Easter 4)

Again, due to the lockdown from Covid-19, there will be
NO services actually in St Mary's. But:

**There will again be a live streamed service
by Richard from the vicarage
to which everyone is invited.**

To join live or to watch later, go to the St Mary's page of the website
(address below), click on the calendar and open the service you want.

10am Eucharist followed by Sunday School

Please pray for Eileen Kemp, Clare Tofield-Wallington All our congregation as we continue to adapt.	St Mary's Collect for Growth Dear Lord , please help us grow St Mary's Church. As we grow in love of you, draw new people week by week into this church family. May we show your love to all, within and beyond our walls. In Jesus' name. Amen
--	--

Contact Details

Team Vicar:	Rev Richard Howlett 01442 767738 revrhowlett@gmail.com
Website, email list & calendar:	www.beneficeoflangelei.org.uk/stmarys/
Facebook:	Search for: St Mary's Apsley End
General enquiries:	stmarysapsleyend@gmail.com
Churchwardens:	Dan Shirley 07946 736267 dan.shirley1@btopenworld.com Harry Graham-Brown 07918 071542 harry.gb63@gmail.com
Safeguarding:	Susan Rivett 07908 644600 safeguardingstmarysaps@gmail.com Katharine Harper 07881 602024 safeguardingstmarysaps@gmail.com
Administrator:	Norma Howie, 01923 266596 saintskl2@tiscali.co.uk (Mon & Wed 7.30am-2.30pm, Thurs 12.00pm-3.00pm, Fri 11.00am-2:30pm)

Notices

- Although the church is closed at the moment, **we still have most of the usual expenses to pay.** If there is any way you could make your usual weekly offering electronically or by cheque, please contact the Treasurer, Peter Bladon, on 01442 257108 or bladon2010@btinternet.com.
- Mike & Jean Chrisp write:** It has been agreed that we should produce the **June Benefice Newsletter.** Please send contributions to us at mikeandjean23@btinternet.com as soon as possible but **no later than 17 May.** We are very grateful for all the kindness we have received and would like to hear about your experiences during this difficult time.
- Please send items for this bulletin to** stmarysapsleyend@gmail.com

Weekly Newsletter No 6 from Richard Howlett our team vicar

Dear Friends

I hope you are doing well in the continuing Lockdown. As I said last time, if you need any help, or just a listening ear, or want a personal time of prayer, please feel free to contact me.

I was very struck this week at the outpouring of genuine love and generosity in response to Colonel Tom's NHS walk. Seeing the thousands of birthday cards laid out in the school hall at Bedford School it was clear that Tom has become an emblematic figure, perhaps representing so many older people who are held in our hearts but physically separated from us, their loved ones. On 8th May the country will mark the 75th anniversary of VE day, albeit in a situation few of us could have imagined. Let's do all we can to celebrate the gift of life and pay respect to those who served the country then, as well as those who serve now, in a spirit of generosity and joy, imagination and courage.

I was pleased to hear that the Church of England has launched a special telephone line 'Daily Hope' to bring music, reflections and worship especially to people who cannot access things online. Tel 0800 804 8044 (24 hrs a day) Why not give it a try?

There is also the 'Prayers for use during the Coronavirus outbreak', which include a shortened version of Morning and Night Prayer, as well as prayers to say with children. If you need a printed copy, please let Janet Wright or me know, and we shall order more via the Benefice office. I am doing Midday Prayers at 12 noon and Compline at 9.30pm on YouTube Mon-Thurs next week.

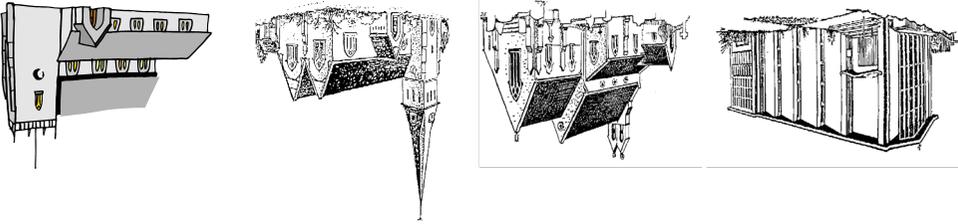
If you have access to a computer these links may be helpful to connect with YouTube services:

- YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/2ydl8cv>
- Midday prayer playlist: <https://bit.ly/2y5Bqcl>
- Compline Playlist: <https://bit.ly/3f5Z8pu>

Please join me in prayer if you can; whether online or in the silence of your own home. Even in a few minutes of prayer we enter more closely into God's presence and receive the strength and peace only He can give, as our monastic communities, including the Benedictines, have shown us.

**With our love and prayers
Richard and Katherine**

The Benefice of Langley!



St Benedict's, Bennetts End

Holy Trinity, Leverstock Green

St Mary's, Apsley

All Saints, Kings Langley

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

3rd May 2020

The Collect

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2. 42-end

Many were baptized and were added to the community. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.
This is the Word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

A reading from the first letter of Peter 2 : 19-end

Brothers and sisters: It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.
This is the Word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

10: 1-10
GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

This bulletin, with the notices, prayer and readings to study at your leisure, is for you to take home. Please pray for the work of the church in this Parish. www.beneficeoflangley.org.uk