

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

Easter Sunday 12th April 2020

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

**There will be two live streamed services today
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.

6 for 6.30am Easter Dawn Service

10am Easter Eucharist followed by Sunday School

Weekly Newsletter No 3 from Richard Howlett our team vicar

Dear Friends

I do hope this finds you well. I once bought Katherine a pottery mug-rest with the words 'Alleluia Anyway!' That motto has sustained us through some tough times in our life and ministry. I am fully aware that the lockdown has been a trial for many people's mental and spiritual health; being deprived of the social contacts that nurture us as human beings feels deeply unnatural. Through the centuries, some people, including 'religious hermits' have set themselves apart, in order to get closer to God. Most of us however are energised by contacts with family and friends, and to have to 'fast' from normal contacts has been trying indeed, especially for those who live alone. It is in a good cause, of course, and we delayed the start of last Thursday's service in order to join people on the street applauding the NHS (and others) risking their health to serve us; their daily pressures and risks remind us that we all have our part to play.

It has been good to see some of you joining in with services on the St Benedict's site : <http://beneficeoflangelei.org.uk/stbenedicts/> and Facebook eg <https://www.facebook.com/groups/157206290996336/?ref=share> and Zoom- most of these can be accessed by going onto the benefice of Langelei website <http://beneficeoflangelei.org.uk/stmarys/> and into the calendar. I am very conscious that some church members struggle with these technologies. As Bishop Alan recently acknowledged, many of us have been on a 'steep learning curve'. If you need help with the technology side, **please** tell us: we have kind and patient people who could assist you, as they have helped me! If you need paper copies of anything, please tell us; gloved volunteers will get things through your letterbox.

Through the centuries the Church has endured challenges such as persecution and plague, war and secularism. Yet death could not hold our Saviour Christ. As St Paul acknowledges in 2 Corinthians 4.8-12 we may be "hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed but not in despair" We shall emerge from this period, and by God's grace we shall change and grow into what He is calling us to be for the future. Please do join us on Sunday and, if you can, connect with Bishop Alan's sermon <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/living-gods-love-at-all-times/#Holy> A copy of my sermon will be delivered to you on request if you cannot access one on St Mary's website .

Though we are parted, for a time, nothing can stop us from affirming love's victory, which is at the heart of our faith: 'Alleluia Christ is risen' To which, let us all reply. 'He is risen indeed, Alleluia!'

With our love and prayers
Richard and Katherine

Do join our email list (opposite) as we are trying to keep everyone up to date via at least weekly emails. Another useful source of contact is the **St Mary's Facebook group**.

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**

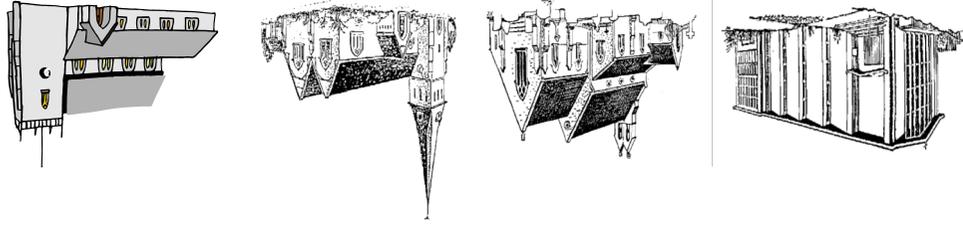
Contact Details

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(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, please contact the Treasurer, Peter Bladon, on 01442 257108 or bladon2010@btinternet.com .
- **'Staying in Touch' mini groups**. Each member of the church congregation/family should have been contacted at least once by now by their 'nominated PCC member'. If you haven't had this contact, please get in touch with Janet Wright via stmarysapsleyend@gmail.com to check we have your correct details.
- **The 200 club** is on hold until we are let out & back to church

The Benefice of Langley!



St Benedict's,
Bennetts End

Holy Trinity,
Leverstock Green

St Mary's,
Apsley

All Saints,
Kings Langley

EASTER DAY

The Collect

God of Glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell;
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10. 34 - 43

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

This is the Word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

12th April 2020

3 : 1-4

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

This is the Word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

28: 1-10

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

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