

# WELCOME TO THE WEEKLY BULLETIN

## for St Mary's Apsley End and St Benedict's Bennetts End

	This week Sun 18 Oct	Next week Sun 25 Oct	Diary for this week
8am	No Service	No Service	<b>MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup> October</b> 10am-12 Working Party at St M's
10am	Eucharist at St B's (NOT St M's) and on Zoom	Eucharist at St B's (NOT St M's) and on Zoom	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 9am-4pm St B's open for private prayer 5.00pm Wardens/vicar/sec meeting via Zoom
Presiding	Carole Camp	Lizzie Hood	<b>THURSDAY</b> 9.00am Morning Prayer at St M's (tbc)
Warden	TBD on the day	TBD on the day	9.30am Communion at St M's (tbc)
Sidesperson			10.15am Bible Study at St M's (tbc)
Welcomers			8.00pm Study group via Zoom
Reading	Bob Day	Enitan Onabamiro	<b>FRIDAY</b> 10am-12 Working Party at St M's
Prayers	Enitan Onabamiro via Zoom	Carole Camp	<b>SATURDAY</b> 10.00am S'day Café via Zoom
11.15am	No Sunday School	Sunday School on Zoom	
3.00pm	Messy Church via Zoom	No service	

### St B's Collect for Growth

Dear God, fill our hearts with your love and the glow of your Holy Spirit. Grow this church family within our community and let your good news spread. Amen.

### St M'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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(Temporary office hours: W-F 7.30am-12 noon, But flexible – please phone first.)

### Notices

While our two churches are worshipping together via Zoom on Sunday mornings, we are using a combined bulletin.

**Please contribute information, dates, notices etc.**

The more we're sent, the more useful it will be!

Please email items to [stmarysapsleyend@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysapsleyend@gmail.com) by 12.00 noon each Wednesday.

**Please pray for strength and recovery for our Vicar Richard who is unwell with Covid-19.**

Due to Richard's illness, the **Annual Church Meeting for St Benedict's has been postponed to next Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Oct** after the morning service. We will be looking to elect a member to the **Deanery Synod** and members to the **Parochial Church Council**.

Also due to Richard's illness, next **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October** there will not be a service at St M's. But all St M's folk are welcome at St B's either in church or on Zoom. Please **book** if you wish to attend in person.

To attend at St B's, please **book** a place by emailing [enitanonabamiro@gmail.com](mailto:enitanonabamiro@gmail.com).

**When visiting either church please remember to scan the NHS-Covid-19 QR code every time you come in to assist with Track & Trace.**

**Please pray for the strength and health of Trevor Wilson who was to have a serious operation this week.**

Bearing in mind the very **significant financial deficit** at St Mary's, the PCC have decided that, for the moment, we will only use **paid organists** at our services if they are specifically **sponsored by someone**. Please contact Peter Bladon on [bladon2010@btinternet.com](mailto:bladon2010@btinternet.com) for more details.

At **St M's Annual Meetings** on Sunday 11 Oct **Harry Graham-Brown** and **Sylvia Low** were elected as **Churchwardens** and **Tim Ward, Rosemary Bladon & Dan Shirley** as **assistant wardens**. We were also pleased to elect **Wendy Frampton-Salter** to the **PCC** and **Peter Bladon** and **Viv Hagel** to the **Deanery Synod**. The **other PCC members** were more or less **unchanged**. Many thanks are due to **Dan Shirley** for **chairing the meeting** in the absence of Richard Howlett and also for the **4 years of service he has given as Church Warden**.

"Many thanks to those who came along and supported the sale of '**Pauline's Preserves**' and '**Plants**' last Saturday. The amounts raised were **£297** for the **Preserves** and **£31** for the **plants**. **Special thanks to Pauline Buck** for all her **hard work** in making over **140 jars of jams and preserves**, and to **those who supplied the plants**. There are still a few jars and plants left in the **Refectory** which can be purchased on a **Monday or Friday morning between 10-11am** if you are passing!!"

"A final **thank you** to all who sponsored me for my **walk in aid of the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust** on **12<sup>th</sup> September**. It's **not too late** to add to the total! Which is – before the Gift Aid is added - **£1,022 – half** of which **comes to St Mary's**. Thank you, Rosemary."

**Further dates for your diary:**

**Sun 1 Nov** Churches open for prayerful Commemoration of the Departed 2 - 4pm. Details to follow. (4pm service now cancelled)

**4 Nov 7pm** PCC meeting St M's via Zoom



**Weekly newsletter from Richard Howlett, Team Vicar with special responsibility for St Benedict's, Bennett's End and St Mary's, Apsley End.**

**Edition 24 Week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

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Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you well. As I write, I have been dealing with a chest infection which manifested itself while I was on retreat. Thanks to the miracles of modern medicine, I am gradually finding the symptoms are lessening. The worst of these was feeling I couldn't breathe, and it caused me to reflect on a slight amendment to the Lord's Prayer: 'Give us today our *daily breath*'.

Breath is so vital. Someone once observed that we are all one breath away from eternity. I was very conscious, as I experienced the effort of even completing a sentence, of the importance of the air that we breathe- reminiscent of a line from a song by the Hollies. I had a Covid test, in case you were wondering, and unfortunately, this afternoon, it came back positive for me - negative so far for the rest of the family. We will value your prayers for the vicarage at this time.

In the Bible, the Lord God formed man (Gen 2.2) from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. The risen Jesus, in John 20.22, greeted them with God's peace, and sent them out by breathing on them, with the words 'Receive the Holy Spirit'. The Spirit is life, and the Holy Spirit testified to the new life found in Christ (John 15.26). It falls on us, as it did on the disciples, to be carriers of the light and hope of the Holy Spirit, God's breath of life.

I hope we are all praying for government, at local as well as national level, as decisions are made to balance the ever-harder questions that we face in the pandemic. Our national life must be kept breathing. In places it seems it is on life support. Businesses need trade to breathe. People of working age need jobs to pay their bills and the sense of purpose and value which can come from that. We all have a stake in trying to keep alive those things which make life worthwhile, and as part of that I hope we can all support our local shops and businesses- even if we need to ask others to shop there for us. There is a great deal for us to do in our prayers- and many opportunities to drop in messages or just a few words of appreciation to those who are working to keep things as normal as possible.

I was pleased on Monday night to see from my window the leaders setting up for a Rainbows session in St Benedict's refurbished church hall. I have also done another video for Nash Mills School as part of this term's RE. People are being brave, determined, and ingenious to keep things going. Our Diocese is issuing several helpful and creative ideas to aid our times of commemoration and celebration in the next few weeks. As we plan and publicize them, let's all get behind these and support them - whether distanced in church, watching on line, or gathering out of doors within the restrictions operating at the time.

O breath of Life,

Come sweeping through us,

Revive your Church with life and pow'r;

O breathe of life, come cleanse, renew us

And fit your Church to meet this hour.

(Elizabeth Ann Porter Head from Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New.)

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