

Welcome to St Mary's Apsley



...and welcome to our service today

19th March 2023, Mothering Sunday

If you need anything during the service, please ask someone sitting nearby, they will be pleased to help.
Please stay after the service for refreshments and a chat in the refectory at the back of the church.

This week at St Mary's

Monday

10.00 -12.00 Working Party
8.00pm Bell ringing practice

Tuesday

9.30 Buzzy Bees toddler group

Wednesday

6.30 Lent Supper at vicarage
7.30 PCC meeting at St Benedict's

Thursday

9.30 - 3.30 Church open for private prayer
9.30 Eucharist
9.30 - 12.00 Foodbank and Community Cafe
10.15 Lent Group
8.00pm Virtual Lent Group

Friday

10am -12.00 Working Party
6.15pm Bellringing (young@herts ringers)

Saturday

10am -12.00 Saturday Community Café
10.15 Lent group

Sunday

9.00am Bellringing prior to service
9.30 Eucharist with Sunday School

Morning Prayer at St Benedict's:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday at 8.30am

Evening Prayer at St Benedict's:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday at 5.30pm

From our Vicar

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the brand-new bulletin! Our hope is that this new layout is more accessible and user-friendly, making it easier to see what is happening at church each week. We think that the whole life of St Mary's – worship, prayer, liturgy, community, social activities – finds more space in this new format. My especial thanks go to the Communications Team for their help and hard work, and especially to Janet who has spent many hours working on this and getting it to look just right. Thank you so much!

Today is Mothering Sunday, a day when we give thanks for the mothering we have received in our lives; from God, from the church, from our mothers, from others who have nurtured and taken care of us. For lots of us it's not an easy day. Many of us will be feeling the lack of someone or something we want very much. The church is a refuge for the hurting and a home for the lost, and today of all days we must recommit ourselves to mothering one another, as God mothers us daily. The compassion we show to our neighbour is a mark of our identity in Jesus Christ, who longed to gather all people to himself as a mother hen gathers her chicks. The church is a school of compassion, where we learn again and again that our sins do not define us, and where we are strengthened for the work of loving the world – often a difficult and thankless task.

God shields his joyful ones, but he also blesses and lifts up the broken-hearted and the downcast. If you find yourself in these latter categories, know yourself to be beloved and cherished by God. And if you are struggling, reach out and ask for help. Life can be hard, and none of us must bear the weight of our difficulties alone.

Yours in Christ,
Mother Alice

Prayers

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;

you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;

through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.

Your warmth gives life to the dead,

your touch makes sinners righteous.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;

in your love and tenderness remake us.

In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness, for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

Anselm (1109)

Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year A)

Collect for Mothering Sunday

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A reading from the first book of Samuel 1.20–28

Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the LORD.' The man Elkanah and all his Household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow.

But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.'

Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only – may the LORD establish his word.'

So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine.

She brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young.

Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD.

For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD.'

She left him there for the LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians 3.12–17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.

And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 19.25b–27

Glory to You, O Lord

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.'

Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'

And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ

Contact Information

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Thursday's Collect and Readings (Year A)

Collect

Merciful Lord,
you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives
and overshadows our hearts,
come to our aid
and turn us back to you again;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

A reading from the book of Exodus 32:7–14

The Lord said to Moses, 'Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ' The Lord said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.'

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, 'O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, "It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth"? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, "I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever." And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

A reading from Jeremiah 22,11–19

For thus says the Lord concerning Shallum son of King Josiah of Judah, who succeeded his father Josiah, and who went away from this place: He shall return here no more, but in the place where they have carried him captive he shall die, and he shall never see this land again.

Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice;
who makes his neighbours work for nothing, and does not give them their wages;
who says, 'I will build myself a spacious house with large upper rooms',
and who cuts out windows for it, panelling it with cedar, and painting it with vermilion.

Are you a king because you compete in cedar?
Did not your father eat and drink and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him.
He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well.

Is not this to know me? says the Lord.

But your eyes and heart are only on your dishonest gain, for shedding innocent blood, and for practising oppression and violence.

Therefore thus says the Lord concerning King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah:

They shall not lament for him, saying, 'Alas, my brother!' or 'Alas, sister!'

They shall not lament for him, saying, 'Alas, lord!' or 'Alas, his majesty!' With the burial of a donkey he shall be buried— dragged off and thrown out beyond the gates of Jerusalem.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 5.31–end

Glory to You O Christ

If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true.

There is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that his testimony to me is true.

You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth. Not that I accept such human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.

But I have a testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf.

You have never heard his voice or seen his form, and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent. You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

I do not accept glory from human beings. But I know that you do not have the love of God in you.

I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him.

How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God?

Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You O Christ

Notices

Please send any input for next week to stmarysapsleyend@gmail.com by noon on Wednesday.

Bereavements

Please keep our clergy team and the congregation at Kings Langley in your prayers following two very unexpected bereavements in the last 2 weeks affecting them all.

Organ or flute sponsorship.



The music today is sponsored by Susan and Colin Rivett 'Remembering mothers everywhere'.

If you would like to sponsor an organist – or flautist – for any reason, please contact Janet. We could still do with sponsorship for the Maundy Thursday 7pm service please.

New Bulletin layout launch!



Well this is it! To a certain extent it is still in development so constructive comments to the bulletin team (including Alice) are welcome.

Holy Saturday cleaning and flowers



Please join in the cleaning and flower party in church on Saturday 8th April from 10.00am prior to Easter Day. The more people that come the better it will be! Please speak to Mthr Alice or Rosemary.

Foodbank

At St Mary's the foodbank is currently open 9.30-12.00 on Thursdays with a community café too. We continue to need donations for both foodbanks (St M's and St B's). If you can help, either with donations or with the running of the foodbanks, please speak to Mthr Alice.

The Annunciation in Art

Lizzie Hood will be giving a talk on The Annunciation in Art on Thursday 23rd March at 7.00pm. This will be in the Trinity Room at Holy Trinity Church. All welcome.

Christian volunteers needed

Liberty Tea Rooms and Community Hub are asking for volunteers to be part of their 'Guest Relations Team'. See details on St Mary's website.

Confirmation service St Mary's 21 May

If you are considering confirmation, or even just wondering about it, please speak to Mthr Alice as she will be arranging preparation for this very soon.

New PCC members, Wardens and Deanery Synod members

Nominations are needed prior to the Annual Meetings on 23 April. Could you or someone you know in the church contribute to the running of the church in one of these important ways? If so please complete the chart at the back of church (in capital letters please!). Or speak to Mthr Alice.

Lent Suppers



Wednesdays in Lent, 6.30-7.30pm at St Benedict's Church. Donations to Centre Point. Everyone invited.

Easter Morning

Will start at St Mary's with a dawn service at 6am followed by breakfast! All welcome.



Easter Hunt

There will again be a hunt in the churchyard after the 9.30am service on Easter Sunday. £2 per hunt with a chocolate surprise. Tell your friends! And tell them they would be very welcome at the Easter service too!



Tickets for 'The Hollow'

Harry still has some tickets for the Agatha Christie play that Dan & Fiona are appearing in at Boxmoor Playhouse on Thursday 23rd March. Highly recommended! First come first served!

Future dates

Palm Sunday	2 April
Holy Week	3 – 9 April
Good Friday	7 April
Easter Sunday	9 April 6am & 9.30am
Easter Hunt in the churchyard	9 April 10.30 to 12.30
APCM (annual meetings)	23 April at 2.00pm

Rotas. Who's doing what and when

	Today 19 March	Next Sunday 26 March
9.30am	Family Eucharist	Eucharist with Sunday School
Music	Bruce Boardman	Peter Lipman
Warden	Rosemary Bladon	Harry G-Brown
Sidesduty	Ann Wiggins	Laura G-B
Welcomers	Shirley Family	Trevor & Jan Wilson
Reading	Katharine Harper	Susan Rivett
Intercessions	Fiona Shirley	Laura G-B
Offertory	tba	Ann Wiggins & Katharine Harper
Chalice	Peter Bladon	Rosemary Bladon
2 nd Counter	Fiona Shirley	Trevor Wilson
Refreshments	Susan & Colin Rivett	Janet Wright & AN other
Sunday School	Jan Wilson	Hazel Pritchard