

# Welcome to St Mary's Apsley



and welcome to our service today

28<sup>th</sup> April, 2024  
Fifth Sunday of Easter

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.

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## This Week at St Mary's

### Today

9.00am Bellringing  
9.30am Parish Eucharist  
3pm Lizzie's Songs of Praise at Holy Trinity

### Monday

10.00 -12.00 Working Party  
8.00pm Bellringing practice

### Tuesday

9.30am Buzzy Bees  
12.30-2.30pm Foodbank and Community Café

### Thursday

9.30 - 3.30 Church open for private prayer  
9.30am Eucharist at St Mary's  
10.00 – 12.00 Foodbank and Community Café  
10.15am Study Group in the Vestry  
8pm Virtual Study Group

### Friday

10.00 -12.00 Working Party in Church & Churchyard

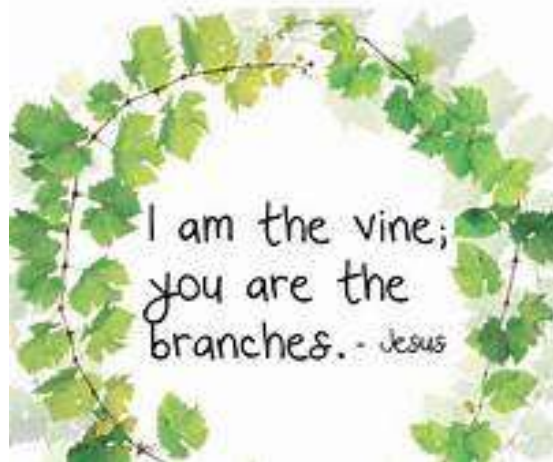
### Saturday

10.00 -12.00 Saturday Community Café

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May

9.00am Bellringing  
9.30am Parish Eucharist

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Dear Friends

Today (Sunday 28th April) we bid a fond farewell to our Team Rector, Lizzie Hood. Lizzie has been an outstanding Team Rector, and Rural Dean, and all-round excellent human being. She is a wise and caring priest and a loving friend to many. She is so amazingly talented; as a musician, a linguist, a horticulturalist. She cares deeply about the nurturing and flourishing of things. Speaking personally, Lizzie was one of the main reasons I knew I wanted to accept this job when the Bishop offered it to me; she was so warm and kind, and had such a good sense of humour. She is a can-do, bright possibilities kind of person. We shall miss her hugely. I do hope as many people as possible will cram into Holy Trinity this afternoon to say goodbye.

The Gospel set for today is quite appropriate for acknowledging the work that Lizzie has accomplished. Jesus tells us that he is the vine, and we are the branches of that vine. If we listen to his voice, and obey his teaching, we will bring forth much fruit. Those things in us which do not bear fruit are to be cut off and cast away; we need Jesus to help us with this discernment too. If we listen to the call of God in our lives, if we wait, and watch, and pray, and if we faithfully do the work set before us, God promises that we will bear fruit. Surprising fruit, perhaps. Perhaps not the fruit we had planned. But beautiful, abundant, tasty, nourishing fruit nonetheless.

As we thank Lizzie for her ministry among us and wish her a lovely retirement, let's think about the fruit we are called to bear.

Yours in Christ  
Mother Alice

## Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year B)

### The Collect

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to us the gate  
of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before us  
you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 8.26-end

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

### A reading from the First Letter of John 4.7-end

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 15.1-8

**GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

## Thursday's Readings (Year B)

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

15.7-21

After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, 'My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.'

The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied, 'My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first looked favourably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

"After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, so that all other peoples may seek the Lord— even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.

Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things known from long ago."

Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God, but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood. For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every sabbath in the synagogues.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### Psalm

96.1-3,17-end

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his name; tell out his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king. He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.

### A reading from the Gospel according to John

15.9-11

#### **GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

## Contact Information

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<b>Website/calendar:</b>	<a href="http://www.BeneficeofLangelei.org.uk/StMarys">www.BeneficeofLangelei.org.uk/StMarys</a>		

# Notices

Please send any input for next week to Sue in the Benefice office on [SaintsKL2@fiscali.co.uk](mailto:SaintsKL2@fiscali.co.uk) by noon on Wednesday and copy it to [StMarysApsleyEnd@gmail.com](mailto:StMarysApsleyEnd@gmail.com).

## Congratulations

to Gwyn Pritchard who took part in the London Marathon last Sunday completing the course in 3 hours 23 minutes.

Well done from as all at St Mary's

## Family Fun Day

We are planning a fundraising Family Fun day for Saturday 29th June 1pm- 4pm in the church yard. Help is required - if you are able to run a stall on the day, help with refreshments/bbq, games or have any ideas for activities please speak to Viv.

## Welcome Boxes for Nascent House

Thank you so much to everyone that has responded to the Nascent House requests. It has been truly amazing! Our needs are now sweets (small packets), individual bars of soap, notelets/cards, nail brushes, shampoo, large boxes of tissues and boxes with lids (17L to 25L). Please remember that the products must not contain alcohol. If you would like to know more about this scheme, come and have a chat. Susan & Viv

## Sunday 28th April at 3pm

Lizzie's Songs of Praise at Holy Trinity followed by a party in the Leverstock Green Village Hall. Everyone welcome.

## Friday 3rd May at 7.30

Featuring the Hemel Hempstead Band a Brass Band Concert at St Benedict's for the Mayor's Fund. Suggested donation £5.

## Sunday 12th May at 11am

Annual Parish Church Meeting in church

## Friday 24th May - FOS Ceilidh

The Friends of All Saints are hosting a Ceilidh in the Community Centre in Kings Langley. Tickets are £15 from Brian McAdam, include a light supper. The bar will be open. [bmccadam1@sky.com](mailto:bmccadam1@sky.com)

## Foodbanks at St Mary's and St B's

St Mary's foodbank is open 12.30-2.30 on Tuesdays and 10.00 -12.00 on Thursdays with a community café serving simple hot food.

Donations of in date non-perishable, unopened food or household essentials are much appreciated eg LL Milk, Pasta Sauce, Tin Meat/Beans & Sausages or see needs list: <https://t.ly/VJUlr>

either to the church or to Dunelm gratefully received.

Assistance at both foodbanks and at St B's on Wednesday 9.30-12.00 needed.

If you can help, do come and see us.

## Sponsorship for our organists



Our organist today, Peter Lipman, is sponsored by an anonymous person.

If you enjoy having the organ accompany our worship you too can be a sponsor. You can mark a Birthday, Anniversary or a notable event or just because.

Please contact one of the churchwardens –

Harry G-B or Sylvia Low for more information.

## Dates for your diary

Sun 28th Apr Lizzie's Songs of Praise 3pm Holy Trinity  
Sun 12th May APCM in the church at 11am  
Sun 19th May Messy Church  
Sat 29th June Family Fun Day

## Rotas - Who's doing what when

	28th April	5th May
	9.30 Parish Eucharist	9.30 Parish Eucharist
<b>Music</b>	Peter Lipman	Peter Lipman
<b>Warden</b>	Harry G-B	Sylvia Low
<b>Sides duty</b>	Rosemary Bladon	Ann Wiggins
<b>Welcomer</b>	Roger & Angela Witts	Viv Hagel
<b>Reading</b>	Melanie Henley	Dan Shirley
<b>Intercessions</b>	Laura GB	Laura G-B
<b>Offertory</b>	Graham-Brown family	Fiona Ellison & Sylvia Low
<b>Chalice</b>		Katherine Harper
<b>2nd Counter</b>	Roger Witts	Jim Aylott
<b>Refreshments</b>	Melanie Henley & Joy West	Dan & Fiona Shirley
<b>Sunday School</b>	Peter Bladon	Hazel Pritchard

Sue Bassett 25/04/2024