

Welcome to St Mary's Apsley & St Benedict's Bennetts End



and welcome to our services today

10th August, 2025

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

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 & St B's

Today

9.00am Bellringing at St Mary's
9.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary's
11.15am NO Parish Eucharist at St Benedict's

Monday

9.15-10.45 No Little Bears at St Benedict's
12.30-2.30pm Apsley Community Café at St Mary's Church
10.00 -12.00 Working Party at St Mary's
8 – 9.30pm Bellringing practice at St Mary's

Tuesday

9am NO Morning Prayer at St Benedict's
9.30am NO Buzzy Bees at St Mary's
Back on 9th September

Wednesday

9.30-11.30am Foodbank at St Benedict's

Thursday

9.30am NO Morning Prayer at St Mary's
10.00 – 12.00 Apsley Community Café at St Mary's Church
10.15am Study Group at St Mary's - Paused
8pm Home Study Group

Friday

10.00 -12.00 Working Party in St Mary's Church & Churchyard.

Saturday

10.00 -12.00 Saturday Community Café at St Mary's

Sunday 17th August

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary's
11.15am No Service at St Benedict's



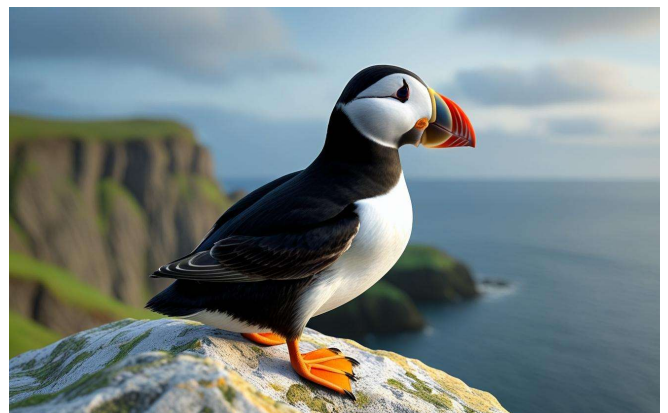
Hello from a small, mile long island in the Bristol Channel. Lundy island guards the channel leading to the city of Bristol and is renown for the puffin or sea parrot. Lundy comes from the Norse word for puffin.

Despite the small permanent population, the parish church of St Helen's, stands proudly on the top of the island, calling to prayer and worship those who sail on the sea. St Helen's is dedicated to the memory of St Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine. Helena introduced her son to the Christian faith. According to tradition it was Helena who ordered the destroying of a temple of Venus, which had been built over the site of Jesus' burial near Calvary. When digging the foundations, three crosses were found, a woman near to death was brought, to discover which one was the true cross. The first two brought about no change but on touching the third, the woman was healed, and Helena declared the cross to be the one Jesus died on. Constantine then ordered the building of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

There is also the tradition that Helena was a British princess and that Constantine picked up his Christianity in the city of York. Helena is the patron saint of Abingdon and Colchester and the coat of arms of Colchester incorporates a representation of the true cross.

Many a sailor has seen the church on the island and thanked God for their safe return to port. The church has been a beacon of hope to those in peril on the sea.

Sue Jakeman



Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year C)

The Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern
both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws
and the works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection, both here
and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
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 Book of Genesis

15.1-6

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Reading from a Letter to the Hebrews

11.1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, 'as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.'

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

This is the word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke

12.32-40

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.'

'But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Thursday's Readings (Year C)

A Reading from the Book of Joshua 3.7-11, 13-17

7 The Lord said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses.

8 You are the one who shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, "When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan."

9 Joshua then said to the Israelites, "Draw near and hear the words of the Lord your God."

10 Joshua said, "By this you shall know that among you is the living God who without fail will drive out from before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites:

11 the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is going to pass before you into the Jordan.

13 When the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan flowing from above shall be cut off; they shall stand in a single heap."

14 When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests bearing the ark of the covenant were in front of the people.

15 Now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest. So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the edge of the water, 16 the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap far off at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, while those flowing toward the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, were wholly cut off. Then the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

17 While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Psalms 114

1 When Israel came out of Egypt, ♦
the house of Jacob from a people of a strange tongue,

2 Judah became his sanctuary, ♦
Israel his dominion.

3 The sea saw that, and fled; ♦
Jordan was driven back.

4 The mountains skipped like rams, ♦
the little hills like young sheep.

5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? ♦
O Jordan, that you were driven back?

6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams, ♦
you little hills like young sheep?

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, ♦
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

8 Who turns the hard rock into a pool of water, ♦
the flint-stone into a springing well.

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew 18.21-19.1

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

21 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"

22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him;

25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.

26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything."

27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe."

29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you."

30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?"

34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

1 When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Contact Information

Vicar: Vacancy

General Enquiries: Please contact the Benefice Office
Monday – Friday 8.30am – 12.00pm

Administrator/Benefice Office:

Sue Bassett ☎ 01923 266596 or 07503 950315 or
info@beneficeoflangelei.org.uk

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Website/calendar:

www.BeneficeofLangelei.org.uk/StMarys

Notices

Please send any input for next week to Sue in the Benefice office on info@beneficeoflangelei.org.uk by noon on Wednesday and copy it to StMarysApsleyEnd@gmail.com.

A big thank you for all the cards, phone calls visits and food that I have received following the death of Rosemary last week.

Although it was expected it was quite sudden at the end and has been hard for me to deal with. After 57 years of married life it will take me time to get used to being without her to keep me on the straight and narrow!!

So once again many thanks to all the St Mary's family for all your support.

God Bless and may she rest in peace.
Peter Bladon.

Thursdays 10.15am

Study Group at St Mary's

During the Vacancy the Study Group is paused until further notice.

Team Confirmation Preparation 2025

Would you like to confirm your promises to God? Fr James, Revd Diana and Revd Jos will be running Confirmation Preparation sessions in the autumn. Please contact one of them to sign up. For adults and young people 12+ in our churches. 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd Oct, 15th Nov visit to St Albans, 20th Nov concluding session. 23rd Nov 6.30pm Confirmation Service at St John's Boxmoor.

27th & 28th Sept Scarecrow Festival



Save the date!

Please contact Laura or Sylvia if you know anyone or group who would like to make a scarecrow.

Morning services around the team

All are welcome to mid-week Morning Prayer and Holy Communion services

Tuesdays St Benedict's - Paused
Wednesdays Holy Trinity - 9am MP, 10am HC
Thursdays St Mary's - 9am MP, 9.30am HC
Fridays All Saints - 9am MP, 9.30am HC

Sponsorship for our organists at St Mary's



Our organist today, Ian Hope, is sponsored by an anonymous person. If you enjoy having the organ accompany our worship you can be a sponsor. You can mark a Birthday, Anniversary or a notable event or just

because. Please contact one of the churchwardens – Sue Jakeman or Sylvia Low for more information.

Apsley Community Foodbank & Café at St Mary's and Foodbank at St B's

St Mary's is open 12.30-2.30 on Mondays and 10-12 on Thursdays for food collection and serving simple hot food. St Benedict's foodbank is open Wednesdays 9.30-11.30. 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: either to the church or to Dunelm gratefully received.

Welcome Boxes for Nascent House

Thank you to everyone who has donated items for the welcome boxes. We are currently in need of boxes of tissues, packets of sweets, pens, notelets, notepads and boxes with lids (17-25l). Please note items must not contain alcohol. If you would like further information about this scheme, please speak to Susan or Viv.

You Can Join Our WhatsApp Group!

Used for quick questions and messages. If you are a member of St Mary's, do consider joining by contacting any of the admins (Katharine Harper, Laura G-Brown, Harry G-Brown and Rachel Woods)

Donate to St Mary's

Please support St Mary's by using this QR code to donate. Thank you.



Dates for your diary

Sat 16th Aug 2pm Games Afternoon
Sun 31st Aug 10.30am Team Service at All Saints
Fri 5th Sep 7pm Pudding and Plonk
Sat 13th Sep Bike 'n' Hike Church open 9am-5pm
Games afternoon
Sun 21st Sep Messy Harvest
Sept 27th & 28th Scarecrow Festival

St Mary's Rota - Who's doing what when

	10 th August	17 th August
	Parish Eucharist	Morning Prayer
Music	Ian Hope	Ian Hope
Warden	Harry GB	Tim Ward
Sides duty	Laura GB	Pauline Buck
Welcomer	Peter Baldon	Fiona Shirley
Reader	Melanie Henley	Dan Shirley
Prayers/ Intercessions	Laura GB	Sue Jakeman
Offertory	Roger and Angela Witts	Viv Hagel Ann Wiggins
Chalice/ 1st Counter	Peter Bladon	Viv Hagel
2nd Counter	Roger Witts	Peter Bladon
Refreshments	Melanie and Ralph Henley	Harry and Laura G-B
Sunday School	TBC	Laura G-B

Sue Bassett 07/08/2025