

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

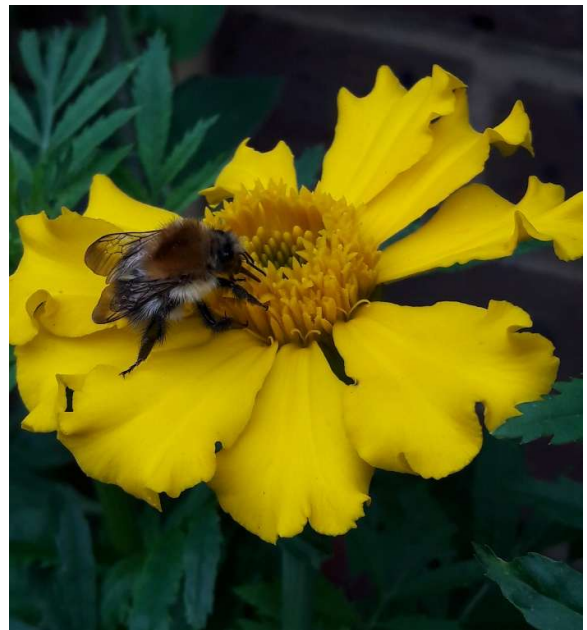


and welcome to our services today

17th August, 2025

Ninth 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 24th August

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's
11.15am No Service at St Benedict's

Dear All,

First the excellent news that the wait is over...our new Team Vicar is Rev David Jones. On behalf of everyone many congratulations to David; we all look forward to meeting David, Janey, Hannah and Autumn at the licensing service on Tuesday 14th October at 7.30 pm at St Mary's. The full official announcement is given on the back page. Please have David and his family in our prayers as they prepare to join us.

Waiting seems to be the theme for August with the looming of examination results. Being a parent of someone who is about to get their A-level results it is an interesting position to be in. I know what I felt like as the results day approached and can empathise...However, the importance of an outcome that your child will be happy with has so much emotional and mental energy attached to it that it is not surprising that any child has swings in mood from - I will get what I need to I am going to fail. The wait for my daughter is nearly over and I can only imagine the relief she will feel but it will be way more than mine as a parent. I am just glad that I have only to do this once!

Waiting also highlights the need for lots of patience or the ability to find lots of things to do to divert your attention from the thing you are waiting for. I think bees must have lots of patience...they spend all that time and energy collecting nectar to make honey only for us to take it from them!

On that note have a great week everyone. It's ok I have not lost the plot I am just finding ways to keep my brain occupied...

Best wishes,
Sylvia

Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year C)

The Collect

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love
and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our 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 book of the Prophet Jeremiah 23.23-29

Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from a Letter to the Hebrews 11.29-12.2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned.

By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days.

By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented - of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke 12.49-56

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!

I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed!

Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens.

And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens.

You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Thursday's Readings (Year C)

A Reading from the Book of Judges

11.29-end

Then the spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh. He passed on to Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed on to the Ammonites.

And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord, and said, "If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, then whoever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return victorious from the Ammonites, shall be the Lord's, to be offered up by me as a burnt offering."

So Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them; and the Lord gave them into his hand. He inflicted a massive defeat on them from Aroer to the neighbourhood of Minnith, twenty towns, and as far as Abel-keramim. So the Ammonites were subdued before the people of Israel.

Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah; and there was his daughter coming out to meet him with timbrels and with dancing. She was his only child; he had no son or daughter except her.

When he saw her, he tore his clothes, and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low; you have become the cause of great trouble to me. For I have opened my mouth to the Lord, and I cannot take back my vow."

She said to him, "My father, if you have opened your mouth to the Lord, do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, now that the Lord has given you vengeance against your enemies, the Ammonites."

And she said to her father, "Let this thing be done for me: Grant me two months, so that I may go and wander on the mountains, and bewail my virginity, my companions and I."

"Go," he said and sent her away for two months. So she departed, she and her companions, and bewailed her virginity on the mountains.

At the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did with her according to the vow he had made. She had never slept with a man. So there arose an Israelite custom that for four days every year the daughters of Israel would go out to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Psalm 40.4-11

4 Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, ♦ who does not turn to the proud that follow a lie.

5 Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God. How great your designs for us! ♦ There is none that can be compared with you.

6 If I were to proclaim them and tell of them ♦ they would be more than I am able to express.

7 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire ♦ but my ears you have opened;

8 Burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not required; ♦ then said I: 'Lo, I come.'

9 'In the scroll of the book it is written of me that I should do your will, O my God; ♦

I delight to do it: your law is within my heart.'

10 I have declared your righteousness in the great congregation; ♦ behold, I did not restrain my lips, and that, O Lord, you know.

11 Your righteousness I have not hidden in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;

♦ I have not concealed your loving-kindness and truth from the great congregation.

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew 22.1-14

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying:

"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.

He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come.

Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet."

But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them.

The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.

Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet."

Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless.

Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

Facebook: St Mary's Apsley End

Churchwardens: Sylvia Low ☎ 07742 610932

SylviaLow@gmail.com

Sue Jakeman ☎ 07971 254336

susanjakeman@btinternet.com

Safeguarding: Marina McKenna - ☎ 07783173457

Katharine Harper - ☎ 07881602024

Email: safeguardingapsley@gmail.com

Website/calendar: www.BeneficeofLangelei.org.uk/StMarys

Thursdays 10.15am

Study Group at St Mary's

During the Vacancy the Study Group is paused.

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.

We are pleased to announce that Rev David Jones has been appointed as Team Vicar in the Langelei Team Ministry with special responsibility for St Mary's Apsley End and St Benedict's, Bennetts End. This is subject to completion of the usual legal formalities.

David licensing service will take place on Tuesday 14th October at 7.30pm at St Mary's Apsley End.

Please remember David, Janey, Hannah and Autumn in your prayers as they prepare for their move.

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.

Rosemary Bladon's funeral service

will be taking place at St Mary's Church
on Wednesday 3rd September at 12.30pm.
All are welcome to come.

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.

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

Sun 31 st Aug	10.30am Team Service at All Saints
Wed 3 rd Sept	12.30pm Funeral of Rosemary Bladon
Fri 5 th Sep	7pm Pudding and Plonk
Sat 13 th Sep	Bike 'n' Hike Church open 9am-5pm
	Games afternoon
Sun 21 st Sep	Messy Harvest
Sept 27 th & 28 th	Scarecrow Festival
Tues 14 th Oct	7.30pm Licencing of Rev David Jones

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

	17 th August	24 th August
	Morning Prayer	Parish Eucharist
Music	Ian Hope	Mark Terry
Warden	Tim Ward	Dan Shirley
Sides duty	Pauline Buck	Ann Wiggins
Welcomer	Fiona Shirley	Dan Shirley
Reader	Dan Shirley	Katharine Harper
Prayers/ Intercessions	Sue Jakeman	Fiona Shirley
Offertory	Viv Hagel Ann Wiggins	Melanie Henley Sarah Barnard
Chalice/ 1 st Counter	Viv Hagel	Jim Aylott
2nd Counter	Peter Bladon	Roger Witts
Refreshments	Harry and Laura G-B	Janet Wright Melanie Henley
Sunday School	Laura G-B	Hazel Pritchard