

## A reading from the Book of Samuel 7.1.16

And the people of Kiriath-jearim came and took up the ark of the Lord, and brought it to the house of Abinadab on the hill. They consecrated his son, Eleazar, to have charge of the ark of the Lord.

From the day that the ark was lodged at Kiriath-jearim, a long time passed, some twenty years, and all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord. Then Samuel said to all the house of Israel, "If you are returning to the Lord with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Astartes from among you. Direct your heart to the Lord, and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines." So Israel put away the Baals and the Astartes, and they served the Lord only. Then Samuel said, "Gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I will pray to the Lord for you." So they gathered at Mizpah, and drew water and poured it out before the Lord. They fasted that day, and said, "We have sinned against the Lord." And Samuel judged the people of Israel at Mizpah.

When the Philistines heard that the people of Israel had gathered at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the people of Israel heard of it they were afraid of the Philistines. The people of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us, and pray that he may save us from the hand of the Philistines." So Samuel took a sucking lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the Lord; Samuel cried out to the Lord for Israel, and the Lord answered him. As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel; but the Lord thundered with a mighty voice that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion; and they were routed before Israel. And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and struck them down as far as beyond Beth-car. Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Jeshanah, and named it Ebenezer; for he said, "Thus far the Lord has helped us." So the Philistines were subdued and did not again enter the territory of Israel; the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. The towns that the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath; and Israel recovered their territory from the hand of the Philistines. There was peace also between Israel and the Amorites. Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. He went on a circuit year by year to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah; and he judged Israel in all these places

This is the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

## Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke 1.26-38 GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

www.BeneficeofLangelei.org.uk/StMarys  
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# ST MARY'S | NEWS



*Welcome to St Mary's Apsley. and to our service today  
21<sup>st</sup> December, 2025.*

*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**  
**12.30-2.30pm** Apsley Community Café  
**10.00 -12.00** Working Party  
**8 – 9.30pm** Bellringing practice

**Tuesday**  
**9.30am** NO Buzzy Bees  
16<sup>th</sup> Dec – 13<sup>th</sup> Jan

**Wednesday – Christmas Eve**  
**4.30pm** Christingle and Nativity  
Service  
**11pm** Midnight Mass

**Thursday – Christmas Day**  
**9.30am** Christmas Family Service  
**10.00 – 12.00** Apsley Foodbank &  
Community Café

**Friday**  
**10.00 -12.00** Working Party in Church &  
Churchyard

**Saturday**  
**10.00 -12.00** Saturday Community Café

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December**  
**10.30am** Team Eucharist  
At Holy Trinity, LG

## Contact Information

**Vicar:**  
Rev David Jones  
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**Associate Priest:**  
Rev Jos Perris  
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**General Enquiries:**  
Please contact the Benefice  
Office Monday to Thursday  
8.00am – 12.00pm

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## Notices

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December Team Eucharist at Holy Trinity, Leverstock Green at 10.30am

Please note there will be NO service at St Mary's on 28th December - please do join us at Holy Trinity at the later time of 10.30am

### Church in the Wild at All Saints, KL

Join us at 11.15am on the first Sunday of the month for a time of learning in nature, getting creative and building community.

### NEW Calm Church at Holy Trinity, LG 25<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm

Designed to support and welcome children who are neurodivergent or have SEND needs and their families. A simple service, followed by biscuits and squash.

### Sponsorship for our organists

Our organist today, Mark Terry, is sponsored by an anonymous person. If you enjoy having the organ accompany our worship you can be a sponsor. Mark a Birthday, Anniversary or a notable event or just because. Please contact a churchwarden – Sue Jakeman or Sylvia Low for more information

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



### Apsley Community Foodbank & Café

Mondays 12.30-2.30pm

Thursdays 10 -12am

for food collection and 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: either to the church or to Dunelm gratefully received.

St Benedict's Foodbank is open  
Wednesdays 9.30- 11.30am

### Welcome Boxes for Nascent House

Please contact Katharine Harper or Viv Hagel if you have donations for Nascent House boxes. Toothbrushes, sweets, flannels, notecards, razors, shower gel, shampoo and conditioner are required. If you would like more information about this initiative or would like to commit to donating a regular item then please get in touch. Clients may be male or female and please remember that the products must not contain alcohol. Thank you for your ongoing support.

### Donate to St Mary's

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



### Team Quiet Day 7th March '26

We are planning a Team Quiet Day exploring the Lord's Prayer at St Peter's Church, London Colney. The day will run from 10am-4pm, £5 per person. Pick up a flyer for full details of what is happening and how to book!

## Dates for your diary

Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	6pm 9 Lessons and Carols
Weds 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	4.30pm Christingle and Nativity Service 11pm Midnight Mass
Thur 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30am Christmas Family Service
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.30 Team Service at Holy Trinity
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	11.15 Church in the Wild at All Saints, KL
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.30-11.45 Coffee Morning in Refectory
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	3pm Calm Church at Holy Trinity, LG
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> March	10am-4pm Team Quiet Day at London Colney

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

	21 <sup>st</sup> December	25 <sup>th</sup> December
	9.30 Morning Eucharist with Carols	9.30 Christmas Family Service
Music	Mark Terry	Ian Hope
Warden	Dan Shirley	Harry GB
Sides duty	Ann Wiggins	Jeanie Agg
Welcomer	Viv Hagel	David Agg
OT & NT Reader	Dan Shirley	Melanie Henley
Gospel Reader		
Prayers/ Intercessions	Ian Dixon	Laura GB
Offertory	Harry GB Laura GB	Melanie Henley Sylvia Low
Chalice/ 1 <sup>st</sup> Counter	Sue Jakeman	Peter Bladon
2nd Counter	Harry GB	
Refreshments	Angela Witts Sylvia Low	
Sunday School		

### Morning services around the team

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

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