

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



and welcome to our services today

22nd December, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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 Nine Lessons & Carols at St Mary's
11.15am Parish Eucharist at St Benedict's

Monday

9-10.30am NO Little Bears at St Benedict's
10.00 -12.00 Working Party at St Mary's
8.00pm NO Bellringing practice at St Mary's

Tuesday – Christmas Eve

3pm Crib Service at St Bs
4pm Bellringing at St Mary's
4.30pm Crib Service at St Mary's
10.45pm Bellringing at St Mary's
11.15pm Midnight Christmas Eucharist at St Mary's

Wednesday – Christmas Day

9am Bellringing at St Mary's
9.30am Christmas Service at St Mary's
11.15am Christmas Service at Benedict's
11am - 3pm Christmas Community Lunch at St Mary's

Thursday – Boxing Day

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 29th December

10.30am Team Eucharist at St Benedict's



Dear Friends

As I write, we are in the final week of Advent, the week when the church 'silently selects her top liturgical gear' (Turvey Abbey reflections on the O Antiphons).

The great prayers for these holy days are the O Antiphons, beautiful words of longing and expectancy for the coming of Jesus, the Christ, the light of the world. If you haven't prayed these prayers before, it is not too late. The full prayer for each antiphon can easily be found by Googling 'O Antiphons', or you may like to simply use the headings below.

Each antiphon highlights a title of Christ, our Messiah. The Latin names of the antiphons form an acrostic.

S apientia (Wisdom)
A donai (Lord)
R adix Jesse (Root of Jesse)
C lavis David (Key of David)

O riens (Rising Sun)
R ex Gentium (Ruler of the Nations)
E mmanuel (Emmanuel)

This spells the Latin words *ero cras*, I will be here tomorrow. It's a beautiful way of keeping the last days of Advent.

Yours in Christ
Mother Alice

Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year C)

The Collect

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
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 Micah

5.2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the
strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be
great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.
If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight installed as rulers.
This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

10.5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will,
O God"
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel According to Luke

1.39-45

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Thursday's Readings (Year C)

A Reading from the Second Book of the Chronicles 24.20-22

Then the spirit of God took possession of Zechariah son of the priest Jehoiada; he stood above the people and said to them, 'Thus says God: Why do you transgress the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has also forsaken you.' But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the Lord. King Joash did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him, but killed his son. As he was dying, he said, 'May the Lord see and avenge!'

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 7.51-end

'You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.'

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel According to Matthew 10.17-22

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Contact Information

Vicar: Mthr Alice Jolley ☎01442 615246
mthr.AliceJolley@outlook.com

General Enquiries: Please contact the Benefice Office
Monday – Friday 8.30am – 12.30pm

Administrator/Benefice Office:

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

Facebook: St Mary's Apsley End

Twitter: @StMarys1871

Churchwardens: Sylvia Low ☎ 07742 610932
SylviaLow@gmail.com

Harry Graham-Brown ☎ 07918 071542
Harry.GB63@gmail.com

Safeguarding: Katharine Harper ☎ 07881 602024
KatharineHarper23@gmail.com

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

Please note the office will be closed until 2nd January

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.

Christmas Day Service

Bring your presents!!

On Christmas day, for our 9.30am service, please bring a present with you, if possible *still wrapped* to be unwrapped as part of Mother Alice's talk. Thank you!

Appointment of Team Vicar

We are delighted that The Revd Dr Diana Stretton has been appointed to the team with special responsibility for Holy Trinity, subject to completion of the legal formalities.

Diana's Licensing and Installation service has been scheduled for Thursday 24th April, 2025 at 7.30pm. Please save the date and remember Diana and her husband Chris in your prayers.

The Midnight Service on Christmas Eve at St Mary's needs you...

Please let a Churchwarden know if you are able to help light the candles before the service and/or snuff them out after the service. This is a time-consuming activity but as they say "many hands make light work"! Also, if you have a candle snuffer that we could borrow that would be great. Thank you.

Just A Cappella and BURP Concert

Saturday 18th January at Holy Trinity
7 for 7.30pm. Tickets £15. Save the date!

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 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.

Donate to St Mary's

Please donate to help St Mary's using the QR code below. Thank you.



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. 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.

Assistance at all foodbanks gratefully received. If you can help, do come and see us.

Welcome Boxes for Nascent House

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

Dates for your diary

- Tues 24th Dec 3pm Crib Service at St Bs
4.30pm Crib Service at St Mary's
11.15pm Midnight Christmas Eucharist at St Mary's
- Wed 25th Dec 9.30am Christmas Service at St Mary's
11am – 3pm Community Christmas Lunch At St Mary's
11.15am Christmas Service at St Benedict's
- Sun 29th Dec 10.30am Team Service at St Benedict's
- Sat 4th Jan Epiphany Games 2 – 5 pm at St Mary's

Rotas - Who's doing what when		
	22 nd December	5 th January
	9.30 9 Lessons & Carols	9.30 Eucharist
Music	Mark Terry	Mark Terry
Warden	Tim Ward	Dan Shirley
Sides duty	Pauline Buck	Pauline Buck
Welcomer	Laura G-B	Katharine Harper
Reader	N/A	Dan Shirley
Prayers/ Intercessions	Ian Dixon	Katharine Harper
Offertory	N/A	Dan Shirley & Fiona Shirley
Chalice	N/A	Peter Bladon
2nd Counter	Kladji Ceci	Jim Aylott
Refreshments	Sylvia Low & Sarah Bernard	Laura & Harry G-B
Sunday School	N/A	

Sue Bassett 20/12/2024