

Welcome to St Mary's Apsley



and welcome to our service today

25th February, 2024
Second Sunday of Lent

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

Today

9.00am Bellringing
9.30am Parish Eucharist

Monday

10.00 - 12.00 Working Party
8.00pm Bellringing practice

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

7pm Lent Discussion Group in the Vicarage

Thursday

9.30 Eucharist at St Mary's
9.30 - 3.30 Church open for private prayer
10.00 - 12.00 Foodbank and Community Café
10.15am Study Group in the vestry
8.00pm Lent Discussion Group

Friday

10.00 - 12.00 Working Party

Saturday

10.00 - 12.00 Saturday Community Café

Sunday 3rd March

9.00am Bellringing
9.30am Parish Eucharist



A Vicar's holiday is sacrosanct and vital for well-being, So too are days off.

It's easy to think because we personally only see our Vicar on Sundays that that's their only working day. In fact, a Vicar's day-to-day workload is constant and can be very demanding. The average Vicar works 63 hours a week. It is therefore in everyone's interests to make sure our Vicar has time to read, recuperate and enjoy family time.

So, Alice is away this week recharging her batteries, but will be back by the time you read this! When you see her next, remember to give her a smile, and perhaps say Thank You.

Morning Prayer at St Benedict's:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday at 9.30am

Evening Prayer at St Benedict's:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday at 5.30pm

Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year B)

The Collect

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord 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 Genesis 17.1-7,15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 4.13-end

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 8.31-end

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Thursday's Readings (Year B)

A reading from Jeremiaiah 17.5-10

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

This is the word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Psalms

1

- 1 Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord and they meditate on his law day and night.
- 3 Like a tree planted by streams of water bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither, whatever they do, it shall prosper.
- 4 As for the wicked, it is not so with them; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgement, nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.
- 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ From Luke 16.19-end

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

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
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Notices

Please send any input for next week to Sue in the Benefice office on SaintsKL2@tiscali.co.uk by noon on Wednesday and copy it to StMarysApsleyEnd@gmail.com.

Marion Penfold

You will be sad to hear that Marion Penfold died in Watford hospital on Monday afternoon. Her and husband John played a very important part in the life of our church over many years and Marion will always be remembered for her important work with the 'Buzzy Bees'. Her funeral will take place at St John's Church at Boxmoor at a date to be arranged and details will be given in future bulletin.

Thank You

We need to say thank you to the people who have been sorting out all the repairs to the windows following the spate of vandalism before Christmas. Despite our insurance this has created an unexpected expenditure of over £1000 in excess fees.

Thursday Evening Study Group

During Lent the Thursday evening study group will NOT be via Zoom. We will be meeting in person from 22nd February at 8.00pm following the Lent Discussion course. For further details please speak to the Churchwardens.

Lent Discussion Group

Wednesday 28th Feb

- **What is Calling?**

Wednesday 6th Mar

- **What can we learn from Jesus' Sense of his own calling?**

Wednesday 13th Mar

- **How can we discern our own calling in life?**

Wednesday 20th Mar

- **Is there a reliable method for discerning important life choices in prayer?**

Meet at 7pm in The Vicarage,

All sessions include soup and a roll.

Welcome Boxes for Nascent House

Thank you to everyone's response in recent weeks to the request for donations. The needs are now for flannels, sponge bags, sweets (small packets), individual bars of soap, boxes of tissues and plastic boxes with lids (17L to 25L). Please remember that the products must not contain alcohol. Susan and Viv

Sponsorship for our organists

We hope you enjoy the music today provided by Harry G-B. If you like having live music and would like to sponsor the organist, please contact one of the churchwardens – Harry G-B or Sylvia Low for more information.



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. We are currently very short of all stock and would value donations either to the church or to Dunelm. We continue to need assistance at both foodbanks and at St B's on Wednesday 9.30-12.00. If you can help, do speak to Mother Alice.

Children's Books

We have had some children's books donated to the foodbank. Feel free to take what you would like and leave a donation that can be used towards heating the refectory when the foodbank is using it.

Notice Boards!

Have you noticed the notice boards?

Dates for your diary

Weds 28th Feb Lent Discussion Group. 7pm @ Vicarage

Fri 1st Mar World Day of Prayer at

Adeyfield Free Church

Weds 6th Mar Lent Discussion Group. 7pm @ Vicarage

Sun 10th Mar Mothering Sunday

Weds 13th Mar Lent Discussion Group. 7pm @ Vicarage

Sun 17th Mar Messy Church

Weds 20th Mar Lent Discussion Group. 7pm @ Vicarage

Sun 24th Mar Palm Sunday

Fri 29th Mar Good Friday

Sun 31st Mar Easter Sunday

Mon 1st Apr Pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral

Sun 21st Apr Messy Church

Rotas - Who's doing what when

	25 th February	3 rd March
	9.30 Eucharist	9.30 Eucharist
Music	Recorded Music/Harry G-B	Peter Lipman
Warden	Dan Shirley	Tim Ward
Sides duty	Sylvia Low	Colin Rivett
Welcomer	Joy West	Jan & Trevor Wilson
Reading	Dan Shirley	Katharine Harper
Intercessions	Fiona Shirley	Sue Jakeman
Offertory	Rosemary & Peter Bladon	Alfie Cacciapuoti & Melanie Henley
Chalice	Rosemary Bladon	Peter Bladon
2nd Counter	Fiona Shirley	Trevor Wilson
Refreshments	Susan & Colin Rivett	Melanie Henley & Alfie Cacciapuoti
Sunday School	Laura G-B	Jan Wilson