

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



and welcome to our services today

2nd February, 2025
Candlemas

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 Parish Age Eucharist at St Mary's
11.15am Parish Eucharist at St Benedict's

Monday

9.15-10.45am Little Bears at St Benedict's
10.00 -12.00 Working Party at St Mary's
8.00pm Bellringing practice at St Mary's

Tuesday

9.30am Buzzy Bees at St Mary's
12.30-2.30pm St Mary's Foodbank and Community Café

Wednesday

9.30-11.30am Foodbank at St Benedict's

Thursday

9.30 - 3.30 St Mary's Church open for private prayer
9.30am Eucharist at St Mary's
10.00 - 12.00 St Mary's Foodbank & Community Café
10.15am Study Group in St Mary's Vestry
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
3.00-8.00pm District Bell Ringing, Evensong, Tea, Meeting and Bell Ringing

Sunday 9th February

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's
11.15am Parish Eucharist at St Benedict's



Dear Friends

I write news that was announced in the churches in our Team last Sunday (26th Jan): I have resigned from my post as Team Vicar with responsibility for St Mary's Apsley and St Benedict's Bennetts End. I know this news will come as a shock to lots of people, and I am sorry not to be able to tell everyone in person.

My partner, Coral, has a new job as Key Stage 5 Maths lead at a school in Oxfordshire, and so we will be moving in the summer to enable her to take up this role. I have given 6 months' notice, so my last day of work will be 31st July, and my last Sunday will be 27th July. It is likely that there will be a Team service at St Mary's that Sunday, a chance for us to celebrate the last few years and all that has been so good.

This has been my first post after curacy, and it is impossible to quantify how much I have learned. It has been a privilege and a joy to be your priest. Many of you know that the last few years have also been a time of significant challenge, change, and bereavement in my personal life. I would not have chosen for things to happen as they did but, through it, I have sensed God calling me in a new and different way. I sense God asking me to embrace a quieter, slower pace of life, to process the events of the last few years and to make good decisions about what might come next. I will be 30 in a few weeks, and I have felt as though I have been on a high speed train throughout my 20's and in these first 6 years of ministry. I know that I need to step off that train. This has been a hard decision to make. But I hope I might lend you courage to listen for God's prompting in your own lives, to be led by God in surprising ways.

I know that this is hard news. I will miss you very much. There will be time in the months ahead for us to talk and ask questions together. For now, please do pray for Coral and for me, as I pray daily for you.

Yours in Christ
Mother Alice

Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year C)

The Collect

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the
Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ 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 Malachi

3.1-5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way
before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly
come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant
in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says
the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his
coming, and who can stand when he appears?
For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will
sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify
the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and
silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in
righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and
Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of
old and as in former years.
Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be
swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the
adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against
those who oppress the hired workers in their wages,
the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust
aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of
hosts.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

2.14-end

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood,
he himself likewise shared the same things, so that
through death he might destroy the one who has the
power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who
all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of
death. For it is clear that he did not come to help
angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore
he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every
respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful
high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice
of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he
himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to
help those who are being tested.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel According to Luke

2.22-40

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

When the time came for their purification according
to the law of Moses, they brought him up to
Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written
in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be
designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a
sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of
the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young
pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name
was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout,
looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the
Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to
him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death
before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple;
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to
do for him what was customary under the law,
Simeon took him in his arms and praised God,
saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in
peace, according to your word;

for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you
have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a
light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to
your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at
what was being said about him. Then

Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,
'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of
many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be
opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be
revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul
too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of
Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great
age, having lived with her husband for seven years
after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of
eighty-four. She never left the temple but
worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and
day.

At that moment she came, and began to praise
God and to speak about the child to all who were
looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the
law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their
own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became
strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God
was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Thursday's Readings (Year C)

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews 12.18-19, 21-24

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, 'I tremble with fear.' But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Psalm 48.1-3, 8-10

- 1 Great is the Lord and highly to be praised, ♦
in the city of our God.
- 2 His holy mountain is fair and lifted high, ♦
the joy of all the earth.
- 3 On Mount Zion, the divine dwelling place, ♦
stands the city of the great king.
- 8 As we had heard, so have we seen
in the city of the Lord of hosts, the city of our God: ♦
God has established her for ever.
- 9 We have waited on your loving-kindness, O God, ♦
in the midst of your temple.
- 10 As with your name, O God,
so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; ♦
your right hand is full of justice.

Hear the Gospel According to Mark 6.7-13

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Contact Information

Vicar: Mthr Alice Jolley ☎01442 615246

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

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.

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.

Langelei Lent Course: 3rd March-14th April

This year, we are running a Team Lent Course starting on 3rd March to 14th April. There will be 3 sessions/locations available each week. Each location will be using the same material each week over the 6 week period:

Monday 3.30-5pm at Jos' house in Bedmond
Tuesday 7.30-9pm at Alice's house, Bennet's End
Friday 10-11.30 at All Saints Church, KL

We will be using a book written by Paula Gooder called 'Women of Holy Week'. You do not have to purchase the book but can do so if you would like to. If you would like to know more, please contact: Alice, Jos or Keith/Andy at All Saints. There will be a sign up sheet at the back of Church.

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 support St Mary's by using the QR code below to donate. 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

Sun 2nd Feb 4.30pm Candlemas Choral Evensong at All Saints – all welcome.
 Sat 8th Feb 10am Fabric Committee Meeting
 Sat 8th Feb 3pm Western District Bell Ringers Meeting
 Sat 8th Feb 7.30pm Fun Wine Tasting at Holy Trinity
 Sun 16th Feb Messy Church
 Tues 4th Mar Lent Course Week 1 at Vicarage
 Tues 11th Mar Lent Course Week 2 at Vicarage
 Sun 16th Mar Messy Church
 Tues 18th Mar Lent Course Week 3 at Vicarage
 Tues 25th Mar Lent Course Week 4 at Vicarage
 Tues 1st Apr Lent Course Week 5 at Vicarage
 Tues 8th Apr Lent Course Week 6 at Vicarage

Rotas - Who's doing what when

	2 nd February	9 th February
	9.30 Eucharist	9.30 Eucharist
Music	Mark Terry	Mark Terry
Warden	Sylvia Low	Dan Shirley
Sides duty	Laura G-B	Ann Wiggins
Welcomer	Viv Hagel	Fiona Shirley
Reader	Melanie Henley	Fiona Shirley
Prayers/ Intercessions	Viv Hagel	Ian Dixon
Offertory	Lillian Hepwood & Fiona Ellison	Melanie Henley & Viv Hagel
Chalice	Jim Aylott	Peter Bladon
2nd Counter	Peter Bladon	Jim Aylott
Refreshments	Jeanie & David Agg	Viv Hagel & Melanie Henley
Sunday School		