

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



and welcome to our services today

12th January, 2025
The Epiphany with Christingle

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

9-10.30am NO 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 & Christingle Making

Sunday 19th January

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's
11.15am Parish Eucharist at St Benedict's
3pm Messy Church at St Mary's

How to Bless Your Home on the Feast of the Epiphany in 2025

Have you ever walked past a door and seen what appears to be random letters and numbers written at the top? These letters and numbers actually have a great significance.

On the feast of the Epiphany, many Christians bless their homes by writing the letters C, M, and B and the numbers of the year on the top of their front door frame with chalk.

This year, the sequence is: 20 + C + M + B + 25

This combination of letters and numbers holds a special meaning.

The letters represent two different things:

First, they stand for the names of the three wise men: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.

Secondly, they also represent the Latin blessing "Christus mansionem benedicat" which translates to "May Christ bless this house."

The crosses between each figure signify our salvation through Christ.

Christingles

Christingles are made using oranges and a few other bits, as you choose.



Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story:

- The orange represents the world
- The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations
- The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

During the service, each person takes a Christingle and the candles are all lit to create a warm, magical glow symbolising the light of Christ and bringing hope to people living in darkness.

Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year C)

The Collect

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
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 Isaiah 60.1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from the Ephesians 1.3-12

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time,

to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel

According to Matthew

2.1-12

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Thursday's Readings (Year C)

A reading from the Hebrews 3.7-14

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,
'Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,
as on the day of testing in the wilderness,
where your ancestors put me to the test,
though they had seen my works for forty years.
Therefore I was angry with that generation,
and I said, "They always go astray in their hearts,
and they have not known my ways."
As in my anger I swore,
"They will not enter my rest." '

Take care, brothers and sisters, that none of you may have an evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today', so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partners of Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end.
This is the Word of the Lord.
THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel According to Mark 1.40-end

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, 'If you choose, you can make me clean.' Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I do choose. Be made clean!' Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, 'See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.' But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Psalm 95.1,8-end

1 O come, let us sing to the Lord; ♦
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
8 O that today you would listen to his voice: ♦
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
on that day at Massah in the wilderness,
9 'When your forebears tested me, and put me to the
proof, ♦
though they had seen my works.
10 'Forty years long I detested that generation and
said, ♦
"This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways."
11 'So I swore in my wrath, ♦
"They shall not enter into my rest."

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

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.

Sad News

Just before Christmas we found out the very sad news that Julia Hart a longstanding member of the St Mary's family had died. Please keep Juila and her friends and family in your prayers at this time. Funeral details will be given in due course.

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.

Pray Hemel

Saturday 1st February we meet at AFC (Adeyfield Free Church, located on the Maylands Plaza in the heart of the Maylands Business Park HP2 4GZ) where refreshments will be served from 8am with worship starting at 8.30 am.

If you park in the upper, entrance level, please register your car at the church to avoid a fine. If you park at the lower level go to the far end nearest the church; please use spaces labelled AFC.

Some of my friends are enjoying (?) a Dry January; seems the weather didn't get the e-mail. Whatever you are doing, rejoice, enjoy and even have fun.

Bob , pp the PH team

Sponsorship for our organists



Our organist today, Peter Lipman, 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 (171 -251). 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

Mon 13th Jan PCC Meeting at St Benedict's
 Sun 19th Jan Messy Church
 Sat 8th Feb 3pm Western District Bell Ringers Meeting
 Sun 16th Feb Messy Church

Rotas - Who's doing what when

	12 th January	19 th January
	9.30 Eucharist	9.30 Morning Prayer 3pm Messy Church
Music	Peter Lipman	Ian Hope
Warden	Tim Ward	Sylvia Low
Sides duty	Katharine Harper	Ann Wiggins
Welcomer	Angela Witts	Melanie Henley
Reader	Sylvia Low	Sue Jakeman
Prayers/ Intercessions	Sue Jakeman	Laura G-B
Offertory	Ann Wiggins & Fiona Ellison	Jeanie Agg Sarah Barnard
Chalice	Jim Aylott	Sue Jakeman
2nd Counter	Roger Witts	Viv Hagel
Refreshments	Sylvia Low & Sarah Barnard	Harry & Laura G-B
Sunday School		N/A

Sue Bassett 08/01/2025