

Welcome to St Mary's Apsley



and welcome to our service today

14th January, 2024
Second Sunday of The Epiphany

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

9.30am 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
7.00pm PCC Meeting at St Benedict's

Thursday

9.30 - 3.30 Church open for private prayer
9.30 - 12.00 Foodbank and Community Café
9.30am Eucharist at St Mary's
10.15am Study Group in the vestry
8.00pm Virtual Study group on Zoom
All welcome (link on website/calendar)

Friday

10.00 -12.00 Working Party

Saturday

10.00 -12.00 Saturday Community Café
10.00-12.00 Bellringing – Local District Practice

Sunday 21st January

9.00am Bellringing
9.30am Parish Eucharist
3.00pm Messy Church

Morning Prayer at St Benedict's:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday at 9.30am

Evening Prayer at St Benedict's:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday at 5.30pm



Dear Friends,

In this season of Epiphany, we delight in the joy of the revelation of Jesus. He is the light which has come into the world, a light revealed to the nations, the dayspring from on high which has dawned upon us, illuminating all our darkness. There is so much light in this season. It is in stark contrast to the world around us, which is still resolutely dark. I don't think I have ever been more aware of the darkness of Winter than this year, I feel as though I get up in the dark and have breakfast in the dark and walk the dog in the dark... and before we know it, it's dark again. There is hardly any light. It is hard for those of us whose energy is badly affected by lack of light and lack of Vitamin D.

The lectionary focuses on Genesis in this season. God creates the light and darkness, and makes them into one whole day, and he calls the whole day good. The darkness and the light are both alike to God, God does not experience darkness as we do. He created it, and he is not afraid of it or fed up of it. There is a softness to the darkness, it too is full of the creative love and power of God. If you are feeling overwhelmed by the darkness, either physical or metaphorical, remember God knows it, and he is within it. He created it for a purpose, even if we can't always discern what that purpose might be. Hold on, because the light is coming. Spring will come, and we will all feel better than this.

This Sunday our service is led by Lizzie Hood, whose retirement was announced last Sunday. Please make a fuss of her! We are delighted that she is taking this exciting step, but we will miss her enormously and be very sad to be without her. Make the most of her while you can.

Yours in Christ
Mother Alice

Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year B)

The Collect

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches
of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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 First Book of Samuel

3.1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." ' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

A reading from the Book of Revelation to John

5.1-10

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song:

'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

1.43-end

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Thursday's Collect and Readings (Year B)

A reading from the

First Book of Samuel 18.6-9;19.1-7

As they were coming home, when David returned from killing the Philistine, the women came out of all the towns of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. And the women sang to one another as they made merry,
'Saul has killed his thousands,
and David his tens of thousands.'

Saul was very angry, for this saying displeased him. He said, 'They have ascribed to David tens of thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands; what more can he have but the kingdom?' So Saul eyed David from that day on.

Saul spoke to his son Jonathan and to all his servants about killing David. But Saul's son Jonathan took great delight in David. Jonathan told David, 'My father Saul is trying to kill you; therefore be on guard tomorrow morning; stay in a secret place and hide yourself. I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you; if I learn anything I will tell you.' Jonathan spoke well of David to his father Saul, saying to him, 'The king should not sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have been of good service to you; for he took his life in his hand when he attacked the Philistine, and the Lord brought about a great victory for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced; why then will you sin against an innocent person by killing David without cause?' Saul heeded the voice of Jonathan; Saul swore, 'As the Lord lives, he shall not be put to death.' So Jonathan called David and related all these things to him. Jonathan then brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before.

This is the word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from Psalms 56.1-2, 8-end

1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for my soul takes refuge in you;

2 In the shadow of your wings will I take refuge until the storm of destruction has passed by.

8 My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready; I will sing and give you praise.

9 Awake, my soul; awake, harp and lyre, that I may awaken the dawn.

10 I will give you thanks, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praise to you among the nations.

11 For your loving-kindness is as high as the heavens,

and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

12 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, ♦ and your glory over all the earth.

Tender God,
gentle protector in time of trouble,

pierce the gloom of despair

and give us, with all your people,

the song of freedom and the shout of praise;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 3.7-12

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

Jesus departed with his disciples to the lake, and a great multitude from Galilee followed him; hearing all that he was doing, they came to him in great numbers from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and the region around Tyre and Sidon. He told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush him; for he had cured many, so that all who had diseases pressed upon him to touch him. Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and shouted, 'You are the Son of God!' But he sternly ordered them not to make him known.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Contact Information

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|--|--|-----------------|--|
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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.

The Revd Lizzie Hood

will be retiring at the end of April. Her farewell service will be on Sunday 28th April at 3pm at Holy Trinity.

Welcome Boxes for Nascent House

Sue and Viv would like to thank everyone for their amazing support throughout 2023, providing a total of 43 welcome boxes of vital items for the new residents of Nascent House and the Oxygen Recovery programme. When we are contacted about a new resident, we try to deliver the box within 48 hours of their arrival and this is why it is important to keep sufficient stock levels. We have had many messages of thanks from the recipients and comments of our warm welcome for them at church when they support our activities. If you want to know more about the scheme, donate items or cash towards larger things please ask. We would be grateful for plastic boxes with lids 17l to 25l, sweets, stamps, notebooks, envelopes and boxes of tissues. If you can donate any of these items please place them in or near the box at the rear of the church.

New tables

We are planning to purchase 5 new square tables for the church at a cost of £50 each. If you would like to sponsor a table or make a donation towards these, please speak to our treasurer Peter. Many thanks, Viv

Sponsorship for our organists



Today's Organist, Bruce Boardman is sponsored by an anonymous donor.

If you would like to sponsor the organist, perhaps to celebrate a special occasion or in memory of a loved one, please email Janet on janet@apsleyend.co.uk. It would be good to have some sponsorship for services in Lent & around Easter.

Foodbanks at St Mary's and St B's

St Mary's foodbank is open 9.30-12.00 on Thursdays with a community café serving simple hot food too. We continue to need donations and assistance at both foodbanks (St Mary's and St B's). If you can help, do speak to Mthr Alice.

Well done to all those who helped serve so many dinners on Christmas Day. It was a tremendous success.

Could you be our next Safeguarding Officer?

The PCC is seeking a candidate to take over from Susan Rivett when she steps down in the spring of 2024. Please consider prayerfully whether God might be calling you to take on this highly important role in the life of our church. It will be possible to shadow Susan for a few months if early notice of interest is given!

Dates for your diary

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|--------------------------|--|
| Sun 21 st Jan | Messy Church |
| Wed 14 th Feb | Ash Wednesday |
| Fri 1 st Mar | World Day of Prayer at Adeyfield Free Church |
| Sun 10 th Mar | Mothering Sunday |
| Sun 17 th Mar | Messy Church |
| Sun 24 th Mar | Palm Sunday |
| Fri 29 th Mar | Good Friday |
| Sun 31 st Mar | Easter Sunday |
| Mon 1 st Apr | Pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral |
| Sun 21 st Apr | Messy Church |

Rotas - Who's doing what when

| | 14 th January | 21 st January |
|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | 9:30 Eucharist | 9:30 Eucharist 3pm Messy Church |
| Music | Bruce Boardman | Bruce Boardman |
| Warden | Tim Ward | Harry G-B |
| Sides duty | Colin Rivett | Joy West |
| Welcomer | Rosie Sutton | Trevor & Jan Wilson |
| Reading | Dan Shirley | Joy West |
| Intercessions | Laura G-B | Katharine Harper |
| Offertory | Shirley family | Ann Wiggins & Katharine Harper |
| Chalice | Susan Rivett | Rosemary Bladon |
| 2nd Counter | Jim Aylott | Fiona Shirley |
| Refreshments | Ann Wiggins & Sarah Barnard | Janet Wright |
| Sunday School | Laura G-B | No Sunday School |