

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



and welcome to our services today

19th January, 2025
The Second Sunday of 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 & 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
3pm Messy Church at St Mary's

Monday

9-10.30am 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

Sunday 26th January

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



Dear Friends

This Sunday our Gospel is the Wedding at Cana, such a beautiful account of Jesus' power to turn ordinary things into something extraordinary, surprising, and new. We hear this passage at this point in Epiphany season, because Epiphany is about the revelation of Jesus, the revealing of who he really is: the Lord, the Messiah, the King, the Son of God.

I love this passage partly because of the prominence of Mary, Jesus' mother. There is that classic Mother/ Son dynamic, she tells him there is no more wine, and he sort of responds "So what?". But Mary knows who her son is and she knows his power to transform, so she tells the stewards to listen to his instructions. What follows is truly a miracle of wonder and delight.

We can sometimes fall into the trap of thinking that miracles are only found in the Bible. I wonder if you can think of a situation, or a thing, or an example of something that you are presuming cannot be changed or made better? I wonder why you think of it that way? I wonder, could you ask Jesus to pour his transforming, miraculous power on it? Can you believe it might be possible to see beautiful, surprising change?

Yours in Christ
Mother Alice

Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year C)

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 book of Isaiah 62.1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of
the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the Lord delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 12.1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel According to John 2.1-11

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Thursday's Readings (Year C)

A reading from the Hebrews 7.25-8.6

Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever.

Now the main point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent that the Lord, and not any mortal, has set up. For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; hence it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. They offer worship in a sanctuary that is a sketch and shadow of the heavenly one; for Moses, when he was about to erect the tent, was warned, 'See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.' But Jesus has now obtained a more excellent ministry, and to that degree he is the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted through better promises.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Psalm 40.7-10, 17-end

7 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire ♦
but my ears you have opened;

8 Burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not required; ♦

then said I: 'Lo, I come.

9 'In the scroll of the book it is written of me
that I should do your will, O my God; ♦
I delight to do it: your law is within my heart.'

10 I have declared your righteousness in the great
congregation; ♦
behold, I did not restrain my lips, and that, O Lord, you
know.

17 Let all who seek you rejoice in you and be glad; ♦
let those who love your salvation say always,
'The Lord is great.'

18 Though I am poor and needy, ♦
the Lord cares for me.

19 You are my helper and my deliverer; ♦
O my God, make no delay.

Hear the Gospel 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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General Enquiries: Please contact the Benefice Office
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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.

Julia Hart

The funeral for Julia Hart will take place on Wednesday 22nd January at 11.30am at Hemel Hempstead Crematorium. Please keep Julia and her friends and family in your prayers at this time.

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

Fun Wine Tasting at Holy Trinity

Saturday 8th February at 7.30 pm £15
Contact Terry or Kathy 07748 555333

Sponsorship for our organists



Our organist today, Ian Hope, 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

- 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
- Sun 16th March Messy Church

Rotas - Who's doing what when

	19 th January	26 th January
	9.30 Morning Prayer 3pm Messy Church	9.30 Eucharist
Music	Ian Hope	Peter Lipman
Warden	Sylvia Low	Harry G-B
Sides duty	Ann Wiggins	Colin Rivett
Welcomer	Melanie Henley	Monda Ajazi
Reader	Sue Jakeman	Susan Rivett
Prayers/ Intercessions	Laura G-B	Ian Dixon
Offertory	Jeanie Agg Sarah Barnard	Alfie Cacciapuoti Sylvia Low
Chalice	Sue Jakeman	Susan Rivett
2nd Counter	Viv Hagel	Roger Witts
Refreshments	Harry & Laura G-B	Susan & Colin Rivett
Sunday School	N/A	

Sue Bassett 16/01/2025