

Welcome to St Mary's Apsley



and welcome to our service today

21st January, 2024
Third 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

9.00am Bellringing
9.30am Parish Eucharist
3.00pm Messy Church

Monday

10.00 -12.00 Working Party
8.00pm Bellringing practice

Tuesday

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

Thursday

9.30 - 3.30 Church open for private prayer
10.00 - 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

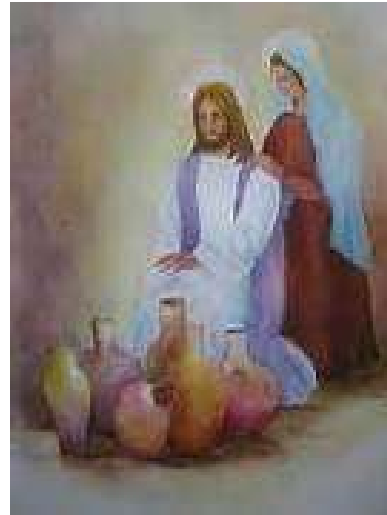
10.00 -12.00 Working Party

Saturday

10.00 -12.00 Saturday Community Café

Sunday 28th January

9.00am Bellringing
9.30am Parish Eucharist



Today's Gospel is the account of the Wedding at Cana. I love this story for all its symbolism of Jesus taking the ordinary things in our lives and turning them into something extraordinary. This is one of Jesus' first miracles and it is an indication of the person he will reveal himself to be, the Son of a God for whom nothing is impossible.

The wedding guests think it's all over, they think they've seen the last of the good wine. Usually people serve the good wine first and leave the plonk until after people have got too drunk to notice the difference. But the guests drank all the ordinary wine... and then this new, amazing, special vintage wine appeared. Where from? From the stone water jars holding the water used to wash the guests' feet. Ordinary water, ordinary guests, an ordinary wedding party, an extraordinary ending.

Sometimes, we give up on God's goodness. Haven't we waited long enough? Hasn't the time for miracles come and gone? This story is proof that it is never too late. God has never given up on us, his goodness isn't running late, it just works in different ways to our understanding. So, try being honest with God about the things you are waiting for. Try asking him if he could maybe get a move on? I promise, he won't mind your honesty. Give it a go. See what new, fine wine comes your way.

Yours as ever,
Mother Alice

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,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
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 Genesis 14.17-20

After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said,
'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth;
and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!'
And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

A reading from the Revelation to John 19.6-10

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,

'Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready;

to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure'—

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ 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 B)

A reading from Jeremiah 1.4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.'
Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to
speak, for I am only a boy.' But the Lord said to me,
'Do not say, "I am only a boy";
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord.'
Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth;
and the Lord said to me,
'Now I have put my words in your mouth.
See, today I appoint you over nations and over
kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.'

This is the word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from Psalms 67

1 God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
2 That your way may be known upon earth, your saving
power among all nations.
3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad, for you will
judge the peoples righteously and govern the nations
upon earth.
5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples
praise you.
6 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, and God,
our own God, will bless us.
7 God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall
fear him.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ From the Acts of the Apostles 9.1-22

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder
against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest
and asked him for letters to the synagogues at
Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the

way, men or women, he might bring them bound to
Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and
approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven
flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a
voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute
me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?'
The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are
persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will
be told what you are to do.' The men who were
travelling with him stood speechless because they
heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the
ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see
nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him
into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and
neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias.
The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered,
'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go
to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas
look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he
is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named
Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he
might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I
have heard from many about this man, how much evil
he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he
has authority from the chief priests to bind all who
invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he
is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name
before Gentiles and kings and before the people of
Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for
the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered
the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother
Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way
here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight
and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately
something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was
restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after
taking some food, he regained his strength.
For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,
and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the
synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who
heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man
who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who
invoked this name? And has he not come here for the
purpose of bringing them bound before the chief
priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and
confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by
proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

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
Administrator/ Benefice Office:	Sue Bassett	01923 266596	SaintsKL2@tiscali.co.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:	Susan Rivett	07908 644600	SusanRivett55@gmail.com
	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 SaintsKL2@fiscali.co.uk by noon on Wednesday and copy it to StMarysApsleyEnd@gmail.com.

Sanctuary Flowers

There is a list at the back of church if you would be willing to do the Sanctuary flowers during this coming year, once or regularly.
Just fill in your name or speak to Rosemary.

Sunday 28th January at 4.30pm

'Come and sing' Evensong at
All Saints, Kings Langley.
Optional practice at 2pm

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

Susan 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 now open 12.30-2.30 on Tuesdays and 10.00-12.00 on Thursdays with a community café serving simple hot food too. We continue to need donations and assistance at both foodbanks and St B's on Wednesday 9.30-12.00.
If you can help, do speak to Mthr Alice.

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

Sun 28 th Jan	Come & Sing at All Saints 4.30pm
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

	21 st January	28 th January
	9:30 Eucharist 3pm Messy Church	9.30 Eucharist
Music	Bruce Boardman	Recorded Music with Harry G-B
Warden	Harry G-B	Dan Shirley
Sides duty	Joy West	Katharine Harper
Welcomer	Trevor & Jan Wilson	Colin Rivett
Reading	Joy West	Sue Jakeman
Intercessions	Katharine Harper	Fiona Shirley
Offertory	Ann Wiggins & Katharine Harper	Susan & Colin Rivett
Chalice	Rosemary Bladon	Janet Wright
2nd Counter	Fiona Shirley	Colin Rivett
Refreshments	Janet Wright	Melanie Henley & Thao Pham
Sunday School	No Sunday School	Lilian Hepwood

Sue Bassett 19/01/2024