

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



and welcome to our services today
5th January, 2025
The Second Sunday after Christmas

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 12th January

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



Dear All,

Happy New Year. Over the years I have developed an ambivalent relationship with the start of a new year. I do try and look at it from the perspective that it's a new start therefore new opportunity, new beginnings etc but you can only take a positive approach if you have managed to jettison all the bad stuff as Big Ben strikes 12!

I am reliably informed that my maternal grandmother had a particular distaste for Hogmanay; now you might find that hard to believe given the hype surrounding this day in the Scottish calendar. In the past Hogmanay also meant cleaning your entire house, finishing unfinished knitting or sewing projects, making sure all clothes were clean...you get the picture; so I can understand why she might not be that impressed. I know there were lots of "old wife's tales"/superstitions attached to this day which I am pleased to say that I have discarded and are too numerous to discuss here. This frenzy of activity happened before everyone celebrated and I suspect lots of mothers were too exhausted to really enjoy it!

Despite all this, Hogmanay can be lots of fun and there are lots of wonderful traditions in every Scottish town/city/village that makes it special. I have lots of distinct memories of it especially as a young adult...and I always made it to my paternal grandparents for the New Years Day family get together!! Occasionally this would double up as a birthday party for my Dad's sister whose birthday is 31st December!

Within my family I have lots to look forward to; my nephew's wedding, my daughter finishing school and going off to university and special birthdays. As a Church family there is also much to look forward to as well. Therefore, whatever your perspective a new year is filled with hope and anticipation. Have a good week.

Best wishes,
Sylvia

Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year C)

The Collect

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
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 Jeremiah

51.1-14

Thus says the Lord:

I am going to stir up a destructive wind against
Babylon and against the inhabitants of Leb-qamai;
and I will send winnowers to Babylon, and they shall
winnow her.

They shall empty her land when they come against
her from every side on the day of trouble.

Let not the archer bend his bow, and let him not array
himself in his coat of mail.

Do not spare her young men; utterly destroy her entire
army.

They shall fall down slain in the land of the Chaldeans,
and wounded in her streets.

Israel and Judah have not been forsaken by their
God, the Lord of hosts, though their land is full of guilt
before the Holy One of Israel.

Flee from the midst of Babylon, save your lives, each
of you!

Do not perish because of her guilt, for this is the time
of the Lord's vengeance; he is repaying her what is
due.

Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand, making
all the earth drunken; the nations drank of her wine,
and so the nations went mad.

Suddenly Babylon has fallen and is shattered; wail for
her!

Bring balm for her wound; perhaps she may be
healed.

We tried to heal Babylon, but she could not be
healed.

Forsake her, and let each of us go to our own country;
for her judgement has reached up to heaven and
has been lifted up even to the skies.

The Lord has brought forth our vindication; come, let
us declare in Zion the work of the Lord our God.

Sharpen the arrows! Fill the quivers!

The Lord has stirred up the spirit of the kings of the
Medes, because his purpose concerning Babylon is to
destroy it, for that is the vengeance of the Lord,
vengeance for his temple.

Raise a standard against the walls of Babylon; make
the watch strong; post sentinels; prepare the
ambushes; for the Lord has both planned and done
what he spoke concerning the inhabitants of
Babylon.

You who live by mighty waters, rich in treasures, your
end has come, the thread of your life is cut.

The Lord of hosts has sworn by himself:

Surely I will fill you with troops like a swarm of locusts,
and they shall raise a shout of victory over you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

1.3-14

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. In him you also, when you had heard the word
of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had
believed in him, were marked with the seal of the
promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our
inheritance towards redemption as God's own
people, to the praise of his glory.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel According to John

1.1-9

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was
with God, and the Word was God. He was in the
beginning with God. All things came into being
through him, and without him not one thing came
into being. What has come into being in him was
life, and the life was the light of all people. The light
shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not
overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was
John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so
that all might believe through him. He himself was
not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The
true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming
into the world.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Thursday's Readings (Year C)

A reading from the first Letter of John 4.11-18

The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!'

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel According to Mark 6.45-52

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

When evening came, the boat was out on the lake, and he was alone on the land. When he saw that they were straining at the oars against an adverse wind, he came towards them early in the morning, walking on the lake. He intended to pass them by. But when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Psalm 72.1,17-end

1 Give the king your judgements, O God, ♦
and your righteousness to the son of a king.
10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay
tribute; ♦
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.
11 All kings shall fall down before him; ♦
all nations shall do him service.
12 For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, ♦
the needy and those who have no helper.
13 He shall have pity on the weak and poor; ♦
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

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.

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.

Just A Cappella and BURP Concert



An Evening of Music!

Featuring Just A Capella and BURP
(Berkhamsted Ukulele Random Players)

Saturday 18 January
Holy Trinity Church, Leverstock Green, HP3 8LJ
Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start
Adults £15 Children £0
Ticket price includes admission and refreshments

Tickets available from Gillian
Tel: 07770 874 744

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 (171 -251). Please note items must not contain alcohol. If you would like further information about this scheme, please speak to Susan or Viv.

Christingles Need You...

During Saturday café we are making Christingles for Sunday 12th so we need a group of people to help do this. If you have some spare time on Saturday morning please let one of the Wardens know; it really is a case of many hands make light work! Thank you.

Dates for your diary

- Sat 11th Jan Fabric Committee Meeting
- Sun 12th Jan Christingle - part of the Sunday service at St Mary's
- 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

	5 th January	12 th January
	9.30 Eucharist	9.30 Eucharist
Music	Mark Terry	Peter Lipman
Warden	Dan Shirley	Tim Ward
Sides duty	Pauline Buck	Katharine Harper
Welcomer	Colin Rivett	Angela Witts
Reader	Dan Shirley	Sylvia Low
Prayers/ Intercessions	Ian Dixon	Sue Jakeman
Offertory	Dan Shirley & Fiona Shirley	Ann Wiggins & Fiona Ellison
Chalice	Peter Bladon	Jim Aylott
2nd Counter	Jim Aylott	Roger Witts
Refreshments	Laura & Harry G-B	Sylvia Low & Sarah Barnard
Sunday School		