

# Welcome to St Mary's Apsley



and welcome to our service today

7<sup>th</sup> January, 2024  
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 Christingle at Epiphany

### Monday

10.00 -12.00 No Working Party  
8.00pm Bellringing practice

### Tuesday

9.30am Buzzy Bees

### 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

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January

9.00am Bellringing  
9.30am Parish Eucharist



O God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world.

Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost and torn apart by grief in Israel and Palestine and elsewhere in the world.

We pray for an end to violence and warfare so that the challenging work of rebuilding may begin.

Help us, O Lord, to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may build together for justice and peace.

In Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

---

### 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

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 Book of the Prophet 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 Letter of Paul to the Ephesians 3.1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power.

Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 2.15-21

**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 Collect and Readings (Year B)

A reading from the

First Book of Samuel

4.1-11

In those days the Philistines mustered for war against Israel, and Israel went out to battle against them; they encamped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines encamped at Aphek. The Philistines drew up in line against Israel, and when the battle was joined, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men on the field of battle. When the troops came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, 'Why has the Lord put us to rout today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord here from Shiloh, so that he may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies.' So the people sent to Shiloh, and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

When the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded. When the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said, 'What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?' When they learned that the ark of the Lord had come to the camp, the Philistines were afraid; for they said, 'Gods have come into the camp.' They also said, 'Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. Woe to us! Who can deliver us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with every sort of plague in the wilderness. Take courage, and be men, O Philistines, in order not to become slaves to the Hebrews as they have been to you; be men and fight.'

So the Philistines fought; Israel was defeated, and they fled, everyone to his home. There was a very great slaughter, for there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot-soldiers. The ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

This is the word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

A reading from Psalms 44.10-15, 24-25

10 But now you have rejected us and brought us to shame, and go not out with our armies.

11 You have made us turn our backs on our enemies, and our enemies have despoiled us.

12 You have made us like sheep to be slaughtered, and have scattered us among the nations.

13 You have sold your people for a pittance and made no profit on their sale.

14 You have made us the taunt of our neighbours, the scorn and derision of those that are round about us.

15 You have made us a byword among the nations; among the peoples they wag their heads.

24 Rise up! Why sleep, O Lord? Awake, and do not reject us for ever.

25 Why do you hide your face and forget our grief and oppression?

This is the word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ 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!**

### Contact Information

<b>Vicar:</b>	Mthr Alice Jolley	01442 615246	<a href="mailto:mthr.AliceJolley@outlook.com">mthr.AliceJolley@outlook.com</a>
<b>General Enquiries:</b>	Please contact the Benefice Office		Monday – Friday 8.30am – 12.30pm
<b>Administrator/ Benefice Office:</b>	Sue Bassett	01923 266596	<a href="mailto:SaintsKL2@tiscali.co.uk">SaintsKL2@tiscali.co.uk</a>
<b>Facebook:</b>	St Mary's Apsley End	<b>Twitter:</b>	@StMarys1871
<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Sylvia Low	07742 610932	<a href="mailto:SylviaLow@gmail.com">SylviaLow@gmail.com</a>
	Harry Graham-Brown	07918 071542	<a href="mailto:Harry.GB63@gmail.com">Harry.GB63@gmail.com</a>
<b>Safeguarding:</b>	Susan Rivett	07908 644600	<a href="mailto:SusanRivett55@gmail.com">SusanRivett55@gmail.com</a>
	Katharine Harper	07881 602024	<a href="mailto:KatharineHarper23@gmail.com">KatharineHarper23@gmail.com</a>
<b>Website/calendar:</b>	<a href="http://www.BeneficeofLangelei.org.uk/StMarys">www.BeneficeofLangelei.org.uk/StMarys</a>		

# Notices

Please send any input for next week to Sue in the Benefice office on [SaintsKL2@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:SaintsKL2@tiscali.co.uk) by noon on Wednesday and copy it to [StMarysApsleyEnd@gmail.com](mailto:StMarysApsleyEnd@gmail.com).

**Many thanks** to those members who helped prepare St Mary's for the Christmas season and the services that were held (and cleared up afterwards!!)

Special thanks to the bellringers, flower arrangers, sacristan & servers and working party for their hard work in putting up and taking down the 180 candles.

Various comments were made about the state of the church itself by those who attended the Christmas services.

## Buzzy Bees Are Back!

The new term starts this Tuesday – we look seeing you and your little ones.

## Welcome Boxes for Nascent House

Susan and Viv would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported and given so generously, during the last year. This has enabled us to provide many welcome boxes for new clients arriving at the house.

## 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, Peter Lipman 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](mailto:janet@apsleyend.co.uk).

## 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

Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Messy Church
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Messy Church
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Good Friday
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Easter Sunday
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Messy Church

Rotas - Who's doing what when		
	7 <sup>th</sup> January	14 <sup>th</sup> January
	9:30 Christingle	9:30 Eucharist
Music	Peter Lipman	Bruce Boardman
Warden	Sylvia Low	Tim Ward
Sides duty	Ann Wiggins	Colin Rivett
Welcomer	Roger & Angela Witts	Rosie Sutton
Reading	Melanie Henley	Dan Shirley
Intercessions	Sue Jakeman	Laura G-B
Offertory	Graham-Brown family	Shirley family
Chalice	Katharine Harper	Susan Rivett
2nd Counter	Roger Witts	Jim Aylott
Refreshments	Jan & Trevor Wilson	Ann Wiggins & Sarah Barnard
Sunday School	Hazel Pritchard	Laura G-B