

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



and welcome to our services today

22nd June, 2025

First Sunday after Trinity

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 Eucharist at St Mary's
11.15am	No Parish Eucharist at St Benedict's

Monday

9.15-10.45	Little Bears at St Benedict's
12.30-2.30pm	Apsley Community Café at St Mary's Church
10.00 -12.00	Working Party at St Mary's
8 – 9.30pm	Bellringing practice at St Mary's

Tuesday

9.30am	Buzzy Bees at St Mary's
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Wednesday

9.30-11.30am	Foodbank at St Benedict's
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Thursday

9.30am	Eucharist at St Mary's
10.00 – 12.00	Apsley Community Café at St Mary's Church
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.
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Saturday

10.00 -12.00	Saturday Community Café at St Mary's
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Sunday 29th June

10.30am	Team Eucharist at St Mary's
11.15am	NO Parish Eucharist at St Benedict's



Dear Friends

As I write, it is the Feast of Corpus Christi when the Church gives thanks for Christ's institution of the Eucharist, and his presence with us in bread and wine. Through this marvellous gift of love, we have access to the grace of God, and we are strengthened for the work of being people of faith in this world.

The more we spend time with Jesus, the more we (hopefully) begin to act and speak and think like him. The more time we spend celebrating the eucharist, being in close proximity to Jesus, the more we are changed and restored to fullness of life. The world at the moment is a very dark place. Some of that darkness might come close to us - uncomfortably close - and sit heavily upon us, like dark clouds on our minds. The philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche says that, when we gaze into an abyss, we must be careful not to let the abyss gaze too deeply into us. We must guard ourselves against the power of dark things.

What guard is available to us? The presence of Jesus, who knows everything about death and darkness and human pain, having been there himself and transformed it. Closeness to Jesus is a healing balm, available to us every day, or at least every week, if we so choose. So, choose it, and see where God takes you in his endless mercy and love.

Yours in Christ

Mother Alice

Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year C)

The Collect

Eternal Father,
when the gospel of Christ first came to our land
you gloriously confirmed the faith of Alban
by making him the first to win a martyr's crown:
grant that, following his example,
in the fellowship of the saints
we may worship you, the living God,
and give true witness to 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 1 Kings 19.1-4, 8-15a

1 Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.

2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow."

3 Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."

8 He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

9 At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

10 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

11 He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake;

12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

14 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

15 Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from Galatians 3.23-end

23 Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed.

24 Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith.

25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian,

26 for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.

27 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

28 There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are

Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel According to Luke

8.26-39

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

26 Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.

27 As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs.

28 When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"— 29 for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.)

30 Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him.

31 They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

32 Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission.

33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

34 When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country.

35 Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

36 Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed.

37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.

38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Thursday's Readings (Year C)

A Reading from Genesis 16.1-12, 15-16

1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bore him no children. She had an Egyptian slave-girl whose name was Hagar,
2 and Sarai said to Abram, "You see that the Lord has prevented me from bearing children; go in to my slave-girl; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.
3 So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave-girl, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife.
4 He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress.
5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my slave-girl to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!"
6 But Abram said to Sarai, "Your slave-girl is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she ran away from her.
7 The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur.
8 And he said, "Hagar, slave-girl of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai."
9 The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her."
10 The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude."
11 And the angel of the Lord said to her, "Now you have conceived and shall bear a son; you shall call him Ishmael, for the Lord has given heed to your affliction.
12 He shall be a wild ass of a man, with his hand against everyone, and everyone's hand against him; and he shall live at odds with all his kin."
15 Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.
16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Psalm 106.1-5

1 Alleluia.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, ♦
for his faithfulness endures for ever.
2 Who can express the mighty acts of the Lord ♦
or show forth all his praise?
3 Blessed are those who observe what is right ♦
and always do what is just.
4 Remember me, O Lord, in the favour you bear for
your people; ♦
visit me in the day of your salvation;
5 That I may see the prosperity of your chosen
and rejoice in the gladness of your people, ♦
and exult with your inheritance.

Hear the Gospel

According to Matthew

7.21-end

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.
22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?'
23 Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.'
24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.
25 The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.
26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand.
27 The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!"
28 Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching,
29 for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

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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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.

Team Service at St Mary's on Sunday 29th June at 10.30am

Please note the different time to our usual service. Everyone welcome. Looking forward to seeing you.

Little Bears toddler group, St Benedict's Church Hall, Mondays 9-10.45

Do you enjoy helping to run groups for little ones and their adults? Are you free on a Monday morning? Little Bears is looking for new volunteers, to be on the rota after the end of July. This would not need to be a weekly commitment. If no new volunteers can be found, it is likely that the group will stop running after Mother Alice leaves at the end of July. If you, or someone you know, might be able to lend a hand, please be in touch with Mother Alice. Thank you.

Saturday 5th July 2pm-5pm St Mary's Garden Party

Refreshments, plant stall, other stalls, raffle and games. Please come and join us for refreshments fun and games.

There are sign up sheets if you are able to help or provide cakes/ scones. Also raffle prizes and plants required.

Morning services around the team

All are welcome to mid-week Morning Prayer and Holy Communion services

Tuesdays St Benedict's - 9am MP
Wednesdays Holy Trinity - 9am MP, 10am HC
Thursdays St Mary's - 9.30am Eucharist
Fridays All Saints - 9am MP, 9.30am HC

Sponsorship for our organists at St Mary's

Our organist today, Mark Terry, is sponsored by an anonymous person.



If you enjoy having the organ accompany our worship you can be a sponsor. You can mark a Birthday, Anniversary or a notable event or just because.

Please contact one of the churchwardens – Sue Jakeman or Sylvia Low for more information.

Donate to St Mary's

Please support St Mary's by using this QR code to donate. Thank you.



Apsley Community Foodbank & Café at St Mary's and Foodbank at St B's

St Mary's is open 12.30-2.30 on Mondays and 10-12 on Thursdays for food collection and 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.

Welcome Boxes for Nascent House

Thank you to everyone who has donated items for the welcome boxes. We are currently in need of boxes of tissues, packets of sweets, pens, notelets, notepads and boxes with lids (17-25l). Please note items must not contain alcohol. If you would like further information about this scheme, please speak to Susan or Viv.

You Can Join Our WhatsApp Group!

St Mary's WhatsApp group is used for quick questions and messages. If you are a member of St Mary's and not already a member of this group, do consider joining it by contacting any of the admins (Katharine Harper, Laura G-Brown, Harry G-Brown and Rachel Woods) Janet Wright

Alice's farewell service: 27th July at 3pm

All are invited to join us for this Team eucharist - followed by refreshments! - as we say goodbye to Alice and Coral. It will be lovely to see you there for this celebration of the last 3 years together. This will be the only eucharist on that day. However, at St Mary's there will be a lay led service at 9.30 am.

Dates for your diary

Sat 5th July 2pm St Mary's Garden Party in Churchyard
Fri 11th July 7pm Pudding and Plonk at St Mary's
Sat 19th July 2pm Games Afternoon at St Mary's
Sun 27th July 3pm Farewell Eucharist at St Mary's
Sept 27th & 28th Scarecrow Festival

St Mary's Rota - Who's doing what when		
	22 nd June	29 th June
	9.30 Parish Eucharist	10.30 Team Eucharist
Music	Mark Terry	Ian Hope
Warden	Sue Jakeman	Tim Ward
Sides duty	Pauline Buck	Ann Wiggins
Welcomer	Peter Bladon	Dan Shirley
Reader	Sue Jakeman	Melanie Henley
Prayers/ Intercessions	Katharine Harper	Sue Jakeman
Offertory	Jeannie Agg	Alfie Cappiapouti Peter Bladon
Chalice/ 1 st Counter	Peter Bladon	Sue Jakeman
2 nd Counter	Jim Aylott	Sylvia Low
Refreshments	Janet Wright	Melanie Henley Viv Hagel
Sunday School		Laura GB