

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



and welcome to our services today
29th June, 2025
St Peter

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

10.00am Bellringing at St Mary's
10.30am Team 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

Wednesday

9.30-11.30am Foodbank at St Benedict's

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

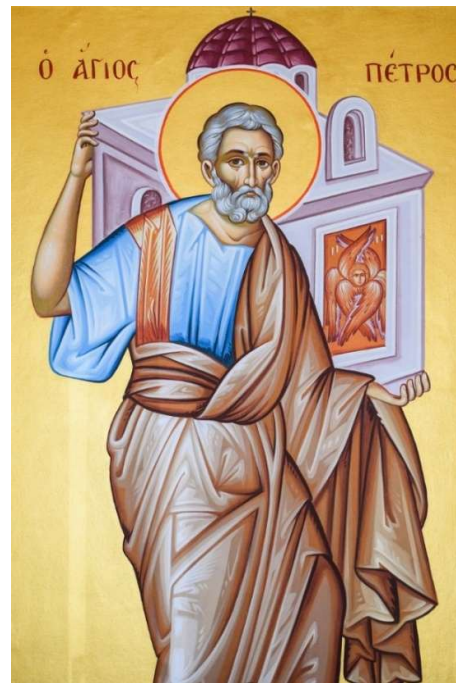
10.00 -12.00 Working Party in St Mary's Church & Churchyard.

Saturday

10.00 -12.00 Saturday Community Café at St Mary's
2pm – 5pm Garden Party in St Mary's Churchyard

Sunday 6th July

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's
11.15am Parish Eucharist at St Benedict's
3pm Messy Church at St Mary's



Dear Friends

Today is the Feast of St Peter, the rock on which Jesus chose to build his church. Today in Cathedrals around the country, people are being ordained to the diaconate and to the priesthood. This weekend I am at 'home' in Lincoln, and will be in Lincoln Cathedral on Sunday morning seeing a lovely friend of mine getting ordained. It has been a long road for her, and I am sure there will be one or two tears as the Bishop lays his hands on her head.

It was a long and bumpy road for Saint Peter, too. He tried his very best to understand Jesus, but so frequently got it wrong. 'Impulsive master of misunderstanding' says Malcolm Guite in his Sonnet for today. Peter makes so many big mistakes. He gets confused, gets ahead of himself, he denies Jesus when it really matters; all of this is forgiven by Jesus, and Peter is given an identity and a purpose in that forgiveness and love.

I guess it might feel safer to assume that the only people God calls to embark on the foolish and pot hole-riddled road of vocation end up with little bits of white plastic around their necks. This is not so. God calls each of us, God speaks to each of us, God asks hard and confusing things of each of us. There are far more kinds of calling than we can even imagine or name.

Perhaps spend some time sitting with Jesus in prayer. How does he speak your name, and what does he ask you to do?

Yours in Christ
Mother Alice

Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year C)

The Collect

Almighty God,
who inspired your apostle Saint Peter
to confess Jesus as Christ and Son of the living God:
build up your Church upon this rock,
that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth
and follow one Lord, your Son our Saviour Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

A Reading from Acts 12.1-11

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. ²He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. ³After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) ⁴When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. ⁵While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. ⁶The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. ⁷Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. ⁸The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' ⁹Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. ¹¹Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A Reading from 1 Peter 2.19-end

For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

'He committed no sin,

and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Hear the Gospel

According to Matthew

16.13-19

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Thursday's Readings (Year C)

A Reading from Genesis

22.1-19

1 After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."
2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you."
3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him.
4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away.
5 Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you."
6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together.
7 Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"
8 Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.
9 When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.
10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.
11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."
12 He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."
13 And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.
14 So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."
15 The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven,
16 and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son,
17 I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies,
18 and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."
19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beer-sheba; and Abraham lived at Beer-sheba.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Psalm 116.1-7

1 I love the Lord,
for he has heard the voice of my supplication; ♦
because he inclined his ear to me
on the day I called to him.
2 The snares of death encompassed me;
the pains of hell took hold of me; ♦
by grief and sorrow was I held.
3 Then I called upon the name of the Lord: ♦
'O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul.'
4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; ♦
our God is full of compassion.
5 The Lord watches over the simple; ♦
I was brought very low and he saved me.
6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, ♦
for the Lord has been gracious to you.
7 For you have delivered my soul from death, ♦
my eyes from tears and my feet from falling.

Hear the Gospel

According to Matthew

9.1-8

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

1 And after getting into a boat he crossed the sea and came to his own town.
2 And just then some people were carrying a paralyzed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."
3 Then some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming."
4 But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?
5 For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'?"
6 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Stand up, take your bed and go to your home."
7 And he stood up and went to his home.
8 When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Contact Information

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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.

Saturday 5th July - Pray Hemel

Adeyfield Free Church, Maylands Plaza, HP2 4GZ; the hosts are your PH team; there will be lots of prayer time. Refreshments will be in the cafe area, served from 8am then upstairs for worship and prayers from 8.30 am (there is a lift!) If you park at the cafe level to use lift please register your car to avoid penalties. Pat will put out a board.

Blessings all, Bob, pp Penny & Pat

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.

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

All are invited to St Mary's 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, there will be a lay led service at 9.30 am.

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

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

Little Bears is looking for new volunteers. If you, or someone you know, are willing to lend a hand, weekly fortnightly or monthly, please be in touch with Mother Alice. Thank you.

Sponsorship for our organists at St Mary's

Our organist today, Ian Hope, 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.

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!

Used for quick questions and messages. If you are a member of St Mary's, do consider joining by contacting any of the admins (Katharine Harper, Laura G-Brown, Harry G-Brown and Rachel Woods)

Donate to St Mary's

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



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

	29th June	6th July
	10.30 Team Eucharist	9.30 Parish Eucharist 3pm Messy Church
Music	Ian Hope	Harry G-B
Warden	Tim Ward	Harry G-B
Sides duty	Ann Wiggins	Peter Bladon
Welcomer	Dan Shirley	Pauline Buck
Reader	Melanie Henley	Sue Jakeman
Prayers/ Intercessions	Sue Jakeman	Laura G-B
Offertory	Alfie Cappiapouti Peter Bladon	Lillian Hopwood Ann Wiggins
Chalice/ 1st Counter	Sue Jakeman	Jim Aylott
2nd Counter	Sylvia Low	Peter Bladon
Refreshments	Melanie Henley Viv Hagel	Ann Wiggins Lillian Hopwood
Sunday School	Laura GB	