

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



and welcome to our services today

8th June, 2025

Pentecost

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
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
12.30-2.30pm Foodbank & Community Café at St Mary's

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 Foodbank & Community Café at St Mary's
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

Sunday 15th June

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



Dear Friends

Today is Pentecost, the day when the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit; God with them in a new and special way, empowering them to share the Good News with all people.

For Christians, this is a time of inner renewal, of hope, of strength to face the future. I love the blessing used at the end of the Eucharist in Eastertide: 'Christ who, out of defeat, brings new hope and a future, fill you with his risen life'. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, bringing unity where once was discord, bringing life and light where once was death and darkness. This is the mighty resurrection power of God continuing to work in our world and in our hearts.

As usual, I am wondering if we sometimes miss the signs of this work, because we are only looking for some spectacular display of God's power? If perhaps we need to adjust our expectations, not because God is not powerful, but because the world is not as it should be, and because we ourselves are not always ready to receive the good gifts God has for us. Sometimes we need to focus on the small, the everyday, the seemingly inconsequential signs of God's movement and action in the world.

Above all, we need to remember God's great love for us. If you have access to Spotify or Youtube, I recommend looking up Anna Lapwood's new album of choral and organ pieces, called 'Fire Dove'. When you find it, listen to her arrangement of 'Make you feel my love', and let the knowledge of God's love wrap you up like a warm hug, like a warm fire on a dark night.

'Know there's nothing that I wouldn't do to make you feel my love'

Yours in Christ
Mother Alice

Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year C)

The Collect

God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
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

11.1-9

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.' And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.' The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. And the Lord said, 'Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech.' So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

2.1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel According to John

14.8-17

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Thursday's Readings (Year C) – Ascension Day

A reading from 2 Cor

3.15-4.1, 3-6

15 Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds;
16 but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.
17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
18 And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.
1 Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.
3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.
4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.
6 For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Psalm 78.36-40

36 Yet they did but flatter him with their mouth ♦ and dissembled with their tongue.
37 Their heart was not steadfast towards him, ♦ neither were they faithful to his covenant.
38 But he was so merciful that he forgave their misdeeds and did not destroy them; ♦ many a time he turned back his wrath and did not suffer his whole displeasure to be roused.
39 For he remembered that they were but flesh, ♦ a wind that passes by and does not return.
40 How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness ♦ and grieved him in the desert!

Hear the Gospel

According to Matthew

5.27-32

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
21 "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.'
22 But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire.
23 So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you,
24 leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.
25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison.
26 Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

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.

Nesta Hancocks

It is sad to report that Nesta Hancocks passed away last week. She had been in a Care Home at Kings Langley for a few weeks following a fall at home. Please remember her and her family in your prayers at this time.

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.

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
Fridays All Saints - 9am MP, 9.30am HC

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 – Harry G-B or Sylvia Low for more information.

Children's Society Box Holders

Thank you to all box holders. Your support has helped raise £401.54 which is a brilliant result. Emptied boxes are in the refectory. If anyone would like to be a box holder please speak to Peter Bladon. Whatever money you can spare will support a child or teenager in need of help. Thank you again. Hazel and Mark Littlejohns

Donate to St Mary's

Please support St Mary's by using this QR code 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 10-12 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.

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 (Katherine 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

	8 th June	15 th June
	9.30 Parish Eucharist	9.30 Parish Eucharist
Music	Ian Hope	Mark Terry
Warden	Dan Shirley	Sue Jakeman
Sides duty	Colin Rivett	Laura GB
Welcomer	Fiona Shirley	Roger Witts
Reader	Susan Rivett	TBA
Prayers/ Intercessions	Ian Dixon	Laura GB
Offertory	Melanie Henley Viv Hagel	Angela Witts Roger Witts
Chalice/ 1 st Counter	TBA	Katharine Harper
2nd Counter	Viv Hagel	Roger Witts
Refreshments	Ann Wiggins Lillian Hepwood	Jeanie Agg David Agg
Sunday School	Maria McKenna	