

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



and welcome to our services today

16th March, 2025
Second Sunday of Lent

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

Monday

9.15-10.45 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 & Community Café
7.30 – 9pm Lent Course Week 3
at St Benedict's Vicarage

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
10.00 – 11.30 Lent Course Week 3 at St Mary's

Sunday 23rd March

10.30am Team Eucharist at Holy Trinity



Dear Friends

As I write, it is a freezing cold and bright spring day, with the occasional flurry of snow or hail! This is perfectly normal for this time of year, but the warm weather we had last week somewhat lulled us into a false sense of security. The seasons are a helpful metaphor for the spiritual life, not least their unpredictability and their habit of taking their own slow time to pass through.

Nothing in nature blooms all year, and so it is with our souls; there are barren, dry, empty times as well as times of great fruitfulness and fullness. Lent is a season all of its own, it can be a time of emptiness, a time of questioning and testing and working things out.

I am often comforted by the thought that almost everything is only for a season. We should cherish the good things we have, and we should take heart that the tough things we are given will not last forever. There is relief in acknowledging that we are mortal, our time on earth brief, our glories only fleeting.

How will you cherish your blessings, and bear with your challenges in the week ahead?

Yours in Christ
Mother Alice

Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year C)

The Collect

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your
truth, that they may return to the way of
righteousness:

grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the
same;

through our Lord Jesus 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 the book of Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18

After these things the word of the Lord came to
Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your
shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram
said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I
continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer
of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me
no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be
my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This
man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own
issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and
said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you
are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall
your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and
the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you
from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to
possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know
that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a
heifer three years old, a female goat three years old,
a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young
pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in
two, laying each half over against the other; but he
did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey
came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them
away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon
Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness
descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a
smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between
these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant
with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this
land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river
Euphrates.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians 3.17-4.1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe
those who live according to the example you have
in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I
have often told you of them, and now I tell you
even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is
the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds
are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in
heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a
Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the
body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed
to the body of his glory, by the power that also
enables him to make all things subject to himself.
Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and
long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in
this way, my beloved.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel According to Luke 13.31-end

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to
him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill
you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for
me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and
performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the
third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and
the next day I must be on my way, because it is
impossible for a prophet to be killed away from
Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills
the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!
How often have I desired to gather your children
together as a hen gathers her brood under her
wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is
left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until
the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one
who comes in the name of the Lord." '

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Thursday's Readings (Year C)

A reading from Jeremiah

17.5-10

Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.
They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.
They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.
They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?
I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Psalm 1

1 Blessed are they who have not walked
in the counsel of the wicked, ♦
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.
2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord ♦
and they meditate on his law day and night.
3 Like a tree planted by streams of water
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do
not wither, ♦
whatever they do, it shall prosper.
4 As for the wicked, it is not so with them; ♦
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
5 Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand
in the judgement, ♦
nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.
6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, ♦
but the way of the wicked shall perish.

Hear the Gospel According to Luke

16.19-end

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

'There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us." He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." '

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Contact Information

Vicar: Mthr Alice Jolley ☎01442 615246

General Enquiries: Please contact the Benefice Office
Monday – Friday 8.30am – 12.00pm

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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.

Friday Coffee Morning 10.30 - 11.45am

Come join us on the second and fourth Fridays of the month in the refectory at St Mary's. This activity runs alongside the working party and is open to all. There will be the opportunity to chat, have a cuppa and biscuits, play simple games eg dominoes, discuss issues or whatever the group would like. Any questions, please ask Joy West

Preparation of a new electoral roll at St Mary's and St Benedict's

This year the Church of England requires all churches to prepare a new electoral roll. This means that everyone who wants to be on the electoral roll must once again fill in the application form. Forms will be available from 13th April and must be handed in by 25th April. The new roll will be displayed on the notice board on the 26th April. Please see Marina, a church warden or Alice if you have any questions.

Sunday 23rd March

Please remember that there is no service at St Mary's or St Benedict's as we are joining Holy Trinity for a Team Eucharist at 10.30

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 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 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 10.00 -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.

Dates for your diary

Sun 16th Mar Messy Church
 Tues 18th Mar Lent Course Week 3 at Vicarage
 Tues 25th Mar Lent Course Week 4 at Vicarage
 Fri 28th Mar Coffee Morning at St Mary's
 Tues 1st Apr Lent Course Week 5 at Vicarage
 Tues 8th Apr Lent Course Week 6 at Vicarage

Rotas - Who's doing what when		
	16 th March	23 rd March
	9.30 Eucharist 3pm Messy Church	10.30 Team Eucharist Holy Trinity Leverstock Green
Music	Mark Terry	
Warden	Dan Shirley	
Sides duty	Colin Rivett	
Welcomer	Fiona Shirley	
Reader	Dan Shirley	
Prayers/ Intercessions	Ian Dixon	
Offertory	Harry & Laura G-B	
Chalice/ 1 st Counter	Susan Rivett	
2 nd Counter	Fiona Shirley	
Refreshments	Laura & Harry G-B	
Sunday School		