

# Welcome to St Mary's Apsley



and welcome to our service today

**17th March, 2024**  
Fifth 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.

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## This Week at St Mary's

### Today

9.00am Bellringing  
9.30am Parish Eucharist  
3.00pm Messy Church

### Monday

10.00 - 12.00 Working Party  
8.00pm Bellringing practice

### Tuesday

9.30am Buzzy Bees  
12.30 - 2.30pm Foodbank and Community Café

### Wednesday

7pm Lent Discussion Group in the Vicarage

### Thursday

9.30 Eucharist at St Mary's  
9.30 - 3.30 Church open for private prayer  
10.00 - 12.00 Foodbank and Community Café  
10.15am Study Group in the vestry  
8.00pm Lent Discussion Group

### Friday

10.00 - 12.00 Working Party

### Saturday

10.00 - 12.00 Saturday Community Café

### Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday

9.00am Bellringing  
9.30am Parish Eucharist



Dear Friends

Today is Passion Sunday, the start of the holiest part of the Christian year. Next Sunday we will hear of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, to the joyful celebrations of a fickle and confused crowd. But today, Jesus is foretelling the kind of death he will die, and for what reason: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself". This is the great work of love, of reconciliation, which can only occur through the free offering of Jesus on the cross. This is how people will be drawn to God, this is how people will learn to be the people of God once again.

It isn't going to be easy. I have a theory about why numbers are typically lower in churches (not just ours, by any means!) throughout Lent and especially in Holy Week - it's because it's hard. It doesn't make much sense alongside the other stuff that's going on; the weather is nicer, the kids are breaking up from school. It doesn't make sense because, in our country, we skip ahead to Easter and start seeing fluffy bunnies and easter eggs in the shops immediately after Valentine's Day. It doesn't make sense because we are an increasingly people who prioritise how things feel above all else, and how things feel in Holy Week is rubbish. Why would we go to church to feel rubbish?

Well... the answer to that question takes up more space than I have here, but essentially it is an indisputable human truth that you have to sit with the hard stuff in order to survive it and grow out of it in a healthy way. It's not about mawkish sadness, it's about acknowledging the truth and the reality at the heart of our faith: the loving suffering of Jesus.

He is inviting you to be with him, to stay with him, to sit with him, to watch and to weep, in order that you might fully know the joy of his rising on the Third Day. Please listen to his voice.

Yours in Christ  
Mother Alice

## Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year B)

### The Collect

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son  
Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the  
cross we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
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 the book of Jeremiah

31.31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

### A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

5.5-10

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,  
'You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you';  
as he says also in another place,  
'You are a priest for ever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.'

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

12.20-33

**GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!**

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

## Thursday's Readings (Year B)

### A reading from Genesis 17.3-9

Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God.'

God said to Abraham, 'As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.

This is the word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### Psalms 105.4-9

4 Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his face continually.

5 Remember the marvels he has done, his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,

6 O seed of Abraham his servant, O children of Jacob his chosen.

7 He is the Lord our God; his judgements are in all the earth.

8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, the promise that he made for a thousand generations:

9 The covenant he made with Abraham, the oath that he swore to Isaac,

### Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ From John 8.51-end

#### GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

Very truly, I tell you, whoever keeps my word will never see death.' The Jews said to him, 'Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and so did the prophets; yet you say, "Whoever keeps my word will never taste death." Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets also died. Who do you claim to be?' Jesus answered, 'If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, "He is our God", though you do not know him. But I know him; if I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him and I keep his word. Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad.' Then the Jews said to him, 'You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?' Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.' So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

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 [SaintsKL2@fiscali.co.uk](mailto:SaintsKL2@fiscali.co.uk) by noon on Wednesday and copy it to [StMarysApsleyEnd@gmail.com](mailto:StMarysApsleyEnd@gmail.com).

## Easter Flowers

If you would be willing to donate towards the Easter Flowers there is a basket at the back of church or speak to Rosemary.

## Thursday Evening Study Group

During Lent the Thursday evening study group will NOT be via Zoom. We will be meeting in person from 22nd February at 8.00pm following the Lent Discussion course. For further details please speak to the Churchwardens.

## Lent Discussion Group

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Mar

**- Is there a reliable method for discerning important life choices in prayer?**

Meet at 7pm in The Vicarage,  
All sessions include soup and a roll.

## 30<sup>th</sup> March - Spring Clean Saturday

Come and join in with giving the church a Spring Clean! There will be lots of different jobs available.

## Easter Monday Pilgrimage

If you are planning to come on the Easter Monday Pilgrimage to St Albans, we will be leaving St Mary's at 9.am for the short walk up to Holy Trinity for breakfast!!  
Details concerning the walk can be found on the poster or speak to Peter Bladon.

## 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. Donations either to the church or to Dunelm gratefully received. Assistance at both foodbanks and at St B's on Wednesday 9.30-12.00 needed. If you can help, do speak to Mother Alice.

## Sponsorship for our organists



Our organist today, Bruce Boardman, is sponsored by an anonymous donor.

If you enjoy having the organ accompany our worship you too 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.

## Welcome Boxes for Nascent House

Thank you to everyone's response in recent weeks to the request for donations. The needs are now for flannels, sponge bags, sweets (small packets), individual bars of soap, boxes of tissues and plastic boxes with lids (17L to 25L). Please remember that the products must not contain alcohol. Susan and Viv

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER AT ST MARY'S AND ST BENEDICT'S

### Wednesday: St Benedict's

7.30pm Contemplative Prayer to conclude Lent course

### Maundy Thursday: St Mary's

(11.30am Chrism Eucharist at St Albans Abbey).

7.30pm Eucharist with foot-washing, followed by the watch of the Passion until 10pm.

### Good Friday

11.30am Family Workshop: St Mary's  
2pm Hour before the Cross: St Mary's  
2pm: Family Workshop: St Benedict's

### Holy Saturday

10am-12pm Spring Cleaning: St Mary's  
3pm- 4pm Spring Cleaning: St Benedict's

### Easter Sunday

6:00am Dawn Eucharist followed by Breakfast in the refectory: St Mary's  
9:30am Eucharist: St Mary's  
\*\*Free Community Lunch \*\*: St Mary's  
11:15am Eucharist: St Benedict's

\*\*Easter Egg hunts after both 9.30am and 11.15am\*\*

## Dates for your diary

Weds 20<sup>th</sup> Mar Lent Discussion Group. 7pm @ Vicarage

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Mar Palm Sunday

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Mar Good Friday

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Mar Spring Clean Saturday

Sun 31<sup>st</sup> Mar Easter Sunday

6am Service followed by breakfast

9.30am Service followed by Egg Hunt

Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Apr Pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral

Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Apr Messy Church

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Apr Lizzie's Farewell Service 3pm Holy Trinity

### Rotas - Who's doing what when

	17 <sup>th</sup> March	24 <sup>th</sup> March
	9.30 Eucharist 3pm Messy Church	9.30 Eucharist
Music	Bruce Boardman	Ian Hope
Warden	Sylvia Low	Dan Shirley
Sides duty	Rosemary Bladon	Sylvia Low
Welcomer	Viv Hagel	Colin Rivett
Reading	Sue Jakeman	Passion enactment
Intercessions	Viv Hagel	Fiona Shirley
Offertory	Joy West & Lilian Hepwood	Fiona Ellison & Melanie Henley
Chalice	Susan Rivett	Peter Bladon
2nd Counter	Jim Aylott	Fiona Shirley
Refreshments	Jan & Trevor Wilson	Harry GB
Sunday School	No Sunday School	Hazel Pritchard

Sue Bassett 14/03/2024