

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



and welcome to our services today

30th March, 2025
Mothering Sunday

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

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 5
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 5 at St Mary's

Sunday 6th April

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



Dear Friends

We are over half way through the season of Lent, and this Sunday is known as refreshment Sunday because it is customarily a day for having a break from the harshness of Lent, and thinking about things that bring us joy. One of those things is the celebration of Mothering Sunday, a chance for us to reflect and give thanks for all those who have cared for us and nurtured us over the years.

I am very grateful to those who have assembled posies of flowers to be distributed at this morning's service. The flowers are a reminder to us of God's ability to surprise us with joy, even when we are wandering around in our own personal wildernesses. God's love is an oasis of peace and calm and joy, if we can let God close enough to help us in our distress.

We can also be and do this for one another. In these difficult times we are living in, how can we be mothers to one another? How can we care and nurture and refresh one another day by day?

Yours in Christ
Mother Alice

Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year C)

The Collect

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to
himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
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 Exodus 2.1-10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from Colossians 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness,
and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel According to John 19.25b-27

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Thursday's Readings (Year C)

A reading from Exodus 32.7-14

The Lord said to Moses, 'Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ' The Lord said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.' But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, 'O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, "It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth"? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, "I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever." ' And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Psalm 106.19-23

19 They made a calf at Horeb ♦
and worshipped the molten image;
20 Thus they exchanged their glory ♦
for the image of an ox that feeds on hay.
21 They forgot God their saviour, ♦
who had done such great things in Egypt,
22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham ♦
and fearful things at the Red Sea.
23 So he would have destroyed them,
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, ♦
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

Hear the Gospel According to John end 5.31-

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

'If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. There is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that his testimony to me is true. You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth. Not that I accept such human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. But I have a testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent.

'You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. I do not accept glory from human beings. But I know that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God? Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Contact Information

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Website/calendar:

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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.

Flowers for Easter

Would you like to see St Mary's adorned with lots of flowers at Easter? If so, please support our team of flower arrangers by making a donation to help with the purchase of flowers. The easiest way to do this is by using the special button on the sumup machine! Thank you.

Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, at St Mary's, instead of the sermon we will be reading the gospel so please let Sylvia know if you would like to take part in this. We might even involve all of the congregation like we did last year.

Pray Hemel

Good day everyone, I trust & pray your Lenten preparations and Lent Courses are going well. March has an in / out reputation involving lions and lambs but this March seems to have been more about ups and downs as temperatures soar and nosedive with alternating Azorean and Arctic winds. The news too is very much up and down so we have, as ever, lots to pray about.

You will be pleased then to know that the next Pray Hemel is on **Saturday April 5th** and will be at [St. Barnabas Church Queen Square, Hemel Hempstead HP2 4HY](#)

Refreshments will be served from 8.00 am and worship with prayers begins at 8.30 am.

Don't forget we spring forward to British Summer Time this Sunday, Mothers Day.

Looking forward to being with many of you then. Take great care, Your PH team.

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.

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.

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.

Donate to St Mary's

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



Thank you.

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.

Dates for your diary

Tues 1 st Apr	Lent Course Week 5 at Vicarage
Tues 8 th Apr	Lent Course Week 6 at Vicarage
Mon 14 th	Silent Prayer with Compline at St Mary's
Tues 15 th	Silent Prayer with Compline at St Mary's
Wed 16 th 7pm	Silent Prayer with Compline at St Mary's
Thur 17 th 7pm	Eucharist with washing of feet at St Mary's
Fri 18 th 11.30am	Interactive Stations at St Mary's
Fri 18 th 2pm	Liturgy at St Mary's

Rotas - Who's doing what when

	30 th March	6 th April
	9.30 Parish Eucharist Mothering Sunday	9.30 Parish Eucharist
Music	Mark Terry	Ian Hope
Warden	Sylvia Low	Dan Shirley
Sides duty	Ann Wiggins	Peter Bladon
Welcomer	Angela Witts	Katharine Harper
Reader	Katharine Harper	Fiona Shirley
Prayers/ Intercessions	Sue Jakeman	Dan Shirley
Offertory	Susan Rivett and Colin Rivett	N/A
Chalice/ 1st Counter	Katharine Harper	Jim Aylott
2nd Counter	Viv Hagel	Peter Bladon
Refreshments	Susan Rivett and Colin Rivett	Lilian Hepwood & Ann Wiggins