

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



and welcome to our services today

9<sup>th</sup> March, 2025  
First 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

### 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 2  
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  
10.30 – 11.45 Coffee Morning at St Mary's

### Saturday

10.00 -12.00 Saturday Community Café at St Mary's  
10.00 – 11.30 Lent Course Week 2 at St Mary's

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March

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 first Sunday of Lent, and we are hearing the account of Jesus going into the wilderness for 40 days, to fast and pray. There he is tempted by the devil, who takes advantage of his hunger, his tiredness, his vulnerabilities as a human being.

The idea of being tempted or tested by the devil is not a comfortable one, and it is something I have been thinking about recently, because of all the difficult things going on in the world around us. I am reminded of a line from a hymn: 'when satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within, upward I look and see Him there who made an end to all my sin'. I think sometimes we are tempted to despair, to think that we are not up to the task of being good people in a dark and dangerous world.

Being a human person and existing in the world can be so hard, so exhausting. We can feel crushed by the demands made of us. We can feel that we have nothing left. I know someone who knows exactly how that feels... Jesus, Son of God, who was tested in the wilderness. If you are feeling that you are wandering around in a wilderness of your own, know that you are not alone. Ask God for strength. Speak to Jesus, who knows so well the troubles you are facing. Ask Jesus to be with you and to help you, day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment; he is your saviour and your friend.

Yours in Christ  
Mother Alice

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

### The Collect

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
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 Deuteronomy 26.1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### A reading from Romans 10.8b-13

But what does it say?  
'The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart'  
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, '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 Luke 4.1-13

**GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone." ' Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." ' Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." ' Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

## Thursday's Readings (Year C)

### A reading from Esther 14.1-5, 12-14

Then Queen Esther, seized with deadly anxiety, fled to the Lord. She took off her splendid apparel and put on the garments of distress and mourning, and instead of costly perfumes she covered her head with ashes and dung, and she utterly humbled her body; every part that she loved to adorn she covered with her tangled hair. She prayed to the Lord God of Israel, and said: 'O my Lord, you only are our king; help me, who am alone and have no helper but you, for my danger is in my hand. Ever since I was born I have heard in the tribe of my family that you, O Lord, took Israel out of all the nations, and our ancestors from among all their forebears, for an everlasting inheritance, and that you did for them all that you promised. Remember, O Lord; make yourself known in this time of our affliction, and give me courage, O King of the gods and Master of all dominion! Put eloquent speech in my mouth before the lion, and turn his heart to hate the man who is fighting against us, so that there may be an end of him and those who agree with him. But save us by your hand, and help me, who am alone and have no helper but you, O Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### Psalm 138

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; ♦ before the gods will I sing praise to you.  
2 I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your name, because of your love and faithfulness; ♦  
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.  
3 In the day that I called to you, you answered me; ♦ you put new strength in my soul.  
4 All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, ♦  
for they have heard the words of your mouth.  
5 They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, ♦ that great is the glory of the Lord.  
6 Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly; ♦  
as for the proud, he regards them from afar.  
7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you will preserve me; ♦  
you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand will save me.  
8 The Lord shall make good his purpose for me; ♦ your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever;  
forsake not the work of your hands.

### Hear the Gospel

#### According to Matthew

7.7-12

#### **GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!**

'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him! 'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

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### Contact Information

**Vicar:** Mthr Alice Jolley ☎01442 615246

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

**Administrator/Benefice Office:**

Sue Bassett ☎ 01923 266596 or 07503 950315 or  
info@beneficeoflangelei.org.uk

**Facebook:** St Mary's Apsley End

**Twitter:** @StMarys1871

**Churchwardens:** Sylvia Low ☎ 07742 610932  
SylviaLow@gmail.com

Harry Graham-Brown ☎ 07918 071542  
Harry.GB63@gmail.com

**Safeguarding:** Katharine Harper ☎ 07881 602024  
KatharineHarper23@gmail.com

Website/calendar: [www.BeneficeofLangelei.org.uk/StMarys](http://www.BeneficeofLangelei.org.uk/StMarys)

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# Notices

Please send any input for next week to Sue in the Benefice office on [info@beneficeoflangelei.org.uk](mailto:info@beneficeoflangelei.org.uk) by noon on Wednesday and copy it to [StMarysApsleyEnd@gmail.com](mailto:StMarysApsleyEnd@gmail.com).

## Friday coffee morning 10.30am to 11.45am.

Come join us on the second and fourth Fridays of the month in the refectory at St Mary's - March 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

This activity will run 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 13<sup>th</sup> April and must be handed in by 25<sup>th</sup> April. The new roll will be displayed on the notice board on the 26<sup>th</sup> April. Please see Marina, a church warden or Alice if you have any questions.

## Date for your diary:



## 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 (17l -25l). 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

Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Mar Lent Course Week 2 at Vicarage  
 Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Mar Coffee Morning at St Mary's  
 Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Mar Messy Church  
 Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Mar Lent Course Week 3 at Vicarage  
 Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Mar Lent Course Week 4 at Vicarage  
 Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Mar Coffee Morning at St Mary's  
 Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Apr Lent Course Week 5 at Vicarage  
 Tues 8<sup>th</sup> Apr Lent Course Week 6 at Vicarage

## Rotas - Who's doing what when

	9 <sup>th</sup> March	16 <sup>th</sup> March
	9.30 Eucharist	9.30 Eucharist 3pm Messy Church
<b>Music</b>	Mark Terry	Mark Terry
<b>Warden</b>	Tim Ward	Dan Shirley
<b>Sides duty</b>	Pauline Buck	Colin Rivett
<b>Welcomer</b>	Viv Hagel	Fiona Shirley
<b>Reader</b>	Sue Jakeman	Dan Shirley
<b>Prayers/ Intercessions</b>	Viv Hagel	Ian Dixon
<b>Offertory</b>	Rosemary and Peter Bladon	Harry & Laura G-B
<b>Chalice/ 1<sup>st</sup> Counter</b>	Peter Bladon	Susan Rivett
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Counter</b>	Roger Witts	Fiona Shirley
<b>Refreshments</b>	Ann Wiggins & Sarah Barnard	Laura & Harry G0B
<b>Sunday School</b>		

Sue Bassett 06/03/2025