

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



and welcome to our services today

**11<sup>th</sup> May, 2025**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

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 am	APCM 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
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### **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.
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### **Saturday**

10.00 -12.00	Saturday Community Café at St Mary's
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### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

9.30am	Parish Eucharist at St Mary's
3pm	Messy Church



Dear Friends

We are in the mini-season fondly known as 'Good Shepherd-tide' when we hear a few Gospel passages about Jesus the Good Shepherd and guardian of our souls. Shepherds have a close knowledge of their sheep, in order to protect and guide them; they know how many sheep they have, and they should know where they are and how they are at all times. In Jesus' own day, an inattentive shepherd could lose their flock to wild animals, which would have been costly.

It sometimes feels as though the sheep analogy is not a particularly favourable one - sheep are, after all, unavoidably stupid. They are sweet, but the wool isn't just on their coats! Is this how we are to be compared? To mindless livestock? Is this how God sees us?

No, and it isn't intended to be derogatory. Spiritually, as human beings we do not always know what is good for us. We wander off and get lost. We go off in search of something that looks juicy and appealing and sometimes end up toppling over the cliff edge in pursuit of it. We all, like sheep, go astray sometimes. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves us and knows us. We hear his voice, and we know him. We follow him. To lose even one of us would be costly to Jesus, and so he has made the ultimate offering of himself on the cross, bearing that unthinkable cost, to keep us safe in his love forever.

Is it so bad, to be a little woolly sheep, helpless in the arms of one who loves us so much?

Yours in Christ  
Mother Alice

# Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year C)

## The Collect

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever

**Amen**

## A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

9.36-end

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

## A reading from Revelation

7.9-end

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped

God, singing,

'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom

and thanksgiving and honour

and power and might

be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?'

I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.'

Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'

For this reason they are before the throne of God,

and worship him day and night within his temple,

and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter

them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;

the sun will not strike them,

nor any scorching heat;

for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

## Hear the Gospel

According to John

10.22-30

**GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!**

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

## Thursday's Readings (Year C)

### A reading from the book of Acts 13.13-25

Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.

But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.

And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.

Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.

The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it.

And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness.

And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot.

And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.

And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.

And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave their testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not he. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of his feet I am not worthy to loose. This is the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### Psalm 89.1-2, 20-26

1 My song shall be always of the loving-kindness of the Lord: ♦ with my mouth will I proclaim your faithfulness throughout all generations.

2 I will declare that your love is established for ever; ♦

you have set your faithfulness as firm as the heavens.

16 In your name they rejoice all the day long ♦ and are exalted in your righteousness.

17 For you are the glory of their strength, ♦ and in your favour you lift up our heads.

18 Truly the Lord is our shield; ♦ the Holy One of Israel is our king.

19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: ♦ 'I have set a youth above the mighty;

I have raised a young man over the people.

20 'I have found David my servant; ♦ with my holy oil have I anointed him.

### Hear the Gospel

#### According to John

13.16-20

#### GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

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:

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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).

## Future Events at St Mary's

There are going to be a number of events at St Mary's over the next few months or so. Full details will be announced soon but these include –

Afternoon Tea in June

Scarecrow Festival in late September

Wreath Making, Stir Up Sunday and the Bazaar in November...

There will also be a quiz, another games afternoon/evening, pudding and plonk etc too. Watch out for information about all of these events and how you can take part.

## Alice's farewell service: Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 at St Mary's and St B's on that day.

## 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

## 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

## Sponsorship for our organists at St Mary's

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.

## 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.

## You Can Join Our WhatsApp Group!

St Mary's has a very useful in-house WhatsApp group that 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

## Dates for your diary

Sun 11<sup>th</sup> May 11 am APCM St Mary's

Sun 18<sup>th</sup> May 3pm Messy Church at St Mary's

Sun 27<sup>th</sup> July 3pm Farewell Eucharist at St Mary's

St Mary's Rota - Who's doing what when		
	11 <sup>th</sup> May	18 <sup>th</sup> May
	9.30 Parish Eucharist	3pm Messy Church
	9.30 Parish Eucharist	9.30 Parish Eucharist
<b>Music</b>	Mark Terry	Ian Hope
<b>Warden</b>	Dan Shirley	Tim Ward
<b>Sides duty</b>	TBA	Ann Wiggins
<b>Welcomer</b>	Peter Bladon	Viv Hagel
<b>Reader</b>	Sue Jakeman	n/a
<b>Prayers/ Intercessions</b>	Ian Dixon	Sue Jakeman
<b>Offertory</b>	Susan & Colin Rivett	Ellie Hoyle & Sylvia Low
<b>Chalice/ 1<sup>st</sup> Counter</b>	Peter Bladon	Sue Jakeman
<b>2nd Counter</b>	Fiona Shirley	Viv Hagel
<b>Refreshments</b>	Susan & Colin Rivett	Ellie Hoyle & Jess
<b>Sunday School</b>	Marina McKenna	

Sue Bassett 07/05/2025