

# Welcome to St Mary's Apsley



and welcome to our service today

5<sup>th</sup> May, 2024  
Sixth 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.

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## This Week at St Mary's

### Today

9.30am Parish Eucharist

### Monday

10.00 -12.00 NO Working Party  
8.00pm NO Bellringing practice

### Tuesday

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

### Thursday

9.30 - 3.30 Church open for private prayer  
9.30am Eucharist at St Mary's  
10.00 – 12.00 Foodbank and Community Café  
10.15am Study Group in the Vestry  
8pm Virtual Study Group

### Friday

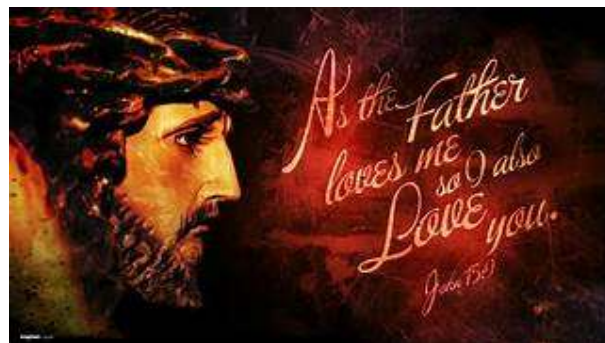
10.00 -12.00 Working Party in Church & Churchyard

### Saturday

10.00 -12.00 Saturday Community Café

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May

9.00am Bellringing  
9.30am Parish Eucharist



Dear Friends,

A huge thank you to everyone who helped us mark Lizzie's retirement last Sunday. It was such a lovely service in the afternoon, followed by a great party! Thank you to everyone who gave money towards her leaving present, and sent good wishes to her and Tom. Thank you especially to Katharine Harper, who created the amazing artwork we gave as Lizzie's leaving gift from St Mary's - a very generous gift of time and talent! We will continue to miss Lizzie deeply. The informal vacancy meeting (with the Bishop and Archdeacon) was held at Holy Trinity on Wednesday evening, to set out the plan for the months ahead and to hear from the people of HT about the kind of vicar they might be looking for. Exciting times! Busy times! Please keep everyone involved in managing the vacancy in your prayers and pray that the person God is calling will feel their heart stirred to apply.

Our Gospel this Sunday is taken from Jesus' farewell discourse; his final set of instructions and teaching for his friends. He insists that they are his friends, not his servants or his subjects. Jesus calls us friends and extends a gentle invitation to us, to abide in his love. It is only out of this abiding, this dwelling, that Jesus call emerges. He says "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and have appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last". We have not chosen Jesus, and so often we do not choose the places he leads us. But he leads us ultimately to a place of fruitfulness and abundance, he does not ask us to stay in places or situations which stifle us, or make us sad or ill. Jesus came that we might have fullness of life.

How might Jesus be calling you to discern between life-giving things and life-draining things? Ask for his help and he will be with you as you discern.

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Yours in Christ  
Mother Alice

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

### The Collect

God our redeemer,  
you have delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us  
to eternal joy;  
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

#### Acts of the Apostles 10.44-end

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

### A reading from the First Letter of John 5.1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 15.9-17

**GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

## Thursday's Readings (Year B)

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

1.1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### Psalm 93

1 The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel; the Lord has put on his glory and girded himself with strength.

2 He has made the whole world so sure that it cannot be moved.

3 Your throne has been established from of old; you are from everlasting.

4 The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their pounding waves.

5 Mightier than the thunder of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, the Lord on high is mightier.

6 Your testimonies are very sure; holiness adorns your house, O Lord, for ever.

### A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

24.44-end

#### GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

### Contact Information

<b>Vicar:</b>	Mthr Alice Jolley	01442 615246	<a href="mailto:mthr.AliceJolley@outlook.com">mthr.AliceJolley@outlook.com</a>
<b>General Enquiries:</b>	Please contact the Benefice Office		Monday – Friday 8.30am – 12.30pm
<b>Administrator/ Benefice Office:</b>	Sue Bassett	01923 266596	07503 950315 or <a href="mailto:SaintsKL2@tiscali.co.uk">SaintsKL2@tiscali.co.uk</a>
<b>Facebook:</b>	St Mary's Apsley End	<b>Twitter:</b>	@StMarys1871
<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Sylvia Low	07742 610932	<a href="mailto:SylviayLow@gmail.com">SylviayLow@gmail.com</a>
	Harry Graham-Brown	07918 071542	<a href="mailto:Harry.GB63@gmail.com">Harry.GB63@gmail.com</a>
<b>Safeguarding:</b>	Susan Rivett	07908 644600	<a href="mailto:SusanRivett55@gmail.com">SusanRivett55@gmail.com</a>
	Katharine Harper	07881 602024	<a href="mailto:KatharineHarper23@gmail.com">KatharineHarper23@gmail.com</a>
<b>Website/calendar:</b>	<a href="http://www.BeneficeofLangelei.org.uk/StMarys">www.BeneficeofLangelei.org.uk/StMarys</a>		

# 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).

## LIZZIE'S FAREWELL

Wow! I would like to thank you all most sincerely for the wonderful send-off, and for all your very kind cards and messages, especially for the very generous gift from the whole team. I have absolutely LOVED my time here as your Rector, and will miss you enormously. I will keep you in my prayers and look forward to hearing great things in the future! Wishing you every blessing. Lizzie x



## 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 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: <https://t.ly/VJUlr> 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 come and see us.

## Sponsorship for our organists



Our organist today, Peter Lipman, is sponsored by an anonymous person. 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.

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 11am

Annual Parish Church Meeting in church

## Family Fun Day

If you are able to help on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 1pm-4pm there is a sign up sheet at the back of church. We welcome as much help as possible to make this a successful fundraising event for our church.

Many thanks

Viv

## Welcome Boxes for Nascent House

Thank you so much to everyone that has responded to the Nascent House requests. It has been truly amazing! Our needs are now sweets (small packets), individual bars of soap, notelets/cards, nail brushes, shampoo, large boxes of tissues and boxes with lids (17L to 25L). Please remember that the products must not contain alcohol. If you would like to know more about this scheme, come and have a chat. Susan & Viv

## Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May - FOS Ceilidh

The Friends of All Saints are hosting a Ceilidh in the Community Centre in Kings Langley. Tickets are £15 from Brian McAdam, include a light supper. The bar will be open. [bmcadam1@sky.com](mailto:bmcadam1@sky.com)

## Dates for your diary

Sun 12<sup>th</sup> May APCM in the church at 11am

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> May Messy Church

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> June Family Fun Day

## Rotas - Who's doing what when

	5 <sup>th</sup> May	12 <sup>th</sup> May
	9.30 Parish Eucharist	9.30 Parish Eucharist
<b>Music</b>	Peter Lipman	Bruce Boardman
<b>Warden</b>	Sylvia Low	Harry G-B
<b>Sides duty</b>	Ann Wiggins	Katharine Harper
<b>Welcomer</b>	Viv Hagel	Sylvia Low
<b>Reading</b>	Dan Shirley	Fiona Shirley
<b>Intercessions</b>	Laura G-B	Sue Jakeman
<b>Offertory</b>	Fiona Ellison & Sylvia Low	Susan & Colin Rivett
<b>Chalice</b>	Katherine Harper	Susan Rivett
<b>2nd Counter</b>	Jim Aylott	Roger Witts
<b>Refreshments</b>	Dan & Fiona Shirley	Laura & Harry G-B
<b>Sunday School</b>	Hazel Pritchard	Lilian Hepwood

Sue Basset 01/05/2024