

Welcome to St Mary's Apsley



and welcome to our service today

26th November, 2023

Christ the King (Ordinary Time II)

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

Today

9.00am Bellringing
9.30am Eucharist at St Mary's

Monday

10.00 - 12.00 Working Party
8.00pm Bellringing practice

Tuesday

9.30am Buzzy Bees in the Refectory

Wednesday

7pm Faith and Hope Discussion Group
In The Vicarage

Thursday

9.30 - 3.30 Church open for private prayer
9.30 - 12.00 Foodbank and Community Café
9.30am Eucharist at St Mary's
10.15am Study Group in the vestry
8.00pm Virtual Study group on Zoom
All welcome (link on website/calendar)

Friday

10.00 - 12.00 Working Party

Saturday

10.00 - 12.00 Saturday Community Café

Sunday 26th November

9.00am Bellringing
9.30am Eucharist at St Mary's

Morning Prayer at St Benedict's:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday at 9.30am

Evening Prayer at St Benedict's:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday at 5.30pm



Dear Friends,

This Sunday is the Feast of Christ the King: the last Sunday of the Church's year. We stand on the cusp of Advent and symbolically we stand on the edge of the coming Kingdom. What can we see on the horizon? Where have we come from? What are we leaving behind and what are we striving towards?

At our service today we begin a series of reflections on our identity as St Mary's church. The first is reflecting on 'Welcome'. This is a word we hear all the time and we all think we are lovely, welcoming people. But I'm sure we also know that real welcome is costly and requires serious thought before we can get it right. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus tells the parable of the Sheep and the Goats. Our responsibility to offer hospitality, compassion, and care to the stranger (Jesus) is clear, but how do we do it? How do we do it wrong? How do we repent and work on getting it right?

We will be thinking about our goals for being an ever more welcoming community this Sunday. On Advent 2 we will think about Faith (being a faithful community, growing in our faith and teaching the faith) and on Advent 3 we will look at Hope (How are we a hopeful place? What does our existence here point to? How do people catch Christian hope from us?).

I do hope you will join us, and offer your thoughts to be included in the formulation of our Mission Action Plan going forward.

*Yours in Christ
Mother Alice*

Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year A)

The Collect

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of
heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and
King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in
the bond of peace, and bring the whole created
order to worship at his feet; 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 Prophet Ezekiel

34.11-16,20-24

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from the first Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

1.15-end

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called

you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

25.31-end

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Thursday's Collect and Readings (Year A)

Collect

Almighty God,
who gave such grace to your apostle Andrew that He readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ, and brought his brother with him: Give unto us, who are called by your Word, and give us grace to follow you without delay, and to the good news of your kingdom; 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 Zechariah 8.20- end

Thus says the Lord of hosts: Peoples shall yet come, the inhabitants of many cities; the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, 'Come, let us go to entreat the favour of the Lord, and to seek the Lord of hosts; I myself am going.' Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to entreat the favour of the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts: In those days ten men from nations of every language shall take hold of a Jew, grasping his garment and saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'

This is the word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from the Epistle of Paul to the Romans 10.9- end

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.'

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!' But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our message?' So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for 'Their voice has gone out to all the earth,

and their words to the ends of the world.'

Again I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says,

'I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry.'

Then Isaiah is so bold as to say,

'I have been found by those who did not seek me;

I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me.'

But of Israel he says, 'All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.'

This is the word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 4.18-22

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Contact Information

Vicar:	Mthr Alice Jolley	01442 615246	mthr.AliceJolley@outlook.com
General Enquiries:	Please contact the Benefice Office		Monday – Friday 9.00am – 12.30pm
Administrator/ Benefice Office:	Sue Bassett	01923 266596	SaintsKL2@tiscali.co.uk
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Website/calendar:	www.BeneficeofLangelei.org.uk/StMarys		

Notices

Please send any input for next week to Sue in the Benefice office on SaintsKL2@tiscali.co.uk by noon on Wednesday and copy it to StMarysApsleyEnd@gmail.com.

Advent 'Faith and Hope' discussion group.

Wednesday 29th Nov, 6th Dec, and 13th Dec, 7pm at the Vicarage. Festive snacks and drinks! More info in the notices at church.

Welcome Boxes for Nascent House

We would be grateful for boxes with lids 17L to 25L, packs of sweets, postage stamps, notebooks and toothpaste. If you can donate any of these items please place them in or near box at the rear of the church. Many thanks. Susan and Viv.

RCHH Santa Sleigh

'We could still do with one more volunteer collector to walk with the Santa Sleigh outing on Sunday 17th December between 5.30pm and 7.30pm. If you are interested and can help please speak to Viv 07837560873 for more information. It's wonderful to see the children's faces when they see Santa.

Could you be our next Safeguarding Officer?

The PCC is seeking a candidate to take over from Susan Rivett when she steps down in the spring of 2024. Please consider prayerfully whether God might be calling you to take on this highly important role in the life of our church. It will be possible to shadow Susan for a few months if early notice of interest is given!

Christmas Bazaar - 9th Dec 12-3pm

We still have spaces for more volunteers and are now asking for people to leaflet drop, bake cakes and be generally involved in this, our major fundraising event of the year. For leaflets please speak to Laura or Harry Graham-Brown or Sylvia Low.

Festive Open Vicarage

Alice and Coral would like to extend an open invitation to the Vicarage for festive refreshments on Monday 18th December from 5pm. Please do join us!

Sponsorship for our organists



Our organist Ian Hope is sponsored today by an anonymous sponsor. If you would like to sponsor the organist one week, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please email Janet on

janet@apsleyend.co.uk.

Carols Outside Sainsburys

Saturday 16th December 1pm-2pm

In aid of DENS. Please come along and join the choir!!

Church Flowers

Christmas is coming and after the Advent season we will of course have flowers back in church.

If you would be willing to contribute something towards the cost of them there is a basket at the back of church for your support. Many thanks. Rosemary

Foodbanks at St Mary's and St B's

St Mary's foodbank is open 9.30-12.00 on Thursdays with a community café serving simple hot food too. We continue to need donations and assistance at both foodbanks (St Mary's and St B's). If you can help, do speak to Mthr Alice.

Dates for your diary

Sun 3rd Dec Advent Sunday
Wed 6th Dec Faith and Hope Discussion Group 7pm
Sat 9th Dec St Mary's Bazaar
Wed 13th Dec Faith and Hope Discussion Group 7pm
Sat 16th Dec Tree Decoration in Church
Sat 16th Dec Carol Singing Outside Sainsburys
Sun 17th Dec Messy Christmas
Sun 17th Dec Santa Sleigh Outing
Mon 18th Dec Festive Open Vicarage from 5pm
Tue 19th Dec Blue Christmas at St B's
Sun 24th Dec Crib service 4.30pm
Sun 24th Dec Midnight Christmas Eucharist 11.15pm
Mon 25th Dec Joint Christmas service at St M's 9.30am
Sun 31st Dec Benefice Service at All Saints KL 10.30am
Sun 7th Jan Christingle service at Epiphany

Rotas - Who's doing what when

	26 th November	3 rd December
	9.30 Eucharist	9:30 Eucharist
Music	Ian Hope	Peter Lipman
Warden	Sylvia Low	Dan Shirley
Sides duty	Ann Wiggins	Sylvia Low
Welcomer	Viv Hagel	Roger & Angela Witts
Reading	Joy West	Fiona Shirley
Intercessions	Viv Hagel	Katharine Harper
Offertory	Joy West & Lilian Hepwood	Thao Pham & Rosemary Bladon
Chalice	Rosemary Bladon	Janet Wright
2nd Counter	Trevor Wilson	Roger Witts
Refreshments	Janet Wright & Joy West	Jan & Trevor Wilson
Sunday School	Hazel Pritchard	Peter Bladon

Sue Bassett 23/11/2023