

Welcome to St Mary's Apsley



and welcome to our services today

26th October, 2025

Bible 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
9.30am Parish Eucharist

Monday

12.30-2.30pm Apsley Community Café
10.00 -12.00 Working Party
8 – 9.30pm Bellringing practice

Tuesday

9.30am No Buzzy Bees – Half-Term

Thursday

9.00 - 3.30 St Mary's Church open for private
prayer
9am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Communion
10.00 – 12.00 St Mary's Foodbank & Community
Café
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

Sunday 2nd November

9.30am Parish Eucharist

Who is Revd David Jones?

Sermon: "Keep Praying, Keep Trusting" Luke 18:1–8

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

It begins with "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show
them that they should always pray and not give up."

I love that. Always pray, and don't give up.

This story of a woman who just keeps going, keeps asking, keeps
believing even when it seems nothing is changing it's not just
about persistence; it's about faith.

Faith that God hears.

Faith that He's still at work, even when the answer seems delayed.
And I suppose, when I look back over my life, I can see that thread
running right through it a call to keep praying, and not give up. I
moved to the UK back in 1998, from sunny South Africa a town
called Durban and began working for Soul Survivor Ministries.
Those were two wonderful, stretching years full of worship, tents,
muddy fields, and seeing young people encounter God in
powerful ways.

After that, I joined Soul Survivor Watford, where I served as
caretaker, youth worker, and later leading the 20s & 30s ministry.
We built community, ran big events, and saw lives changed.
But all the while, deep inside, I had this growing sense a calling to
plant a new church.

Every year, I'd turn to my wife and ask, "Is it time yet?"

And every year, she'd smile and say, "Not yet."

But then one day, God changed her heart and in 2009, we planted
our first church out of Soul Survivor Watford.

We started small about ten of us but God breathed life into it.

Within a few years, it grew to around 150 to 200 people. It was a
beautiful, messy, exciting season.

And in 2012, I was accepted for ordination training, recognised as
a pioneer minister within the Church of England.

During my curacy, I worked half-time for the church and half-time
running the plant. And for ten years, we saw God do incredible
things.

But then, after a decade, that chapter came to an end. The church
was closed, and we moved to South-East London. It was a season
of rebuilding and, honestly, not an easy one.

Two years ago, everything seemed to unravel.

Some of you will know that Mike Pilavachi, someone I'd known
through and worked with at Soul Survivor, was found guilty of
spiritual abuse and coercion. Around that same time, I was facing
some deep challenges of my own. Eventually, I reached breaking
point. I had a nervous breakdown, and I was signed off work for a
year.

In that year, I stopped. I rested. I grieved. And somewhere in the
quiet, God began to whisper again. We decided prayerfully to
step back from ministry for a while. We moved back to this area,
and I took a job at Warner Bros. Studio Tour. It was humbling
welcoming guests, scanning tickets but it was also healing. God
was doing something in me again.

And over this last year, I've sensed Him calling me back, back into
ministry, but with a deeper compassion, a gentler faith, and a
renewed trust that His timing really is perfect. You see,
sometimes, God doesn't answer our prayers in the way or at the
time we expect.

Sometimes, the waiting is long. But the persistent widow
reminds us keep praying. Keep trusting. Because God does hear.
He is faithful. And when the Son of Man comes as the parable
ends may He find that kind of faith in us: faith that never gives up,
even when it's hard.

So maybe today, you're praying for something that hasn't
happened yet, a breakthrough, a healing, a relationship restored,
a dream reignited.

Don't lose heart. God's delays are never His denials.

He's still working. He's still listening. And He's still faithful.

Amen.

Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year C)

The Collect

Almighty God,
to whose glory we celebrate the dedication
of this house of prayer:
we praise you for the many blessings
you have given to those who worship you here:
and we pray that all who seek you in this place
may find you,
and, being filled with the Holy Spirit,
may become a living temple acceptable to you;
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 the Prophet Isaiah 45.22-end

Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the
earth! For I am God, and there is no other. By
myself I have sworn, from my mouth has gone
forth in righteousness a word that shall not return:
"To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall
swear." Only in the Lord, it shall be said of me,
are righteousness and strength; all who were
incensed against him shall come to him and be
ashamed. In the Lord all the offspring of Israel
shall triumph and glory.

This is the word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans 15.1-6

We who are strong ought to put up with the
failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.
Each of us must please our neighbour for the
good purpose of building up the neighbour. For
Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written,
"The insults of those who insult you have fallen on
me." For whatever was written in former days
was written for our instruction, so that by
steadfastness and by the encouragement of the
scriptures we might have hope. May the God of
steadfastness and encouragement grant you to
live in harmony with one another, in accordance
with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with
one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke 4.16-24

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

When he came to Nazareth, where he had
been brought up, he went to the synagogue
on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He
stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet
Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll
and found the place where it was written:
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he
has anointed me to bring good news to the
poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the
captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to
let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year
of the Lord's favour."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the
attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the
synagogue were fixed on him.

Then he began to say to them, "Today this
scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All
spoke well of him and were amazed at the
gracious words that came from his mouth. They
said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them,
"Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb,
"Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do
here also in your hometown the things that we
have heard you did at Capernaum." " And he
said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in
the prophet's hometown.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Thursday's Readings (Year C)

A Reading from the Book of Romans

8.31-end

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Psalm 109.20-26, 29-30

20 But deal with me, O Lord my God, according to your name; ♦

O deliver me, for sweet is your faithfulness.

21 For I am helpless and poor ♦

and my heart is disquieted within me.

22 I fade like a shadow that lengthens; ♦

I am shaken off like a locust.

23 My knees are weak through fasting ♦

and my flesh is dried up and wasted.

24 I have become a reproach to them; ♦

those who see me shake their heads in scorn.

25 Help me, O Lord my God; ♦

save me for your loving mercy's sake,

26 And they shall know that this is your hand, ♦

that you, O Lord, have done it.

29 I will give great thanks to the Lord with my

mouth; ♦

in the midst of the multitude will I praise him;

30 Because he has stood at the right hand of the
needy, ♦

to save them from those who would condemn
them.

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke

13.31-end

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem."

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." "

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Contact Information

Vicar: Rev David Jones

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

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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.

Boardgame Afternoon

Saturday 8th November 2-5pm.

Come and join us in the refectory for an afternoon of convivial chat with refreshments whilst playing a game or too.

Coffee Morning in the Refectory

Friday coffee morning 10.30am to 11.45am.

Come join us at our coffee mornings on the second and fourth Friday each month.

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

Sponsorship for our organists at St Mary's



Our organist today, Ian Hope, 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 – Sue Jakeman or Sylvia Low for more information.

You Can Join Our WhatsApp Group!

Used for quick questions and messages. If you are a member of St Mary's, do consider joining by contacting any of the admins (Katharine Harper, Laura G-Brown, Harry G-Brown and Rachel Woods)

Morning services around the team

All are welcome to mid-week Morning Prayer and Holy Communion services

Tuesdays St Benedict's - Paused

Wednesdays Holy Trinity - 9am MP, 10am HC

Thursdays St Mary's – 9am MP, 9.30am HC

Fridays All Saints - 9am MP, 9.30am HC

Donate to St Mary's

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



Apsley Community Foodbank & Café

St Mary's is open 12.30-2.30 on Mondays and 10 -12 on Thursdays for food collection and 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: either to the church or to Dunelm gratefully received. St Benedict's Foodbank is open Wednesdays 9.30-11.30am

Welcome Boxes for Nascent House

Katharine Harper has come forward to support Viv with the organisation of the boxes for Nascent House when Susan Rivett moves from the area. As Viv is off on her travels, Katharine will support Susan with the scheme while Viv is away and 'learn the ropes'. Please continue to support this scheme which provides basic needs for new residents when they arrive at Nascent House as part of the Oxygen Recovery scheme on the start of their journey of rehabilitation. Our current needs are soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, notecards and large and small packs of tissues. Remember that the products must not contain alcohol. If you would like more information about this initiative please talk to Susan or Katharine.

Dates for your diary

Sat 8 th Nov	Boardgame Afternoon 2-5pm
Fri 14 th Nov	Coffee Morning in Refectory 10.30-11.45
Sun 16 th Nov	Messy Church
Sat 22 nd Nov	Make a Pudding 10am – 12 noon
Fri 28 th Nov	Coffee Morning in Refectory 10.30-11.45
Sat 29 th Nov	Christmas Bazaar 12-3pm
Sun 30 th Nov	Team Advent Carol Service
Thur 17 th Dec	9:30 Nash Mills School Christmas Service

St Mary's Rota - Who's doing what when		
	26 th October	2 nd November
	9.30 Parish Eucharist	9.30 Parish Eucharist
Music	Ian Hope	
Warden	Harry GB	
Sides duty	Laura GB	
Welcomer	Angela Witts	
Reader	Melanie Henley	
Prayers/ Intercessions	Fiona Shirley	
Offertory	Melanie Henley Jeanie Agg	
Chalice/ 1 st Counter	Janet Wright	
2nd Counter	Roger Witts	
Refreshments	Melanie Henley Ralph Henley	
Sunday School	Laura GB	