

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



and welcome to our services today  
**5<sup>th</sup> October, 2025**  
Harvest

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 NO Parish Eucharist at St Benedict's

### Monday

9.15-10.45 Little Bears at St Benedict's  
12.30-2.30pm Apsley Community Café  
at St Mary's Church  
10.00 -12.00 Working Party at St Mary's  
8 – 9.30pm Bellringing practice at St Mary's

### Tuesday

9am NO Morning Prayer at St Benedict's  
9.30am Buzzy Bees at St Mary's

### Wednesday

9.30–11.30am Foodbank at St Benedict's

### Thursday

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary's  
10.00 – 12.00 Apsley Community Café  
at St Mary's Church  
10.15am Study Group at St Mary's - Paused  
8pm Home Study Group

### Friday

10.00 -12.00 Working Party in St Mary's Church  
& Churchyard.  
10.30-11.45 Coffee Morning in the Refectory

### Saturday

10.00 -12.00 Saturday Community Café at  
St Mary's

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's  
11.15am Parish Eucharist at St Benedict's



Good morning on this Sunday morning as we meet to worship and praise the Lord for Harvest. Firstly, a huge thank you to those who planned and brought together our fantastic and successful Scarecrow festival. We had a brilliant number of people coming through the door to view the creative and clever scarecrows. So many then stopped for cake, coffee or tea. Since January the team have been eating, sleeping and dreaming about the festival. Thank you so much for all your time and effort making this happen.

Today we are thanking God for the Harvest and without scarecrows the Harvest would be a lot thinner. Scarecrows have started to reappear in the fields as farmers have ditched pesticides and poison to control the birds that can eat up to twice their body weight in seeds. After a hot and dry summer, the barns are full with produce and the hay and straw stored ready for the winter and the days when livestock and confined to their indoor spaces. In our thanks for the Harvest gathered in, please remember those who fish in home and international water.

Yes, I've brought in the sea again. Jesus' disciples knew the difficulties and dangers of the life of a fisherman, but they still went out when Jesus asked them too. Eventually these poor and humble men would become fishers of men, spreading the gospel and gathering the followers of "the Way" as Christians were first known.

At the end of the Eucharist we say, "Send us out into the world to your praise and glory"  
Enjoy your Sunday

Sue Jakeman

# Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year C)

## The Collect

Eternal God,  
you crown the year with your goodness  
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:  
grant that we may use them to your glory,  
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;  
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 The Letter of Paul to the Philippians 4.4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

This is the word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

## Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John 6.25-35

**GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!**

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal."

Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?"

Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you?"

What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."

Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

## Thursday's Readings (Year C)

### A Reading from the Book of

### The Prophet Malachi

3.13-4.2a

You have spoken harsh words against me, says the Lord. Yet you say, "How have we spoken against you?" You have said, "It is vain to serve God. What do we profit by keeping his command or by going about as mourners before the Lord of hosts? Now we count the arrogant happy; evildoers not only prosper, but when they put God to the test they escape."

Then those who revered the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord took note and listened, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who revered the Lord and thought on his name. They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, my special possession on the day when I act, and I will spare them as parents spare their children who serve them. Then once more you shall see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### Psalm 1

1 Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, ♦ nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.

2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord ♦

and they meditate on his law day and night.

3 Like a tree planted by streams of water bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither, ♦ whatever they do, it shall prosper.

4 As for the wicked, it is not so with them; ♦ they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgement, ♦

nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.

6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, ♦ but the way of the wicked shall perish.

### Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke

11.5-13

#### GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given 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 a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion?

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

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### Contact Information

Vicar: Vacancy

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](mailto:info@beneficeoflangelei.org.uk)

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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).

**The Rev David Jones has been appointed as Team Vicar in the Langelei Team Ministry with special responsibility for St Mary's Apsley End and St Benedict's, Bennetts End. This is subject to completion of the usual legal formalities. David's licensing service will take place on Tuesday 14th October at 7.30pm at St Mary's Apsley End. Please remember David, Janey, Hannah and Autumn in your prayers as they prepare for their move.**

## Scarecrow Festival

A huge thank you to all those who supplied scarecrows, cake and raffle prizes and of course everyone who helped at the Scarecrow Festival. It was a fantastic team St Mary's effort. There was an amazing array of scarecrows – there are a lot of very creative people out there! Over the weekend there was a wonderful atmosphere in St Mary's with lots of new faces and families visiting; the hunt for the name of our harvest mouse was a favourite activity as was sitting enjoying homemade cake and hot drinks. Sunnyside also had the most fantastic stall of fresh produce and plants accompanied by their wonderful scarecrow. See you all in 2026...

## Team Confirmation Preparation 2025

Would you like to confirm your promises to God? Fr James, Revd Diana and Revd Jos will be running Confirmation Preparation sessions in the autumn. Please contact one of them to sign up. For adults and young people 12+ in our churches. 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd Oct, 15th Nov visit to St Albans, 20th Nov concluding session. 23rd Nov 6.30pm Confirmation Service at St John's Boxmoor.

## 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

## Thursdays 10.15am Study Group

During the Vacancy the Study Group at St Mary's is paused.

## 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.

## Apsley Community Foodbank & Café at St Mary's and Foodbank at St B's

St Mary's is open 12.30-2.30 on Mondays and 10-12 on Thursdays for food collection and 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 boxes of tissues, notecards, toothpaste, toothbrushes and boxes with lids (17-25l). 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!

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)

## Donate to St Mary's

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



## Dates for your diary

Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 7.30pm Licencing of Rev David Jones  
Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Oct Coffee Morning in Refectory 10.30-11.45  
Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov Make a Pudding 10am – 12 noon  
Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Nov Christmas Bazaar 12-3pm

## St Mary's Rota - Who's doing what when

|                                        | 5 <sup>th</sup> October     | 12 <sup>th</sup> October       |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                        | 9.30 Harvest                | Parish Eucharist               |
| <b>Music</b>                           | Ian Hope                    | Mark Terry                     |
| <b>Warden</b>                          | Sue Jakeman                 | Tim Ward                       |
| <b>Sides duty</b>                      | Ann Wiggins                 | Jeanie Agg                     |
| <b>Welcomer</b>                        | Peter Bladon                | Colin Rivett                   |
| <b>Reader</b>                          | Fiona Ellison               | Melanie Henley                 |
| <b>Prayers/ Intercessions</b>          | Dan Shirley                 | Sue Jakeman                    |
| <b>Offertory</b>                       | Harry G-B<br>Laura G-B      | Peter Bladon<br>Melanie Henley |
| <b>Chalice/ 1<sup>st</sup> Counter</b> | Peter Bladon                | Jim Aylott                     |
| <b>2nd Counter</b>                     | Jim Aylott                  | Peter Bladon                   |
| <b>Refreshments</b>                    | Sylvia Low<br>Sarah Barnard | Colin & Susan Rivett           |
| <b>Sunday School</b>                   | Sue Jakeman                 | Marina McKenna                 |