

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



and welcome to our services today

**14<sup>th</sup> September, 2025**

**Holy Cross Day**

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 & St B's**

### **Today**

9.00am Bellringing at St Mary's  
9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's  
11.15am No Service 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.

### **Saturday**

10.00 -12.00 Saturday Community Café at St Mary's

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's  
11.15am Parish Eucharist at St Benedict's  
3.00pm Messy Church at St Mary's

Dear All,

I am writing this as I am waiting for my flight to Edinburgh to take off. My flight has been delayed but this has given me time to reflect upon this past week and forthcoming weekend even in the overcrowded airport. Delay helps people to slow down; there really is no point in allowing the situation to become stressful as you have no control over the situation. The best thing to do is stay calm and have some cake...

I am looking forward to the next few days with great anticipation as I am helping my daughter move into her university accommodation. It just feels like yesterday that I was walking hand in hand with her to her first day at primary school...now it's the start of her next adventure. She has been busy preparing for this day since her last A-level exam! I really loved this optimism! Life will be different now for us, but I wouldn't have it any other way.

Have a good week everyone and remember all the great things that, we as a Church family are going to be doing over the next month or so please support our first ever Scarecrow festival which is happening over the last weekend of September. If you are feeling creative do have a go at making one!

Best wishes,  
Sylvia

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

### The Collect

Almighty God,  
who in the passion of your blessed Son  
made an instrument of painful death  
to be for us the means of life and peace:  
grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ  
that we may gladly suffer for his sake;  
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 Numbers

21.4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way.

The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food."

Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.

The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us."

So Moses prayed for the people.

And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live."

So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### A reading from a Letter of Paul to the Philippians

2.6-11

Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father

This is the word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

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

3.13-17

**GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!**

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

## Thursday's Readings (Year C)

### A Reading from The First Letter of Paul to Timothy 4.12-end

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching.

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders.

Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### Psalms 111.6-end

6 He showed his people the power of his works ♦ in giving them the heritage of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are truth and justice; ♦ all his commandments are sure.

8 They stand fast for ever and ever; ♦ they are done in truth and equity.

9 He sent redemption to his people; ♦ he commanded his covenant for ever; ♦ holy and awesome is his name.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; ♦ a good understanding have those who live by it; ♦ his praise endures for ever.

### Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke 7.36-end

#### GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table.

And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment.

She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment.

Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak."

"A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

When they could not pay, he cancelled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?"

Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he cancelled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly."

Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet.

You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.

Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little."

Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

### 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)

Facebook: St Mary's Apsley End

Churchwardens: Sylvia Low ☎ 07742 610932  
[SylviaLow@gmail.com](mailto:SylviaLow@gmail.com)

Sue Jakeman ☎ 07971 254336  
[susanjakeman@btinternet.com](mailto:susanjakeman@btinternet.com)

Safeguarding: Marina McKenna - ☎ 07783173457  
Katharine Harper - ☎ 07881602024  
Email: [safeguardingapsley@gmail.com](mailto:safeguardingapsley@gmail.com)

Website/calendar: [www.BeneficeofLangelei.org.uk/StMarys](http://www.BeneficeofLangelei.org.uk/StMarys)

# 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).

A big thank you to all those people who helped or came along to Rosemary's funeral last week. It was wonderful that over 110 people came along on the day not only to say goodbye to her, but also, to support me on a very difficult day. It was a wonderful farewell service and wake celebration which all of our family and her wider church family and community enjoyed as Rosemary would, have done!

Once again, many thanks to everybody who were involved.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory'.

**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.**

## 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Sept Scarecrow Festival



Please contact Laura or Sylvia if you know anyone or group who would like to make a scarecrow. There are signup sheets for helpers and cakes. Donations required for raffle and for hamper please.

## 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 at St Mary's

During the Vacancy the Study Group 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

Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Sep Messy Harvest  
 Sept 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Scarecrow Festival  
 Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 7.30pm Licencing of Rev David Jones

| St Mary's Rota - Who's doing what when |                             |                                |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                        | 14 <sup>th</sup> September  | 21 <sup>st</sup> September     |
|                                        | 9.30 Parish Eucharist       | 9.30 Parish Eucharist          |
| Music                                  | Ian Hope                    | Mark Terry                     |
| Warden                                 | Sue Jakeman                 | Tim Ward                       |
| Sides duty                             | Katharine Harper            | Fiona Shirley                  |
| Welcomer                               | Katherine Harper            | Viv Hagel                      |
| Reader                                 | Dan Shirley                 | Fiona Shirley                  |
| Prayers/Intercessions                  | Sue Jakeman                 | Laura G-B                      |
| Offertory                              | Peter Bladon<br>Ann Wiggins | Alfie Cacciapuoti<br>Ian Dixon |
| Chalice/<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Counter    | Jim Aylott                  | Janet Wright                   |
| 2nd Counter                            | Peter Bladon                | Fiona Shirley                  |
| Refreshments                           | Jeanie Agg<br>David Agg     | Lillian Hepwood<br>Viv Hagel   |
| Sunday School                          | Hazel Pritchard             |                                |