

Welcome to St Mary's Apsley



and welcome to our service today

1st September, 2024
The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

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 Parish Eucharist

Monday

10.00 -12.00 Working Party
8.00pm Bellringing practice

Tuesday

9.30am Buzzy Bees is on holiday
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 Study Group

Friday

10.00 -12.00 Working Party in Church & Churchyard

Saturday

10.00 -12.00 Saturday Community Café

Sunday 8th September

9.00am Bellringing
9.30am Parish Eucharist



Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well, and that you have had the opportunity over the Summer to relax and spend some time with family and friends.

I am glad to be writing to tell you that I will be returning to work on the 1st of September. My return to work will be phased for the first few weeks; I will be working on Sundays and Thursdays, and building gradually back to full-time in due course. I am very much looking forward to being back with you.

I want to take this opportunity to voice my thanks and gratitude to Father James and Jos, who have worked so hard in recent months to cover the vacancy at Holy Trinity and my leave. I am grateful also to Bishop Jane and Archdeacon Charles for their compassionate understanding and practical support during this time.

Thank you to you all, too, for your cards and messages of love and support. It has meant so much to know that you have been praying for me while I have been away. I have missed being with you, and I know there will be lots for us to catch up on. Please don't be afraid to get in touch or speak to me if there is something you have been wanting to discuss while I have been away, but please do bear with me - as I know you will - as I build back up to full steam.

It is fair to say that being off work for 4 months was not in my original plan for this year! Sometimes life presents us with surprises and challenges, and it can be hard to understand where God is working in amongst it all. I want to tell you that, although there have been some very dark days in recent months, God has been very much present in that darkness; in the shifting shadows, and in the shards of light. I have heard the voice of God, calling my name, shaping me continually into the priest and the person God intends. In this season I have discerned a deepening call to prayer and contemplation (this is a vocation I have been sensing since I was a teenager, so it is not new!). I am looking forward to sharing some of this with you, as we meet to worship, and pray, and think, and talk, and grow together as God's beloved family.

My words here cannot possibly convey all I want to say, that can be done better in person. I am so much looking forward to seeing you soon.

With love and best wishes,

Mother Alice

Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year B)

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
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 Fifth book of Moses Deuteronomy 4.1-2, 6-9

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!' For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from the Letter of James 1.17-end

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who

forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel According to Mark 7.1-8, 14-15, 21-23

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honours me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines."

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.'

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.' For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Thursday's Readings (Year B)

The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 3.18-end

Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their craftiness', and again, 'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.'

So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

This is the Word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 24.1-6

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, ♦
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For he has founded it upon the seas ♦
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, ♦
or who can rise up in his holy place?'
- 4 'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, ♦
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,
nor sworn an oath to a lie;
- 5 'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, ♦
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'
- 6 Such is the company of those who seek him, ♦
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke 5.1-11

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!

Contact Information

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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.

Bruce Boardman

Last Saturday (24th) I received the very sad and shocking news that Bruce Boardman had died suddenly on Friday 23rd August. Bruce was one of our team of organists and he and his organ playing skills will be missed very much. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Ruth and family at this very sad time.

Quiz Night Saturday 14th September

There is a sign up sheet at the back of church if you would like to attend.

Raffle prizes required, including items for hamper, please put these in box provided.

Please sign up if you can bake a cake or dessert for the night.

Many thanks.

Viv



St Mary's Church Apsley invites you to join our

Quiz Night

Saturday 14th September

7:00 PM

£8 per person, max of 8 in a team.
Tickets include cakes/desserts.

Please bring your own food and drink.
Please bring cash for fun games and a raffle!
Tickets available from Viv at Church.

Venue - Nash Mills C of E Primary School,
Belswains Lane, HP3 9XB.

Bike 'n Hike Saturday 14th September

If you would like to join in, visiting as many churches as possible on foot or by bike, please ask for a sponsorship pack. Proceeds to the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust.

Are you considering being Confirmed?

A Deanery Confirmation Course will be starting in the Autumn. Talk to James or Jos if you want to know more.

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, Ian Hope, 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.

Welcome Boxes for Nascent House

Thank you to everyone who has donated items for the welcome boxes. We are currently in need of packets of sweets, shower gel, toothpaste, bars of soap, nail brushes, notelets and boxes with lids (171 -251). Please note items must not contain alcohol. If you would like further information about this scheme, please speak to Susan or Viv.

Dates for your diary

Sat 14th Sept Quiz Night at Nash Mills School

Sun 15th Sept 3pm Messy Church

Sun 29th Sept 10.30am Team Service at All Saints

Rotas - Who's doing what when

	1st September	8th September
	9.30 Eucharist	9.30 Eucharist
Music	Ian Hope	Ian Hope
Warden	Tim Ward	
Sides duty	Sylvia Low	Laura GB
Welcomer	Roger & Angela Witts	Monda Ajaqzi
Reading	Viv Hagel	Laura GB
Intercessions	Sue Jakeman	Viv Hagel
Offertory	Viv Hagel & Melanie Henley	Susan & Colin Rivett
Chalice	Peter Bladon	Katharine Harper
2nd Counter	Jim Aylott	Roger Witts
Refreshments	Sylvia Low & Alfie Cacciapuoti	Laura & Harry GB
Sunday School	Laura GB	Peter Bladon