

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



and welcome to our services today

21st September, 2025

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

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 Parish Eucharist at St Benedict's
3.00pm Messy Church – Harvest at St Mary'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 28th September

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's
11.15am No Service at St Benedict's



Happy Sunday to you all.

With the wind and rain, Autumn is certainly showing its strength and power. It is the time my dear Dad would be like a cat on a hot tin roof, worrying about his beloved boat "Miffy" being bashed about in the harbour, before she could be laid up for the winter. This is also the time for colds and coughs (and Covid) to appear, which floored me last weekend. While I was confined to my bed, I had the TV for company and watching the program "The Yorkshire Vet". I am a big fan of the stories of James Herriot who in case you don't know was really the vet Alf Wight. Alf and his partner had a practise in Thirsk and one of their students and then a junior vet was Peter Wright, who now is one of the vets featured on "The Yorkshire Vet". So, I'm a big fan of this too. Yes, some of the featured stories can be messy, but the show and the Herriot stories hi-light the beauty of the Yorkshire scenery, the animals, the amazing skill and compassion of the vets and farmers. Here is an example of this. A lamb was born with 5 legs and 6 feet. Yes, I know maths is not my best subject. The lamb's 5th leg had 2 feet growing on the end. After a few weeks the lamb was struggling as the 5th leg was still growing and getting in the way as it ran. The farmer and his wife clearly loved their flock and were carefully monitoring the lamb's progress. Between them and the vet, it was decided that the leg should be removed. It was a tricky procedure as the extra limb was growing with the lamb. It took 2 vets and the farmer, working carefully and slowly to remove the leg without causing a huge blood loss, putting the lamb in danger. A month later the vet returned to remove the stitches. The site had healed beautifully, and the lamb was happily playing with the other lambs and his mum.

As a Christian, I firmly believe that the skill and compassion of both the vet and the farmer are God given and inspired by the Creator of this beautiful world that we have been charged to look after. Yorkshire has often been called "God's own country", as I was brought up in Devon I think of that county as God's own country, but in fact everywhere is God's own country and we need to love and cherish all we see from our windows. To quote both the well-known hymn and James Herriot, we need to love and respect "All creatures great and small" because "The Lord God made them all".

With all blessings for today and next week.

Sue Jakeman

Sunday's Collect and Readings (Year C)

The Collect

O Almighty God,
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax
collector
to be an apostle and evangelist:
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain
and the possessive love of riches
that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus
Christ,
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 Proverbs 3.13-18

Happy are those who find wisdom, and those
who get understanding, for her income is better
than silver, and her revenue better than gold.
She is more precious than jewels, and nothing
you desire can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are
riches and honour. Her ways are ways of
pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called happy.

This is the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 4.1-6

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are
engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.
We have renounced the shameful things that
one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to
falsify God's word; but by the open statement of
the truth we commend ourselves to the
conscience of everyone in the sight of God.
And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to
those who are perishing.
In their case the god of this world has blinded the
minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from
seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of
Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not
proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as
Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.
For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of
darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give
the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in
the face of Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew 9.9-13

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man
called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he
said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and
followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax
collectors and sinners came and were sitting
with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees
saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does
your teacher eat with tax collectors and
sinners?"

But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are
well have no need of a physician, but those
who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I
desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to
call not the righteous but sinners."

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 Haggai 1.1-8

In the second year of King Darius, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest: Thus says the Lord of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord's house. Then the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai, saying:

Is it a time for you yourselves to live in your panelled houses, while this house lies in ruins? Now therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider how you have fared. You have sown much, and harvested little; you eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and you that earn wages earn wages to put them into a bag with holes. Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider how you have fared. Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honoured, says the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.
THANKS BE TO GOD!

Psalm 149.1-5

1 Alleluia.
O sing to the Lord a new song; ♦
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.
2 Let Israel rejoice in their maker; ♦
let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.
3 Let them praise his name in the dance; ♦
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and lyre.
4 For the Lord has pleasure in his people ♦
and adorns the poor with salvation.
5 Let the faithful be joyful in glory; ♦
let them rejoice in their ranks,

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke 9.7-9

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

Now Herod the ruler heard about all that had taken place, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the ancient prophets had arisen. Herod said, "John I beheaded; but who is this about whom I hear such things?" And he tried to see him.

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
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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.

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.

27th & 28th 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, Mark Terry, 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 21st Sep Messy Harvest
Sept 27th & 28th Scarecrow Festival
Tues 14th Oct 7.30pm Licencing of Rev David Jones

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

	21 st September	28 th September
	9.30 Parish Eucharist 3pm Messy Harvest	9.30 Parish Eucharist
Music	Mark Terry	Mark Terry
Warden	Tim Ward	Sylvia Low
Sides duty	Fiona Shirley	Pauline Buck
Welcomer	Viv Hagel	Roger Witts
Reader	Fiona Shirley	Sue Jakeman
Prayers/ Intercessions	Laura G-B	Ian Dixon
Offertory	Alfie Cacciapuoli Ian Dixon	Angela Witts Roger Witts
Chalice/ 1st Counter	Janet Wright	Sue Jakeman
2nd Counter	Fiona Shirley	Sylvia Low
Refreshments	Lillian Hepwood Viv Hagel	Ellie Hoyle Jess
Sunday School		