

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



and welcome to our services today

22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2024  
17<sup>th</sup> 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 at St Mary's  
9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's  
11:15am Parish Eucharist at St Benedict's

### Monday

9-10.30am Little Bears at St Benedict's  
10.00 -12.00 Working Party at St Mary's  
8.00pm Bellringing practice at St Mary's

### Tuesday

9.30am Buzzy Bees at St Mary's  
12.30-2.30pm St Mary's Foodbank and Community Café

### Wednesday

9.30-11.30am Foodbank at St Benedict's

### Thursday

9.30 - 3.30 St Mary's Church open for private prayer  
9.30am Eucharist at St Mary's  
10.00 - 12.00 St Mary's Foodbank & Community Café  
10.15am Study Group in St Mary's Vestry  
8pm Home Study Group

### Friday

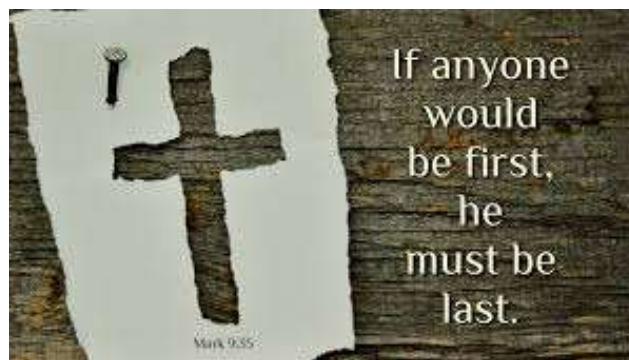
10.00 -12.00 Working Party in St Mary's Church & Churchyard

### Saturday

10.00 -12.00 Saturday Community Café at St Mary's

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September

9.00am Bellringing at St Mary's  
10.30am Team Service at All Saints



Dear Friends

In this Sunday's Gospel reading, Jesus' disciples are arguing about who among them is the greatest. It makes me wonder what the details of their argument were - the greatest in what way? The most faithful, or the most obedient, or the kindest... or the most important? We aren't told how they are measuring or assessing their respective greatness. It is a very human trait to want to be the best at something, and so to want to be better than others.

It is drummed into us as children that we must always do our best and try to excel in areas that we are gifted in. This week I was at Nash Mills leading worship, and I spoke to the children about Jesus saying "take the log out of your own eye before you point out the speck of dust in your neighbour's eye". Jesus is encouraging his disciples to judge one another with kindness, to make generous assessments of one another, to be good friends to one another. Why does he do this? Because God judges us with infinite kindness and mercy, and makes a very generous assessment of our weaknesses and shortcomings. Those of us who have sinned greatly are offered great forgiveness, and great is our gratitude to God. Or great should be our gratitude. None of us is able to earn or deserve the grace and goodness of God.

If we keep in mind this humility, and the great forgiveness we have been offered by God, it might help us to quieten our pride, or our sense of wanting to be the best, wanting to earn praise or favour. And what does God think of as our 'best', anyway? How does God see success? What is God really asking of you? How is God asking you to live your life? What should your priorities be? Ask God, and see what happens.

Yours in Christ  
Mother Alice

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

### The Collect

Almighty God,  
you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in  
you:  
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to  
yourself,  
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city  
where we shall see you face to face;  
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 Jeremiah

11.18-20

It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;  
then you showed me their evil deeds.  
But I was like a gentle lamb  
led to the slaughter.  
And I did not know it was against me  
that they devised schemes, saying,  
'Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,  
let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
so that his name will no longer be remembered!'  
But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,  
who try the heart and the mind,  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### A reading from the Letter of James

3.13-4.3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show  
by your good life that your works are done with  
gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter  
envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be  
boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does  
not come down from above, but is earthly,  
unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and  
selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and  
wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from  
above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to  
yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace  
of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of  
righteousness is sown in peace for those who make  
peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do  
they come from? Do they not come from your  
cravings that are at war within you? You want  
something and do not have it; so you commit  
murder. And you covet something and cannot  
obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts.  
You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask  
and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in  
order to spend what you get on your pleasures.  
Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil,  
and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he  
will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you  
sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### Hear the Gospel According to Mark

9.30 - 37

**GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!**

They went on from there and passed through  
Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he  
was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The  
Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands,  
and they will kill him, and three days after being  
killed, he will rise again.' But they did not  
understand what he was saying and were afraid  
to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he  
was in the house he asked them, 'What were you  
arguing about on the way?' But they were silent,  
for on the way they had argued with one another  
about who was the greatest. He sat down, called  
the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to  
be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then  
he took a little child and put it among them; and  
taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever  
welcomes one such child in my name welcomes  
me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not  
me but the one who sent me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

## Thursday's Readings (Year B)

### A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

1.2-11

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.  
What do people gain from all the toil  
at which they toil under the sun?  
A generation goes, and a generation comes,  
but the earth remains for ever.  
The sun rises and the sun goes down,  
and hurries to the place where it rises.  
The wind blows to the south,  
and goes round to the north;  
round and round goes the wind,  
and on its circuits the wind returns.  
All streams run to the sea,  
but the sea is not full;  
to the place where the streams flow,  
there they continue to flow.  
All things are wearisome;  
more than one can express;  
the eye is not satisfied with seeing,  
or the ear filled with hearing.  
What has been is what will be,  
and what has been done is what will be done;  
there is nothing new under the sun.  
Is there a thing of which it is said,  
'See, this is new'?  
It has already been,  
in the ages before us.  
The people of long ago are not remembered,  
nor will there be any remembrance  
of people yet to come  
by those who come after them.  
This is the Word of the Lord  
**THANKS BE TO GOD**

### Psalm 90.1-6

1 Lord, you have been our refuge ♦  
from one generation to another.  
2 Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the earth and the world were formed, ♦  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.  
3 You turn us back to dust and say: ♦  
'Turn back, O children of earth.'  
4 For a thousand years in your sight are but as  
yesterday, ♦  
which passes like a watch in the night.  
5 You sweep them away like a dream; ♦  
they fade away suddenly like the grass.  
6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; ♦  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

### A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

7.7-9

#### **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!**

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### Contact Information

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**General Enquiries:** Please contact the Benefice Office  
Monday – Friday 8.30am – 12.30pm

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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).

## Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September

The funeral of Bruce Boardman, one of our regular organists will be held at 2.30 pm in the North Chapel, West Herts Crematorium, High Elms Lane, WD25 0JS. All welcome to attend but let Sylvia know if you intend to so I can let Ruth have an idea of numbers. Thank you. Please keep his wife Ruth and family in your prayers.

## Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September

Team Eucharist at 10.30 at All Saints, Kings Langley. Make a note in your diary and the remember it will be an hour later than our usual service time!

## Thinking about being Confirmed? You are now!

There will be a Team Confirmation service held on 17<sup>th</sup> November, and the Team will be preparing candidates in sessions on the following Wednesdays at 7pm: 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, 9<sup>th</sup> Oct, 6<sup>th</sup> Nov, 13<sup>th</sup> Nov. We will be running concurrent sessions for youth and adults. Please speak to Mother Alice if you are interested.

## Letter from the Team Rector

Dear Friends,  
I am absolutely delighted to let you know that Emma Williams, currently an ordinand in training, has been appointed as Assistant Curate to All Saints Kings Langley. Emma will be ordained Deacon on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (it would be great to have a good number of people from across the Team, especially All Saints, at this service, so please put the date in your diary now) and will start her ministry with us in the week following. Emma will then be Priested in June 2026.

This is a training post which will last for about 3 years; it is our task to support and work with Emma to prepare her for Incumbency or for another future ministry with individual responsibility. Emma will be curate at All Saints, joining in the round of parish ministry and mission and undertaking projects, but she will be licensed to the Team and we will look for opportunities for her to gain some experience in the other parishes.

Please keep Emma, her husband Shane and their daughter Ellie in your prayers as she begins her final academic year of placements and study at theological college.

Fr. James

## 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. St Benedict's foodbank is open Wednesdays 9.30-12.00  
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 all foodbanks gratefully received. If you can help, do come and see us.

## Sponsorship for our organists



Our organist today, Peter Lipman, 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 (17l -25l). 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

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 10.30am Team Service at All Saints  
Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 9.30 am Harvest Service  
Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 3pm Messy Church  
Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Nov Christmas Bazaar – Save the Date!

Rotas - Who's doing what when		
	22 <sup>nd</sup> September	29 <sup>th</sup> September
	9.30 Eucharist	10.30 Eucharist Team Service at All Saints
Music	Peter Lipman	
Warden	Dan Shirley	
Sides duty	Ann Wiggins	
Welcomer	Katharine Harper	
Reading	Melanie Henley	
Intercessions	Sue Jakeman	
Offertory	Sylvia Low & TBA	
Chalice	Peter Bladon	
2nd Counter	Jim Aylott	
Refreshments	Viv Hagel & Melanie Henley	
Sunday School	Hazel Pritchard	

Sue Bassett 19/09/2024