



*St. Mary the Virgin, Baldock.  
St. Margaret of Antioch, Bygrave.*



“BUILDING WITH CHRIST”

## **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**8.00am Holy Communion**

**9.30am Parish Communion**

*There is a quiet traditional service of Holy Communion every Sunday morning at 8am*

**This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Lent.** At our **9.30am Parish Communion** there is **Junior Church** and **Teenage Church**  
Watch out for the prayer points around the church focussing on the Lord's Prayer which will start appearing this week.

## **Lent Paupers' Fellowship Lunch**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 12:00.

**A SIMPLE LUNCH OF SOUP, BREAD AND CHEESE**

All profits go to charity

Everybody welcome – don't eat lunch alone, come and share it with friends.

The clocks go forward next week. Come to church an hour early

**Next Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Lent,  
Mothering Sunday.** At our **9.30am Communion  
for All Ages** the organ and music group accompany our

worship, along with the choir who are joined by children from St Mary's Schools. We have a dramatized version of our Gospel reading the wonderful parable of the Prodigal Son and interactive prayers. At the end we offer **bouquets of flowers** to all the women in the church. Truly an all age service including everyone.



## Today's worship

Opening hymn: 252

Before the Gospel: 181

Offertory hymn: 218

Final hymn: 753

### Collect

Eternal God,  
give us insight  
to discern your will for us,  
to give up what harms us,  
and to seek the perfection we are promised  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### Psalm 63, verses 1 - 9

**R:** *To you we lift our hearts in prayer and praise.*

Holy One, my God, how I needed you!

**My very soul thirsted for you!**

My body fainted with longing for you,  
like a dry and waterless desert.

**Then I saw you in the holy place,  
gazing on your power and glory. R**

Surely your faithful love is better than life itself!

**My lips proclaim your praise.**

Therefore I shall bless you all my life,  
**in your name lift up my hands in prayer. R**

You satisfy my body with richest food,  
My lips shout your praise.

**On my bed, when I think of you,  
I meditate on you in the night watches.**

For you have always been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.

**My soul clings to you; your right hand supports me. R**

### New Testament Reading I Corinthians 10: 1 - 13

<sup>1</sup>I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual

food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.'  
<sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

## **Gospel      Luke 13: 31-end**

<sup>1</sup>There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" <sup>8</sup>He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

Check out our new website

[www.stmarysbaldock.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbaldock.org.uk)

*Tell us what you think, whether it is easy to use and what you would like to see on it.  
We will be expanding it over the coming months*

The more people who look at the website, the easier it is for others to find it.  
Have a look today!

This week, please remember in your prayers these areas of our parish:  
Brewery Lane; Pond Lane; Church Street; The Gardens; Mulberry Court;  
Vintage Court.

Those in need of healing:

Paula Conder, Jeanette Jackson, Sheila Boudreau, Ashling Galley Coulthard,  
Timothy Fathers, Lynne Edwards, Rosemary Charsley, Stephen Cooper,  
David Dodds, Rachael Evan-Hart, Eleanor Morrison, baby Elizabeth Lacey,  
Helen Walden, Joy Smith, Maureen Roberts, Freda Wilkinson, Olive Elves.

Those who have died recently:

Jean Elliston, Laura Mackie, Molly Stevenson, Isabella Bothwell, Graham Wells.

At the anniversary of their death:

Peter Walden

Jack Scurr, Peter Flack, Christine Norman, Fred Prentice, Olive Thompson

## **Choir Anthem As water to the thirsty**

*Music: T Brian Coleman, arranged John Barnard*

As water to the thirsty, as beauty to the eyes,  
as strength that follows weakness, as truth that follows lies,  
as song-time and springtime and summertime to be,  
so is my Lord, my living Lord, so is my Lord to me.

Like calm in place of clamour, like peace the follows pain,  
like meeting after parting, like sunshine after rain,  
like moonlight, and starlight and sunlight on the sea,  
so is my Lord, my living Lord, so is my Lord to me.

As sleep that follows fever, as gold instead of grey,  
as freedom after bondage, as sunrise to the day,  
as home to the traveller, and all we long to see,  
so is my Lord, my living Lord, so is my Lord to me.

## **Post Communion**

Merciful Lord,  
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations  
of the world, the flesh and the devil,  
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Upcoming Meetings:

**Community Sponsorship meeting:** Sun 24<sup>th</sup> March at 5.00pm in the hall

**CTiB Forum:** Mon 25<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm at URC

**Baldock PCC Standing Committee:** Mon 1<sup>st</sup> April at 8pm at the Rectory

**Bygrave APCM:** Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> April in church

**Worship resource meeting:** Sun 14<sup>th</sup> April at 5.30pm in church

**After Hours:** Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Apr at 7.00pm at 24 Park Crescent

**Friends of St Mary's Committee:** Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Apr at 5pm in the hall followed by the **Friends AGM** at 6.30pm

**Lent 2019:** Could you spend a little more time with God rather than (or as well as!) giving up chocolate or alcohol? We are holding 4 Lent groups which follow a course: Mon, Tues & Weds evenings and Thursday mornings (*still not too late to join in!*).

### **Come and pray through the Lord's Prayer during Lent in St Mary's Church!**

Each week some verses will be decorated by a different church group, starting this Sunday with Junior Church, and the 6 prayer stations will be available every day of Lent, so why not come and try them out?

Do also come along to a Prayer Hour on Saturday 6 April 2-3pm to try out different ways of praying - with candles, books, music, prayer stations etc and connect more closely with God and the inner peace He can provide.

There are copies of the **latest Foodbank newsletter** (dated February) on the foodbank notice board, next to our collection point, at the back of the church. Please help yourself.

**Easter eggs:** It may seem a long way ahead but please remember that Easter Eggs are a sign of resurrection and new life. If you are buying one, please get a 'Real Easter Egg' which celebrates the Christian story. They are fair trade, include a donation to charity and include the Christian story. Available from Tesco, the Christian Bookshop and other places. Don't waste the opportunity!



Our next **communion service where we pray for healing and wholeness** is on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm at 29 Weston Way.

This are powerful occasions where we have been blessed with seeing God's Holy Spirit at work in our midst. Do join us to discover more. If you would like to come but can't make a Tuesday afternoon, speak to Andrew.

Copies of **Hazel and Martin Frost's latest newsletter** are available at the back of church.

### HIDDEN HUMOUR

I met a talking fig tree once. Actually, it wasn't the tree that talked, it was the figs. They would spend all day talking to each other as they grew on the tree. One of the figs, whose name was Justin got his words muddled a bit and became a very close friend of mine and I used to call him 'Just' for short.

One day, I was talking to him, and he came up with a phrase "your magic-nation", I thought I was dreaming but one of the other figs explained. "Don't worry," he said, "Just the fig meant 'your imagination'."

Please return your **planned giving letter** responses as soon as possible. It really does make a difference to us to know what people are offering. It helps us to be able to plan so much more effectively. Thank you to everyone who gives so generously to enable us to follow where we believe God is leading us.

The **new 2019 cycle of prayer** for Baldock is available at the back of church. Collect yours today, either in larger print or handy pocket size! Why not commit to praying for the parish each day this Lent?

Over the next few weeks you may see a PCC member approaching you waving a form. Please don't run away! **We want your views to help us develop a vision for St Mary's Church building.** What you say will help us decide priorities for restoration over the next few years. If we can show we have consulted, we stand a much better chance of attracting grant funding. Thank you very much in advance!

**Electoral roll:** The church electoral roll is being recompiled, as we have to do every six years. If you are on the roll and wish to remain so, you will need to reapply. Forms are at the back of the church and, when completed, should be posted in the secure box near the south porch door. In order to be eligible for inclusion on the roll, you must be baptised, over 16, and either live in the parish or have habitually attended worship at St. Mary's for the last 6 months. Only those on the roll can attend and vote at the annual meeting.

**Debbie Lovelock, Emma Churchill and Matty McNeil** are being confirmed on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at Westmill near Buntingford. Please pray for them in this important step in their Christian life and if you can, come and support them at their confirmation.



The Choir of St.Mary's Church, Baldock,  
guest singers and the '**Baldock Baroque**' ensemble  
present :

# BACH

## on Palm Sunday

Two cantatas and organ music appropriate to Holy Week,  
all by J.S.Bach (1685 – 1750)

Cantata 182 'Himmelskönig, sei willkommen'  
Cantata 131 'Aus der Tiefe rufe ich, Herr, zu dir'

at St.Mary's Church, Hitchin Street, Baldock  
6.00 p.m. on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2019

Director of Music : Antony Copsey  
Organ : Michael Strange

Retiring Collection

Everyone welcome

We are starting a new series of evenings: **Cuisines from around the world!**

The first is on May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Nigerian themed meal in aid of Christian Aid

More details soon (but make a date in your diary today!

*cooked by Vivian and Matty McNeil from our congregation.*

Coming soon: A handy monthly new series. St Mary's social events, all on one page. Look out for it next week!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: *1 Corinthians 10: 1-13, Luke 3: 1-9*

# WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

**CHURCH OPEN: Sun to Fri 8.40 am to 3.30 pm**

**Coffee Bar and gift shop open Wed. 10 am to midday.**

- Sun 24<sup>th</sup> 7.20am Morning Prayer **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
8.00am Holy Communion (preacher: Sharon Cooper)  
9.30am Parish Communion (preacher: Sharon Cooper) with Junior Church and Teenage Church  
2.00pm Choir rehearsal  
5.00pm Community Sponsorship meeting in Church Hall  
6.00pm Evening Prayer  
6.45pm Faith for Teenagers
- Mon 25<sup>th</sup> 8.40am Morning Prayer ***The Annunciation of our Lord***  
1.00pm Communion at St Mary's Junior School ***to the Blessed***  
4.45pm Evening Prayer ***Virgin Mary***  
8.00pm Churches Together in Baldock Forum at Methodist Church  
8.00pm Monday Lent Group at Flat 4, Coachyard, 2 Hitchin St
- Tue 26<sup>th</sup> 8.40am Morning Prayer  
3.00pm House Communion & prayer for healing at 29 Weston Way  
4.30pm Evening Prayer  
7.30pm Tuesday Lent Group at the Rectory
- Wed 27<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Holy Communion (Patrick Forbes)  
10.30am Tiny Tots  
7.30pm Wednesday Lent Group at 24 Wedon Way, Bygrave
- Thu 28<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Thursday Lent Group in Church Hall  
6.45pm Choir Practice
- Sat 30<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Morning Prayer  
5.00pm Evening Prayer
- Sun 24<sup>th</sup> **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)**  
7.20am Morning Prayer  
8.00am Holy Communion (preacher: Katrina nice)  
9.30am Communion for All Ages (preacher: Katrina Nice) with bouquets of flowers for all women  
6.00pm Evening Prayer  
6.45pm Faith for Teenagers in church hall

God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength

**Rev'd Canon Andrew Holford: 01462 896273**

**(Note: Friday day off) [2008luddite@gmail.com](mailto:2008luddite@gmail.com)**

**Churchwardens: Phil Charsley (Premises): 01462 895665.**

**Emma Wilkinson (Safeguarding): 07836 749283**

**Alex Milne – Hall Hire: [alexandra.milne@gmail.com](mailto:alexandra.milne@gmail.com) / 01462 490062**

**website**

**[www.stmarysbaldock.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbaldock.org.uk)**

