



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



“BUILDING WITH CHRIST”

## **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

**8.00am Holy Communion**

**9.30am Communion for All Ages**

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

The clocks go forward this Sunday. Come to church an hour early

**This 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.

**Next Sunday is Passion Sunday, the Fifth Sunday of**

**Lent.** At our **9.30am Parish Communion** the mood changes and we start to see the stark outline of the cross looming in the distance. Once we have shared our bible readings we split into small groups each with some suggested questions to ponder what they might mean for our lives. We also pray for those who are to be confirmed on the following Tuesday.

At **11am**, next week, there is **Parish Communion** at **Bygrave**

At **12pm** next week, there is **Messy Church**. Join us for a **delicious lunch** of jacket potatoes with a variety of fillings followed by Swiss roll and custard. Messy Church is about having fun with the whole family! There will be

**crafts, activities and games** around the church including a **short**



**service.** No Charge—donations welcome. We will be thinking about Jesus entering Jerusalem on the back of a donkey.

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## Today's worship

Opening hymn: 411      Before the Gospel: 29 (Music Group)

During prayers: 166 (Music Group) Offertory hymn: 195 (Music Group)

Final hymn: 413

## The Collect

God of love,  
passionate and strong,  
tender and careful:  
watch over us and hold us  
all the days of our life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## The New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 16 – 21

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## The Gospel      Luke 15: 1 – 3, 11b – 32

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' <sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>11</sup> 'There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son

gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup> 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

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:  
Open spaces and footpaths. All new build and converted properties not mentioned on the Cycle of Prayer.

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, Pina Borrell.

Those who have died recently:

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

At the anniversary of their death:

Dorothy Dade, Pat Harding, Ivy Croft, Derek Barton, Eric Woodward, Rose Gray

## **Choir Anthem: Fathers and mothers. Music: Gaelic melody.**

### **Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith, arranged by John Barnard**

Fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers,  
all those who love us, for whom we care:  
help and befriend them, keep and defend them,  
Jesus our Saviour, this is our prayer.

And for those others, fathers and mothers,  
children who hunger, they must be fed:  
we would be caring, readily sharing,  
one with another our daily bread.

Sisters and brothers, fathers and mothers,  
we who together offer our praise,  
hear our thanksgiving, God ever living,  
may we walk with you all of our days.

## **Post Communion**

Loving God,  
as a mother feeds her children at the breast  
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:  
help us who have tasted your goodness  
to grow in grace within the household of faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

**Community Sponsorship meeting:** Sun 31<sup>st</sup> March at 5.00pm in the hall

**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 7<sup>th</sup> April at 5.30pm in church

**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

**After Hours:** Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Apr at 7.30pm at 24 Park Crescent

**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 come along to "Find Space to Pray" in church on Saturday 6 April between 2 and 3pm and 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.

**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!

Available today: **A handy monthly new series.** St Mary's social events, all on one page.

### **HIDDEN HUMOUR**

A 96 year old mother was being interviewed about her long life and how she felt about being a Mother all those years.

'I feel just wonderful,' was her reply. 'For the first time since I became a Mother, I no longer have to worry about my children.'

'How is that?'

'They're both in nursing homes'."

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.

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.



### **Our Bee & Butterfly Garden in this year's Baldock Festival**

The Open Gardens afternoon run by Rotary on Sunday 19 May will include our Churchyard garden we have created to help pollinators find pesticide-free food! Please speak to Katrina if you would like to get involved in caring for this part of God's creation- we need lots of help combatting the weeds and deadheading, but it is very rewarding when a huge variety of flowers bloom. Thank you!



[kmnice2013@gmail.com](mailto:kmnice2013@gmail.com)

A sheet with full details of all events from Palm Sunday to Easter Day will hopefully be available today!

A reminder that the **Friends of St Mary's AGM** is on Mon 8<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm in the church hall – all welcome!

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> with a 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.*

**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

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NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: *Philippians 3: 4b-14; John 12: 1-8*

# 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 31 <sup>st</sup>	7.20am	Morning Prayer	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)</b>
	8.00am	Holy Communion (preacher: Katrina nice)	
	9.30am	Communion for All Ages (preacher: Katrina Nice) with bouquets of flowers for all women	
	5.00pm	Community Sponsorship Team meeting	
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	
	6.45pm	Faith for Teenagers in church hall	
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> April	8.40am	Morning Prayer	
	10.30am	Communion at Magdalen Court	
	12.00pm	Funeral of Jean Elliston RIP	
	4.45pm	Evening Prayer	
	8.00pm	PCC Standing Committee at Rectory	
Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8.00pm	Monday Lent Group at Flat 4, Coachyard, 2 Hitchin St	
	8.40am	Morning Prayer	
	4.30pm	Evening Prayer	
	7.30pm	Tuesday Lent Group at the Rectory	
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8.40am	Morning Prayer	
	9.30am	Holy Communion	
	10.30am	Tiny Tots	
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	
	7.30pm	Bygrave APCM	
Thu 4 <sup>th</sup>	8.40am	Morning Prayer	
	9.45am	St Mary's Infant School end of term service in church	
	10.30am	Thursday Lent Group in Church Hall	
	4.30pm	Evening Prayer	6.45pm: Choir Practice
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	<u>8.20am</u>	Morning Prayer	
	9.30am	St Mary's Junior School end of term service in church	
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Find Space to Pray (Prayer hour) in church	
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.20am	Morning Prayer	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)</b>
	8.00am	Holy Communion	
	9.30am	Parish Communion	
	11.00am	Parish Communion at Bygrave	
	12.00pm	Messy Church	
	3.00pm	Baptism of Charlie Rayman	
5.30pm	Worship Planning Meeting and Evening Prayer		

“Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”