



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



“BUILDING WITH CHRIST”

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

**8.00am Holy Communion**

**9.30am Parish Communion**

**6.45pm Food for Life**

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

**This Sunday** is the **Feast of Christ the King (Stir up Sunday)**, the last Sunday of the Christian Year. At our **9.30am Parish Communion** there is **Junior Church** and we rejoice in worshipping a different sort of King and ponder what that means for our daily lives as Christians. Don't miss the opportunity to say the Christmas pudding Collect!



At **6.45pm** we hold **Food for Life (worship for Teenagers)** A simple communion service, discussion and food.



**Next Sunday** is **Advent Sunday**, both the beginning and the end. At our **9.30am Parish Communion** we focus on Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega, and his coming, at Christmas, at the end of time and his entry into our hearts and lives. The Advent ring, the Toy Service, and a gentle restraint though the December season of excess help us to prepare. Join us to bring meaning out of lunacy!



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



At **12pm** next week, there will be **Messy Church 'Christmas Christingle'**. Join us for a

delicious lunch of Christmas Dinner. Messy Church is about having fun with the whole family! No Charge—donations welcome. There will be crafts, activities and games, we will launch the **Travelling Crib** and you are



invited to bring new unwrapped toys to give to families who are really struggling to afford the expense of Christmas. **This month we will be making Christingles and having a Christingle service.**



At **6pm** next week we celebrate with an **Advent Festival of Carols**: One of the best loved services of the year. Start Advent off with a flourish.

**Wonderful music, exciting anthems, stirring readings. All in the mystery and wonder of a darkened church in December.** Don't miss it!

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## Today's worship

Opening hymn: 375

Before the Gospel: 436

Offertory hymn: 104

Final hymn: 448

## The Collect

God the Father,  
help us to hear the call of Christ the King  
and to follow in his service,  
whose kingdom has no end;  
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, one glory. **Amen**

## Psalm 46 God Reigns

*Our Sovereign God is with us; Jacob's God is our security.*

The Holy One is our firm security,  
Ever-present to our pain.

**We need not fear earth trembling, mountains tumbling into the sea, oceans crashing as the mountains quake. [Refrain]**

A rushing river cheers the city of God,  
Sanctified by the Exalted One.

**The Holy One is there; the city cannot fall!  
God's support comes with the dawn.**

Nations growl; kingdoms crumble.

**The Holy One speaks and the world melts away.**

Behold the powerful acts of the Holy One,

**Who causes desolation in the world,**

Puts an end to wars

**Breaking bows, smashing spears, setting fire to shields!**

“Be still! Be sure that I am God,

**Exalted over the world and its peoples”.** [Refrain]

## The New Testament Colossians 1:11-20

<sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. <sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

## The Gospel      Luke 23: 33-43

<sup>33</sup> When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup> and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' <sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?' <sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' <sup>42</sup> Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' <sup>43</sup> He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

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

Those in need of healing:

Paula Conder, Jeanette Jackson, Sheila Boudreau, Lynne Edwards, Olive Elves  
Rosemary Charsley, Stephen Cooper, Eleanor Morrison, Lionel Elliston, Pat Kilbride,  
Oliver Britton, Julian Evan Hart, Debbie Lovelock, Peter Harris, Sue Pearson.

Those who have died recently:

Frank Bull, Jacqueline Harvey

At the anniversary of their death:

Vera Camp, Arthur Wheatley, Harold Pratt

## Choir Anthem: 'Jesus shall reign' (Hymn 359)

### Post Communion

God the Father,  
help us to hear the call of Christ the King  
and to follow in his service,  
whose kingdom has no end;  
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, one glory. **Amen**

## **Upcoming Meetings:**

**Thursday Home Group:** Thu 16 Jan 2020 at 10.30am at 20 The Gardens

**Community Sponsorship:** Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Nov at 4.30pm

**Food4Life (worship for Teenagers):** Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Nov at 6.45 in church

**Healing Communion:** Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Nov at 3.30pm at 83 Coachmans Lane

**Churches Together in Baldock:** Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Nov at 7pm at Methodists

**Friends of St Mary's Committee meeting:** Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec at 3.45pm

**Bygrave PCC:** Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec at 7.30pm at Mill Cottage

**Monday Home Group:** Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Dec at 24 Park Crescent

**Worship leaders' meeting:** Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Dec at 5.30pm in church

**After Hours:** Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at 7pm, 24 Park Crescent

## **Christmas Tree Festival (Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Dec – Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Dec)**

Christmas Tree Festival: forms are available at the back of church. Please take one if you would like to enter a tree or crib.

Sparkling wine / champagne: do you have a bottle of sparkling wine or champagne you could donate for the raffle prizes?

Rotas: are out at the back of church. We really need your help to make the weekend a success which means as many hands as possible during the weekend. If you can spare an hour or two, please sign the rota.

The Hampers list is also at the back of church. If you can donate something festive for one of the hampers, **or an actual hamper**, please sign your name next to the item, ensuring that you deliver it by Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Raffle tickets: Please take some and sell them to your friends and family. We are sourcing some great prizes!

Tombola items: If you have any donations of bric-a-brac, unwanted gifts etc, please put them into the box at the back of church.

Cake donations: All donations will be gratefully received! Thank you.

FOSM Stall – The Friends are manning a 'festive' raffle stall on Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. We would be grateful for any donations (mulled wine, crackers, mince pies, stollen, wine, decorations etc). A donation box is at the back of church.

Those of you who would like to come **to a rerun of my talk about my pilgrimage through Ireland and France by bike** last summer may like to know that it is arranged for Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 at 2.30pm in the Arts and Heritage Centre.



**Advent Calendars:** Real Advent calendars with the Christmas story on the front instead of a mythical cartoon character. £3.99 each. Fairtrade chocolate and price includes a donation to charity. Also includes a little booklet with the whole of the Christmas story to tell your children. Make sure it means something! Get yours today from church or larger supermarkets!

### **Christmas Card making & other activities – Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Nov: 2-5pm**

Laura Higgins is raising donations for SMILE Charity Uganda (which helps children and vulnerable families in Kampala) by hosting a Christmas card making event, together with games, puzzles and more, in the church hall. Ideal for infants and children up to 12 years old. Sandwiches, tea and coffee and Ugandan food available. Free entry but donations to SMILE.

**Toy Service:** Each year we collect new unwrapped toys to give to families that are really struggling to afford the expense of Christmas. They are distributed by a local children's centre.

If you would like to contribute a toy, please bring it on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. If you can provide wrapping paper for it to be wrapped in later, so much the better.



### **Hidden Humour**

**A prince came to a small pool where the most beautiful girl in the world was bathing. On her head was a large, green frog. What was her name? Why, Lily of course!**

**Advent Group** For those who want to make space for Advent to be a thoughtful preparation for the coming of Christ! **I know. December is busier and busier!** But for just an hour and a half a week you can engage in some Christian discussion and fellowship that will give the madness of

Christmas some extra meaning. **Tuesdays at 7.30pm on December 3rd, 10th and 17th at the Rectory.** *At the beginning of*

*his Gospel, right in the midst of the story of the birth of Jesus, Luke includes three songs which say amazing things about what God is doing when he sends his Son. They are quite well known but often sung without really thinking about what they mean.* Each evening will be complete in itself, so don't worry if you can't make all three. Mince pies and mulled wine optional!



# Fellowship Lunch



**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 12:00**

As part of the Christmas tree festival weekend, why not join us for

**Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings,**

followed by Christmas pudding and other seasonal deserts, coffee and mints.

**Everybody welcome to come and share food, fellowship and  
friendship**

To give some idea of numbers, please sign the list at the back of church,  
but please feel free to join us on the day even if you haven't signed up.

## **Helping Young People with Cyber Bullying and Body Image Anxiety**

One of the principal concerns over the revolution in Social Media and the extensive use of these communication channels by our young people is that it is very easy for them to develop anxieties about their persona and their body image and the bullying that can occur from peers and others over such issues.

The Diocese of Gloucester have undertaken some pioneering work in this area as to how the church can help young people and their parent with these issues.

On Thursday 5 December Buntingford Deanery Synod are holding an open meeting at St Peter church in the centre of Buntingford at 7.45 pm when the Archdeacon of Hertford (Ven Janet Mackenzie- an ex school teacher) will be making a presentation and leading a discussion on these issues. If you are at all concerned about such issues and how the church can help parents and young people with respect to them do please join us for this session.

Do you own a leather jacket which was left at the Rectory a couple of weeks ago. Please speak to Helen if you know who the owner is!

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Isaiah 2: 1-5, Romans 13: 11-end, Matthew 24: 36-44

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father

## 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>	7.20 am	Morning Prayer	<i>Christ the King</i>
	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	
	4.30 pm	Community Sponsorship meeting in the church hall	
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
	6.45 pm	Food4Life – Worship for Teenagers in the church hall	
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	08.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup>	08.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	11.15 am	Funeral of Jackie Harvey RIP	
	3.30 pm	House Communion and Prayer for healing and wholeness at 83 Coachman's Lane	
	<u>5.00 pm</u>	Evening Prayer	
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Churches Together in Baldock Forum at Methodist Ch.	
	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	9.30 am	Holy Communion	
	10.30 am	Tiny Tots Sing-a-long	
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
Thu 28 <sup>th</sup>	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	9.30 am	St Mary's Junior Year 3 visit church	
	12.00 pm	Funeral of Vera Davies RIP	
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
	6.45 pm	Choir practice	
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Andrew the Apostle</i>	
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.20 am	Morning Prayer	<i>Advent Sunday</i>
Dec	8.00 am	Holy Communion (preacher: Sharon Cooper)	
	9.30 am	Parish Communion and Toy Service (preacher: Sharon Cooper)	
	11.00 am	Bygrave Parish Communion (preacher: Sharon Cooper)	
	12.00 pm	Messy Christingle Church and Toy Service	
	6.00 pm	Advent Festival of Carols	
	<u>7.15 pm</u>	Faith 4 Teens in the church hall	

**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**

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