



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



“BUILDING WITH CHRIST”

Sunday 15th December 2019

8.00am Holy Communion **9.30am Parish Praise!**
11.00am Morning Worship with Junior Church at Bygrave

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

This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent. At



our **9.30am Parish Praise!** we celebrate with our **Nativity Play**. All children invited to join in. This is always a very special



service, all ages waiting for Jesus. The travelling Crib makes an appearance and the choir, organ and **music group** accompany our worship.

At **11am** next week there is **Morning Worship** with **Junior Church** at **Bygrave**.

Next Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

At our **9.30am Parish Communion** we celebrate with a slightly quieter service, the perfect antidote and preparation for the ebullience of Christmas! If Christmas is not going to be an easy time for you, then this is a really good service to come to. The story of the birth of Jesus from Matthew, some quieter 'getting ready' carols, and a service full of hope and peace as we think of Jesus coming to share the mess of human life.





At **6pm** next week join us for our **Candlelit service of Nine Lessons and Carols** followed by **mulled wine and mince pies**.

Beautiful choral singing, great carols to join in with, Christmas readings and the wonder of moving from darkness to light. Don't miss it!

On **Christmas Eve**, we offer:

12pm (lunchtime): A simple communion service. Best described as the calm before the storm! If you are free I would be really grateful for a congregation for this, the last of our 'getting ready for Jesus' services!

3pm: The much-loved and ever popular **Crib**



Service. Action packed worship for children. Building up the crib scene, looking for sheep, spotting the star, stickers, carols, the organ and the Praise be Band, a

simple message of innocent love and simple prayers. If you want to give the season some meaning for your children, this is the service to come to. But come early to ensure a seat!



6pm: The **Bygrave Carol Service**. Equally popular, all age, joyous worship, carols and readings followed by sherry and light refreshments. If you want a good sing, come along (but again, don't be late if you want a seat)!



11.15pm: Midnight Mass. Wonderful dramatic worship including the mystery of God's love and the extraordinary reality of putting a tiny child in the stable. For many people Christmas is not complete without this service. We warmly invite you to join us!



On Christmas Day, we offer:

8am: Traditional communion service with Christmas sermon.

9.30am: Christmas Family Communion. God is



born as a human being in our midst. This service helps ward off the indigestion of too much turkey! Revel in the amazing truth of just how far God will go to prove his love for his wounded world. Carols whilst we focus on the stable and all ages share in the blessings of the new born King.



Today's worship

Opening hymn: 634

Before the Gospel: Shalom my friend – words on separate sheet (Music Group)

Offertory hymn: 438 (Music Group)

Final hymn: 776

We have a special order of service for today's service

This week, please remember in your prayers these areas of our parish:
Ashtons Lane, Weston Way, William Road, The Close, The Spinney, The Dell

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, Christine Roderick.

Those who have died recently:

Isa Cox

At the anniversary of their death:

Baby William Welch, Ron Page, Robin Upton, Gladys Winter, Ernest Jackson,
Joyce Mullen

Choir Anthem: The Shepherds' Farewell (from L'Enfance du Christ Op. 25) by Hector Berlioz (1803-69)

Thou must leave Thy lowly dwelling,
The humble crib, the stable bare.
Babe, all mortal babes excelling,
Content our earthly lot to share.
Loving father, Loving mother,
Shelter Thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore Thee
With humble love and holy fear.
In the land that lies before Thee,
Forget not us who linger here!
May the shepherd's lowly calling,
Ever to Thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure,
Thou happy father, mother mild!
Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure,
The Prince of Peace, The Holy Child!
God go with you, God protect you,
Guide you safely through the wild!

Upcoming Meetings:

Worship leaders' meeting: Sun 15th Dec at 5.30pm in church

Friends of St Mary's Committee meeting: Mon 16th Dec at 3.45pm

Healing Communion: Fri 20th Dec at 3pm at 29 Weston Way

After Hours: Sun 22nd Dec at 7pm, 24 Park Crescent

Community Sponsorship: Sun 12th Jan at 4.30pm

Baldock Standing Committee: Mon 13th Jan at 8pm at the Rectory

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

Baldock PCC: Mon 27th Jan at 7.45pm

Bygrave PCC: Mon 3rd Feb at 7.30pm at 4 Bygrave Road

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. **At 7.30pm on Tuesday December 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!



Heritage Lottery Fund bid result:

Sadly, we heard last Friday that we did not succeed in our application for funding from the HLF for repair to the nave and chancel roof. However they said it was a good bid and worth resubmitting with some advice about how to make it even stronger. We hope to resubmit in the first half of next year. Many thanks to Peter Joslin for all his hard work and support for the Church in this area.

Community consultation about the vision for the church

building: We are consulting with the whole community to help discern a vision for the church building which we can begin to implement once the roof is watertight. Many of you will already have responded using our plastic tokens and cardboard boxes at the back of church. Do have a look at the displays and vote if you have not already done so. We will be keeping the consultation open at all our main services over Christmas. You can also respond on line by going to: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TNBW7QW However, please only respond once!

Note of thanks:

Also thanks to all those who helped with the Tree Festival and Christmas Fair. This is a really important high profile event for the Church where we make lots of new contacts. Your support really does make a difference! We are still counting the money but it looks to be in the region of £2800 proceeds before expenses.

Christmas collections: Christmas collections for our services this year will be divided between three homeless charities: Christian Aid (with a request that the money raised goes to support refugees worldwide), Shelter and Herts Young Homeless. Please give generously! We usually raise about £2 000 in total so it really does make a difference.

Hidden Humour

What do snowmen eat for lunch?

Ice burgers

Alban Life: The next edition of Alban Life, the diocesan magazine, is available at the back of the church.

Delivery of Christmas Cards (and final push!):

Thanks to everyone who helped deliver Christmas cards. There are very few bundles left. If you can help with one of the last ones it would be greatly appreciated.

Father Christmas:

Father Christmas will be travelling around Bygrave on Wednesday 18th December in the evening. If you can support him with your presence (not your presents), he would be delighted (and so will his reindeer).



Our next **communion service where we pray for healing and wholeness** is on **FRIDAY 20th December (note change of day) 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.

Christmas card board: Why not raise some money for your favourite charity by sending one card to all the Church family and pinning it on our Christmas card board at the back of church. Calculate how much you have saved, then give it away!

Tiny Tots: There will be no Tiny Tots on Christmas Day or New Year's Day!

Epiphany service time

Sunday January 5th is when we celebrate Epiphany, and the arrival of the wise men at the stable. Following the success of our joint Messy Church and Parish Communion at Harvest we have decided to repeat it.



So, ... , if you plan to come to Messy Church or Parish Communion on January 5th, come at 10.30am.

We start in church together, then Messy worship takes place in the hall whilst we continue the service in church. We join together for the end of the service and share in a blessing at communion. **Then we all share lunch together** starting at just before 12pm. Do make a date today and join us.

Weekly Gift Aid envelopes 2020:

To all those of you who use these to give weekly to the church, the new ones for next year are now at the back of the church. If you have any queries about them then please give me a call on 01462 637050 or 07549 678107. Thank for your continued support and generosity. Andy Ball

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 7: 10-16; Matthew 1: 18-end

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(Note: Friday day off) 2008luddite@gmail.com

Churchwardens: Phil Charsley (Premises): 01462 895665.

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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 15 th	7.20 am	Morning Prayer	<i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>
	8.00 am	Holy Communion (preacher: Katrina Nice)	
	9.30 am	Parish Praise! And Nativity Play	
	11.00 am	Morning Worship with Junior Church at Bygrave (Katrina Nice)	
	5.30 pm	Worship leaders meeting and Evening Prayer	
	6.45 pm	Faith 4 Teenagers in the church hall	
Mon 16 th	08.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	4.45 pm	Evening Prayer	
	7.30 pm	Knights Templar School Carol Service	
Tues 17 th	<u>08.00 am</u>	Morning Prayer	
	10.00 am	St Mary's Infant School Nativity Play in church	
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
	7.30 pm	Advent Home Group at the Rectory	
Wed 18 th	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	9.30 am	Holy Communion	
	10.30 am	Tiny Tots Sing-a-long	
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
	6.00 pm	Father Christmas visits Bygrave	
Thu 19 th	<u>8.30 am</u>	Morning Prayer	
	9.30 am	St Mary's Junior School Christmas Service in church	
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
	6.45 pm	Choir practice	
Fri 20 th	<u>8.00 am</u>	Morning Prayer	
	9.00 am	Knights Templar School Carol Services in church	
	3.00 pm	House Communion and Prayer for healing and wholeness at 29 Weston Way	
Sun 22 nd	7.20 am	Morning Prayer	<i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>
	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	
	6.00 pm	Nine Lessons & Carols	
	7.30 pm	After Hours at 24 Park Crescent	

God will speak peace to his people to those who turn to him in their hearts.