



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



"BUILDING WITH CHRIST"

Sunday 1st December 2019

8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Parish Communion
11.00am Parish Communion at Bygrave 12pm Messy Church
6.00pm Advent Festival of Carols

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

Happy New Year!

This 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!



If you are at the 9.30am service before Messy Church, please could you help by carrying some chairs from the high altar to the back of the church in preparation for lunch. Many thanks.

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



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

delicious Christmas lunch of. 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** 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!



Next Sunday is the Second Sunday of Advent.

At our **9.30am Parish Communion** we celebrate with communion in the midst of Christmas trees. With the Advent ring and the travelling crib our focus is John the Baptist and preparing 'for the way of the Lord'. This year we focus on Gospel readings from St Matthew's Gospel.



Fell wship Lunch

Sunday 8th 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.

Today's worship

Opening hymn: 405

Before the Gospel: 57

Offertory hymn: 282

Final hymn: 409

The choir sing an Advent introit before the first hymn: Our soul is waiting for God (Cantate 15)

We sing 2 verses of our first hymn 405, Lo, he comes with clouds descending before stopping to focus on the Advent ring

The Collect

Almighty God,

give us grace to cast away the works of darkness

and to put on the armour of light,

now in the time of this mortal life,

in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;

that on the last day,

when he shall come again in his glorious majesty

to judge the living and the dead,

we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Amen

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 2: 1-5

² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The Choir will sing between the readings:

Word of God, burn within us, be a lamp unto our feet.

Test our hearts and our spirits, true disciples let us be.

The New Testament Romans 13: 11-end

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³ let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Gospel Matthew 24: 36-44

³⁶ 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

This week, please remember in your prayers these areas of our parish:

Downlands, Mercia Road, Weavers Way, Westell Close

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, Phil Woodward

At the anniversary of their death:

Bill Woods, Eric Hunter, Beatrice Downing, Florence Rogers, Irene Miller, Jean Lloyd

Choir Anthem: And art thou come with us to dwell? By Alan Bullard (b. 1947) based on Veni Emmanuel (15th Cent)

And art thou come with us to dwell,
Our prince, our guide, our love, our Lord?
And is thy name Emmanuel,
God present with his world restored?

The heart is glad for thee: it knows
No one shall bid it err or mourn,
And o'er its desert breaks the rose
In triumph o'er the grieving thorn.

*O come, o come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel.*

Thou bringest all again; with thee
is light, is space, is breadth, and room
For each thing fair, beloved and free,
To have its hour of life and bloom.

Each deepest instinct, unconfessed;
Each hidden root, each cloud above,
And all that life hath long repressed,
Unfolds, revealing joy and love.

*That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.*

Thy reign eternal will not cease;
Thy years are sure and glad, and strong,
Within thy glorious world of peace
The humblest creature makes its song.

The world is glad for thee: The heart is
glad for thee, and all is well
And fixed and sure, because thou art,
whose name is called Emmanuel.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Post Communion

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Upcoming Meetings:

Friends of St Mary's Committee meeting: Mon 2nd Dec at 3.45pm

Bygrave PCC: Mon 2nd Dec at 7.30pm at Mill Cottage

Monday Home Group: Mon 9th Dec at 24 Park Crescent

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

Healing Communion: Tues 17th Dec at 3.30pm

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

Community Sponsorship: Sun 12th Jan at 4.30pm

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

Christmas Tree Festival (Sat 7th Dec – Sun 8th Dec)

The final push! Please can you help with:

- Filling the rota
- Donations of sparkling wine
- Items for the hampers
- Unwanted gifts or good quality items for the tombola
- Cake donations
- Festive items for the Friends stalls
- Raffle tickets to be taken and sold to friends and family

Also if you can help with setting up the church and hall this Thursday evening between 7-9pm, we would be very grateful. Just turn up! Thank you.

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 1st. If you can provide wrapping paper for it to be wrapped in later, so much the better.



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!

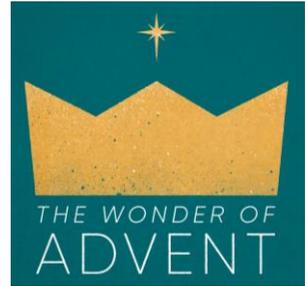
Hidden Humour

Q: How do you feel when you can't get to your Advent Calendar chocolate?

A: Foiled!

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!



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes: Thank you to everyone who donated a shoebox full of toys. We contributed 51 boxes between both churches.

Friends of St Mary's Christmas dinner - Sunday 14th December in the church hall. There is still space if you would like to buy an individual ticket for this event. The cost is £25 which includes a welcome drink. Join us for this wonderfully festive occasion! Contact Aileen Barry: fosmbaldock@gmail.com

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 11: 1-10; Matthew 3: 1-12

Rev'd Canon Andrew Holford: 01462 896273

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

Churchwardens: Phil Charsley (Premises): 01462 895665.

Emma Wilkinson (Safeguarding): 07836 749283

Alex Milne – Hall Hire: alexandra.milne@gmail.com / 01462 490062

Church email: baldockbenefice@gmail.com; Website: www.stmarysbaldock.org.uk

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 1 st	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	
Mon 2 nd	08.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	10.30 am	Communion at Magdalene Court	
	1.30 pm	Silent Prayer in the church hall	
	3.45 pm	Friends of St Mary's Meeting in the church hall	
	4.45 pm	Evening Prayer	
	7.30 pm	Bygrave PCC at Mill Cottage	
Tues 3 rd	08.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	10.40 am	Communion for Year 6 at St Mary's Junior School	
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
	7.30 pm	Advent Fellowship Group at the Rectory	
Wed 4 th	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	9.30 am	Holy Communion	
	10.30 am	Tiny Tots Sing-a-long	
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
Thu 5 th	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	9.45 am	St Mary's Infant School Advent Service in church	
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
	6.45 pm	Choir practice	
	8.00 pm	Deanery Synod at Buntingford	
Fri 6 th	<i>Nicholas, bishop, c.326</i>		
Sat 7 th	<i>Ambrose, bishop, teacher of the faith, 397</i>		
	10.00 am – 6.00 pm: Christmas Tree Festival		
	7.30 – 9.30pm: Bell ringing		
Sun 8 th	7.20 am	Morning Prayer	
	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
	9.30 am	Parish Communion in the forest	
	12.00 pm	Fellowship Christmas Lunch	
	2.00 pm – 5.00 pm: Christmas Tree Festival		
	6.45 pm	Faith 4 Teenagers in the church hall	

'Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.'
