



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



“BUILDING WITH CHRIST”

Sunday 22nd December 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 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** 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.



Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Christmas. At our

9.30am Parish Communion, rejoice in the Word made flesh (and

with our bible reading this morning, made flesh in solidarity with the most needy and vulnerable people in the world.) **Sing carols** and allow Jesus into the centre of your life as you receive communion with him in the centre of the Church.

On Sunday 5th January 2020 come to church at 10.30am

Today's worship

Opening hymn: 480

Before the Gospel: 182

Offertory hymn: 381

Final hymn: 557

The Collect

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

We sing the first 3 verses of our first hymn before stopping at the Advent ring

The Old Testament Reading **Isaiah 7: 10-16**

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹² But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³ Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

The Gospel Matthew 1: 18-end

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

West Avenue, Norton Crescent, Gates Court, Norton Road, The Sycamores

Those in need of healing:

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

Those who have died recently:

Freda Wilkinson

At the anniversary of their death:

Doreen Thompson, Joe Crumpholt, Phyllis Leahy, Jake Chapman, John Newman

Choir Anthem: Nova! nova! (15th Century carol, anon.)

Nova! nova! 'Ave' fit ex 'Eva'.

Gabriel of high degree,
He came down from the Trinity
From Nazareth to Galilee,

He met a maiden in a place;
He kneeled down before her face;
He said: "Hail, Mary, full of grace!"

When the maiden saw all this,
She was sore abashed, ywis,
Lest that she had done amiss.

Then said the angel: "Dread not you,
Ye shall conceive in all virtue
A child whose name shall be Jesu."

Then said the angel anon:
"It is not fully six months ago,
Since Saint Elizabeth conceived Saint John."

Then said the maid anon quickly:
"I am Godes own truly,
Ecce ancilla Domini."

Post Communion

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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!

Upcoming Meetings:

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

Christmas Home Group: Tues 7th Jan at 7.30pm at the Rectory

Community Sponsorship: Sun 12th Jan at 4.30pm

Friends of St Mary's Committee meeting: Mon 13th Jan at 3.45pm

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

Healing Communion: Tues 21st Jan at 3.30pm at 83 Coachmans Lane

Baldock PCC: Mon 27th Jan at 7.45pm

Worship leaders' meeting: Sun 2nd Feb at 5.30pm in church

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

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

Frustrations Mary and Joseph didn't have, number 1:

It taking longer to get all your children into the car than it takes to run the actual errand.

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!

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

A very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year from Helen, Andrew and everyone at the Rectory. We are really grateful for all your good wishes and cards.

Postage stamps for RNIB: Just a reminder that we are still collecting stamps in the box at the back of church. Thank you for continuing to support this charity throughout the year. This has enabled us to send several parcels of stamps for which they are very grateful. Missions Committee.

You'll notice the position of the altar changes from Christmas Day. From having the focus on the high altar, where we think of worshipping Jesus as transporting us to the gates of heaven, it moves into the middle of the church, as we think of Jesus being born in the middle of the mess of human life and sharing in the joys and sorrows of our lives.

Planned giving helps the Church!

For the last few years we have achieved amazing things. We have put the eagle lectern on a movable podium, we have produced new information and advertising boards, we have funded resettling a Syrian family, we have funded evangelistic publicity for the whole parish ... and much more, ... besides the heating and lighting of the church building and lots of everyday expenses. We are incredibly grateful for the large number of people who commit to regular financial giving over the year to enable this but we have still gone into the red slightly each year to achieve this. Clearly this cannot continue forever! Over the next 12 months the PCC plan a season of encouraging each of us to consider how much we are able to give to fund the work of God in this place. Watch for more details in a week or two but in the meantime, please pray that we will continue to be able to respond to what we believe God is calling us to do. And please consider your own part in this valuable work.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Hebrews 2: 10-end, Matthew 2: 13-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 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	
Mon 23 rd	08.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
<i>Christmas Eve:</i>			
	08.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	12.00 pm	Communion	
	3.00 pm	Crib Service (preacher: Katrina Nice)	
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
	6.00 pm	Bygrave Carol Service	
	11.15 pm	Midnight Mass	
<i>Christmas Day:</i>			
	7.20 am	Morning Prayer	
	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
	9.30 am	Christmas Communion	
Thu 26 th		<i>Stephen, deacon, first martyr</i>	
Fri 27 th		<i>John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>	
	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
Sat 28 th		<i>The Holy Innocents</i>	
	2.00 pm	Wedding of Amie Chambers and Todd Sharples	
Sun 29 th		<i>1st Sunday of Christmas</i>	
	7.20 am	Morning Prayer	
	8.00 am	Holy Communion (preacher: Sharon Cooper)	
	9.30 am	Parish Communion (preacher: Sharon Cooper)	

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth