



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



“BUILDING WITH CHRIST”

Sunday 8th December 2019

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

12.00pm Fellowship Lunch

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

Happy New Year!

This Sunday is the Second Sunday of Advent.

At our **9.30am Parish Communion** there is **Junior**

Church and 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.

Next 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**.

Today's worship

Opening hymn: 406

Before the Gospel: 263

Offertory hymn: 259

Final hymn: 495

We sing 2 verses of our first hymn 406 Long ago, prophets knew before stopping to focus on the Advent ring.

The Collect

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

Amen

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 11: 1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of

knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Psalm 72 (Prayer for Rulers)

May the Holy One guard and guide all rulers.

Give the king your sense of judgement, Holy One,
to a king's son your sense of faithful justice.

**May he judge your people faithfully
and give justice to your poor and needy.**

Let the mountains bring peace and prosperity
and the hills true justice for everyone.

**May the king judge the poor fairly,
save the children of the poor
and crush their oppressors.**

May the Holy One guard and guide all rulers.

May he live as long as the sun,
for as many generations as the moon.

**May he come down like rain on mown grass,
and drop on the earth like showers.**

In his time may true justice flourish.

Peace and prosperity outlive the moon.

Blessed be the Holy One, God of Israel,
who alone does wonders.

**Blessed by the Holy Name forever!
May God's glory fill the world.**

May the Holy One guard and guide all rulers.

The Gospel Matthew 3: 1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”’ ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ ‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

This week, please remember in your prayers these areas of our parish:
Hillside Park, Limekiln Lane, The Copse, Penfold Close, Providence Court,
Providence Way

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, Phil Woodward.

Those who have died recently:

Isa Cox

At the anniversary of their death:

Arthur Harris, William Stewart, Clifford Gibson, Clarice Thornton,
Keith Blackburn, Dorothy Banks, Michael Crossley, Ada Clowes

Choir Anthem: 'On Jordan's bank' in an arrangement by Malcolm Archer (b.1952). Words as for hymn 527 in the orange hymn book (but omitting verse 4).

Post Communion

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Upcoming Meetings:

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

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

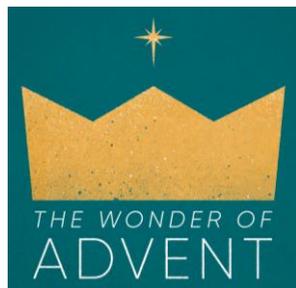
Baldock Standing Committee: Mon 13th Jan at 8pm at the Rectory

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. **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.

The Christmas Grand Draw is still on! Please buy a ticket today – it may win you a great prize!

On that note.... We still need a bottle or two of sparkling wine. Please let us know if you can donate one.

Toy Service: Thank you to everyone who donated toys last weekend. They were delivered to Homestart at the beginning of the week so that they could be given to families who would otherwise be unable to afford Christmas presents.

Hidden Humour

Q: Why are Christmas trees like bad knitters?

A: They both drop needles.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 35: 1 – 10; Matthew 11: 2-11

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.

Note of thanks:

Also thanks to all those who are helping 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!

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.

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 8 th	7.20 am	Morning Prayer	<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>
	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	
Mon 9 th	08.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	4.45 pm	Evening Prayer	
Tues 10 th	08.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
	7.30 pm	Advent Fellowship Group at the Rectory	
Wed 11 th	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	<i>Ember Day</i>
	9.30 am	Holy Communion	
	10.30 am	Tiny Tots Sing-a-long	
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
	7.30 pm	Bells practice	
Thu 12 th	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	9.30 am	Hartsfield School in church	
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
	6.45 pm	Choir practice	
Fri 13 th	<i>Lucy, martyr, 304</i>		<i>Ember Day</i>
Sat 14 th	<i>John of the Cross, poet, teacher of the faith, 1591</i>		
	8.15 am	Morning Prayer	<i>Ember Day</i>
	10am – 11am	Carol singing with the Praise Be Band at Tesco	
	11.30 am	Nativity Play rehearsal	
	7.30 pm	Friends of St Mary's Dinner	
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	

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.