



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



"BUILDING WITH CHRIST"

Sunday 16th February 2020

**8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Communion for All Ages
11.00am Parish Communion with Junior Church at Bygrave**

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

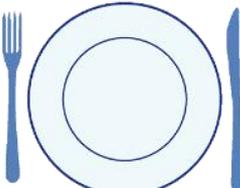
DURING FEBRUARY YOU ARE ASKED TO PUT A TOKEN IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX, EACH TIME YOU COME TO WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, TO HELP US UNDERSTAND THE AGE PROFILE OF THE WORSHIPPING CONGREGATION

This Sunday is the Second Sunday before Lent. At our 9.30am Communion for All Ages, the choir, organ and Music Group accompany our worship and we enjoy a violin sonata after



communion. The service has a strong **Creation** emphasis. During the telling of the biblical story of creation we watch a powerpoint display. There will be lots to engage people of all ages.

At 11am there is Parish Communion with Junior Church at Bygrave.

Fell  **wship Lunch**

Sunday 23rd February at 12:00.

**Menu: Roast Beef and trimmings or vegetarian option followed by pudding.
Everybody welcome – don't eat lunch alone, come and share it with friends.**



On **Wednesday** at **7.30pm** we host a **confirmation**, where Bishop Alan is presiding. Freddie Hartley and Emily Foggo are being confirmed from our congregation. **Do support them if you can.**

Next Sunday is the **Sunday next before Lent**. At our **9.30am Parish Communion** there is **Junior Church** and we think about the glory and the pain of a life following Jesus as we hear the extraordinary story of the transfiguration. After the last hymn we **burn palm crosses** people have returned from last year in readiness to make ash for our Ash Wednesday celebrations for the beginning of Lent. We also enjoy **pancakes** as a pre-Lent treat at the end of the service.

At **6.45pm**, next week, there is **Food4Life - worship for teenagers**. Some worship, some discussion and some food!



Ash Wednesday is on **Wednesday February 26th**. We have services as follows:

9.30am in St Mary's Communion service with the sign of the cross in ash on your forehead for the beginning of Lent
2.20pm in St Mary's Junior School Service with the sign of the cross in ash on your forehead for the beginning of Lent
7.30pm in St Margaret's Bygrave Communion service with hymns and the sign of the cross in ash on your forehead for the beginning of Lent.

**Please try really hard to come to one of these!
You won't regret it.**

Today's worship

Opening hymn: 684

Before the Gospel: Shalom (Music Group)

Offertory hymn: 825 (Music Group)

Final hymn: 244

The Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

Amen

The Old Testament Reading **Genesis 1: 1 – 2: 3**

¹ In the beginning God created the sky and the earth. ²The earth was empty and had no form. Darkness covered the ocean, and God's Spirit was moving over the water. ³Then God said, "Let there be light!" And there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good. So he divided the light from the darkness. ⁵God named the light "day" and the darkness "night." Evening passed, and morning came. This was the first day. ⁶Then God said, "Let there be something to divide the water in two!" ⁷So God made the air to divide the water in two. Some of the water was above the air, and some of the water was below it. ⁸God named the air "sky." Evening passed, and morning came. This was the second day. ⁹Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered together so the dry land will appear." And it happened. ¹⁰God named the dry land "earth." He named the water that was gathered together "seas." God saw that this was good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth produce plants. Some plants will make grain for seeds. Others will make fruit with seeds in it. Every seed will produce more of its own kind of plant." And it happened. ¹²The earth produced plants. Some plants had grain for seeds. The trees made fruit with seeds in it. Each seed grew its own kind of plant. God saw that all this was good. ¹³ Evening passed, and morning came. This was the third day. ¹⁴Then God said, "Let there be lights in the sky to separate day from night. These lights will be used for signs, seasons, days and years. ¹⁵They will be in the sky to give light to the earth." And it happened. ¹⁶ So God made

the two large lights. He made the brighter light to rule the day. He made the smaller light to rule the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷God put all these in the sky to shine on the earth. ¹⁸ They are to rule over the day and over the night. He put them there to separate the light from the darkness. God saw that all these things were good. ¹⁹ Evening passed, and morning came. This was the fourth day. ²⁰ Then God said, "Let the water be filled with living things. And let birds fly in the air above the earth." ²¹ So God created the large sea animals. He created every living thing that moves in the sea. The sea is filled with these living things. Each one produces more of its own kind. God also made every bird that flies. And each bird produces more of its own kind. God saw that this was good. ²² God blessed them and said, "Have many young ones and grow in number. Fill the water of the seas, and let the birds grow in number on the earth." ²³ Evening passed, and morning came. This was the fifth day. ²⁴ Then God said, "Let the earth be filled with animals. And let each produce more of its own kind. Let there be tame animals and small crawling animals and wild animals. And let each produce more of its kind." And it happened. ²⁵ So God made the wild animals, the tame animals and all the small crawling animals to produce more of their own kind. God saw that this was good. ²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image and likeness. And let them rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the tame animals, over all the earth and over all the small crawling animals on the earth." ²⁷ So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female. ²⁸ God blessed them and said, "Have many children and grow in number. Fill the earth and be its master. Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky. Rule over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ God said, "Look, I have given you all the plants that have grain for seeds. And I have given you all the trees whose fruits have seeds in them. They will be food for you. ³⁰ I have given all the green plants to all the animals to eat. They will be food for every wild animal, every bird of the air and every small crawling animal." And it happened. ³¹ God looked at everything he had made, and it was very good. Evening passed, and morning came. This was the sixth day. ¹ So the sky, the earth and all that filled them were finished. ² By the seventh day God finished the work he had been doing. So on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it holy because on that day he rested. He rested from all the work he had done in creating the world.

Hymn: Shalom, my friend, Shalom

Shalom, my friend, Shalom, my friend,
Shalom, Shalom.

Till we meet again, till we meet again,
Shalom, Shalom.

Shalom, my friend, Shalom, my friend,
Shalom, Shalom.

The peace of Christ I give you today,
Shalom, Shalom.

The Gospel Matthew 6: 25-end

²⁵ “So I tell you, don’t worry about the food you need to live. And don’t worry about the clothes you need for your body. Life is more important than food. And the body is more important than clothes. ²⁶ Look at the birds in the air. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns. But your heavenly Father feeds the birds. And you know that you are worth much more than the birds. ²⁷ You cannot add any time to your life by worrying about it. ²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? Look at the flowers in the field. See how they grow. They don’t work or make clothes for themselves. ²⁹ But I tell you that even Solomon with his riches was not dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers. ³⁰ God clothes the grass in the field like that. The grass is living today, but tomorrow it is thrown into the fire to be burned. So you can be even more sure that God will clothe you. Don’t have so little faith. ³¹ Don’t worry and say, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³² All the people who don’t know God keep trying to get these things. And your Father in heaven knows that you need them. ³³ The thing you should want most is God’s kingdom and doing what God wants. Then all these other things you need will be given to you. ³⁴ So don’t worry about tomorrow. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Tomorrow will have its own worries.

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

William Way, Clare Crescent, Elmwood Ave, Mons Ave, Nightingale Way, Templar Ave

Those in need of healing:

Paula Conder, Jeanette Jackson, Sheila Boudreau, Olive Elves, Oliver Britton,
Stephen Cooper, Eleanor Morrison, Lionel Elliston, Peter Harris, Julian Evan Hart,
Christine Roderick, Liz Smith, Anne England, Bob Burt, baby Luca Mabert.

At the anniversary of their death:

Bill Gray, Francis Thornton, Peter Smith, Herbert Gray, Nan Commons,
Ernest Nichols, Norma Munson, Fred Coates

Choir Anthem: Everything is yours, Lord (Zambian. Arranged by Geoff Weaver)

Everything is yours, Lord; everything comes from you: all we have we offer to you. Accept our love, Lord, we pray; receive our gifts, Lord, today.

During communion there will be a short musical piece entitled 'Turkish March' by Beethoven. Listen to the parade approach from afar, march past grandly then gradually recede into the distance.

Post Communion

God our creator, by your gift,
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Upcoming Meetings:

After Hours: Sun 16th Feb at 7pm, 24 Park Crescent

Churches Together in Baldock Forum: Tues 18th Feb at 7pm at the Methodist church

Community Sponsorship: Sun 23rd Feb at 4.30pm

Food4Life (worship for Teens) Sun Feb 23rd at 6.45pm in church

Healing Communion: Tues 25th Feb at 3.30pm at 83 Coachmans Lane

Thursday Home Group: Thu 27th Feb at 10.30am at 20 The Gardens

Worship leaders' meeting: Sun 1st Mar at 5.30pm in church

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

Deanery Synod: Mon 2nd Mar at 8pm in the church hall

Monday Home Group: Mon 2nd Mar at 8pm at 3 The School House

Tuesday Home Group: Tues 3rd Mar at 7.30pm at the Rectory

PCC Standing Committee: Mon 9th Mar at 8pm at the Rectory

St Mary's Church consultation

Thank you to everyone who took part in our community consultation about the vision for the St Mary's Church building. There were 675 responses and, with each person having three votes, there were a little over 2,000 votes cast in all. We were really gratified with the large number who clearly thought deeply about their answers.

The responses were fascinating. You may remember that we took it as read that Christian Worship was the most important purpose for the building. However, of the responses, over a quarter (27%) felt 'Tradition and Heritage' were most important, whilst just under a quarter (24%) voted for 'Multi-purpose and Community Use' and 22% felt it was important the building was 'A Comfortable Place to be for All Ages'.

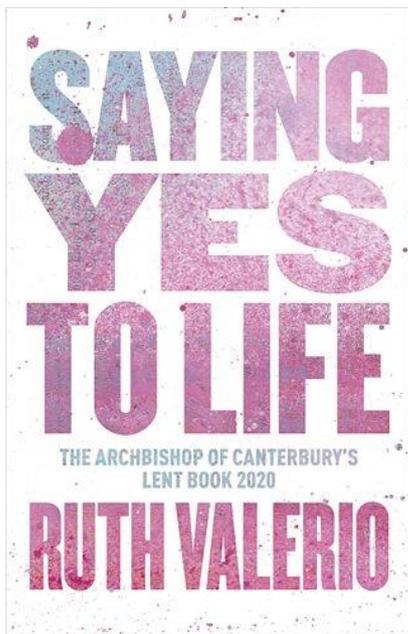
Then there was a bigish drop down to 'Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals' (13%) and 'Accessibility and Visibility' (11%). But for us, one of the most interesting findings was that less than 5% felt the building should be 'Unchanging'.

We are now beginning to use this information to draw up a one sentence vision for the church building which will inform decisions we take about the interior of the building in a few years' time, when we have finished restoring the roof.

The jury is still out about the evidence this survey implies but perhaps it reaffirms our emphasis that whilst tradition and heritage are extremely important in the minds and hearts of the people of Baldock, the building needs to be versatile enough and comfortable enough to enable a range of community activities to happen. Perhaps it also says something about tradition and heritage being a living experience. Perhaps people want the building to be a link with the history of the town to enable them to feel rooted, but that does not mean it needs to be an unchanging monument to the past. What do you think?

Count your blessings with **Christian Aid** this Lent. Available next week we have a booklet with daily activities (something to do, something to pray, something to think about or something to give) for everyone in the congregation. There are also special posters for children which will link with what we are doing in our schools.

We expect to have three **Lent groups** this Lent, each following a creation theme about the relationship between God and the wonderful creation we are part of, and our role in that relationship. They are likely to be on Monday and Tuesday Evenings and Thursday mornings. Do join one of these. It's not necessary to get to every meeting and you can always swop between groups if you need to.



The Archbishop's Lent book 2020 ' **Ruth Valerio's book is perfect for individuals and groups to think, reflect, pray and be challenged together.** ' **JUSTIN WELBY, from the Foreword**

Saying Yes to Life lifts our focus from natural, everyday concerns to issues that are having an impact on millions of lives around the world. As people made in the image of God, we are entrusted to look after what he has created: to share in God's joy and ingenuity in making a difference for good.

Ruth Valerio imaginatively draws on the Days of Creation (Genesis 1) as she relates themes of light, water, land, the seasons, other creatures, humankind, Sabbath rest and resurrection hope to matters of environmental, ethical and social concern.

Foundational to *Saying Yes to Life* is what it means to be human and, in particular, to be a follower of Jesus. Voices from around the world are heard throughout, and each chapter ends with discussion questions and a prayer to aid action and contemplation.

To order a copy, sign the sheet at the back of church or, better still, ring the Christian Bookshop 481285

Ideas for Lent coming soon.



Watch this space!



Our next **communion service where we pray for healing and wholeness** is on **Tuesday 25th February at 83 Coachmans Lane at 3.30pm**. These 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.



The next **Messy Church** will be on **Sunday 1st March at 12pm**. Join us for a delicious lunch followed by pudding. Messy Church is about having fun with the whole family! There will be crafts, activities and games around the church including a short service. No Charge—donations welcome.

Fell wship Lunch

In March, there will be a Christian Aid Lent Lunch, instead of Fellowship Lunches, on Sunday 29th March at 12noon.

Menu: Lent soup and cheese lunch

Palm crosses: Please return your palm crosses to church by Saturday 22nd February so we can use them to make ash for Ash Wednesday.

Copies of **Hazel & Martin Frost's latest newsletter** are available at the back of church.

Big Eco News: General Synod passed a motion on 12 Feb committing the Church of England to become carbon neutral by 2030 thus taking a strong lead in addressing the Climate Crisis which is affecting the whole world more and more rapidly. Any ideas very welcome for St Mary's Baldock!



Eco Tip 2: If you have a water butt, why not attach your hosepipe to it, run it into your garden to any trees/shrubs and open the tap - any rain water from the roof will go to build up reserves in the ground for the long dry summer, rather than go down the drain when your water butt is full.

Do you want to make your faith mean more than just Sunday?



If so why not come to a Home Group? We have three, running monthly on Monday and Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings. The days and venues are in the **Upcoming meetings** section of this news sheet. They provide Christian fellowship, a chance to talk about things that matter, a chance to go deeper into the bible and a chance to pray for things on your mind. People who go speak very highly of them. Give it a go, if you've never tried it!

Hidden Humour

An exasperated wife asked her husband, "Why are you always worrying when it doesn't do any good?"

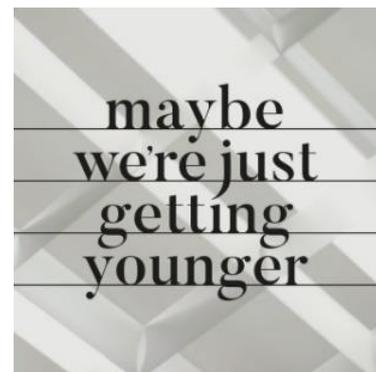
He quickly piped back, "Oh yes it does! Ninety percent of the things I worry about never happen."



Did you know? The insurance bill for the Church each month totals £576.15, which divided is £455.33 for the church, £120.82 for the hall. That's nearly £19 per day or over £6,900 per year.

We need your help!

During February we want to get an accurate assessment of the age profile of our worshipping congregation week by week. Each Sunday in February you come to church, please help us by placing a token in the jam jar that corresponds to your age range. We believe we are bucking the trend and getting younger and would like to test whether this is true or not.



Refreshments for Confirmation Service: If you are willing to provide cakes, savouries and scones, for the confirmation next Wednesday please let Emma know.

Christmas Tree Festival proceeds: The Christmas Tree Festival weekend made approximately £3,500! Thank you to everyone who helped to make the weekend such a success. We couldn't have done it without you. Discussions are already underway for the next one...

Benefice Cycle of prayer:

If anyone has any suggestions for things to add to the Benefice Cycle of prayer, please let Andrew know in the next week. We will reissue it at the beginning of Lent.

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

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Exodus 24: 12-end, Matthew 17: 1-9
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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 16 th	7.20 am	Morning Prayer	<i>The 2nd Sunday before Lent</i>
	8.00 am	Holy Communion (preacher: Katrina Nice)	
	9.30 am	Communion for all Ages (preacher: Katrina Nice)	
	11.00 am	Bygrave Parish Communion and Junior Church (preacher: Katrina Nice)	
	3.00pm	Baptism of Zoe Strugnell	
	4.30 pm	Confirmation rehearsal	
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
	7.00 pm	After Hours at 24 Park Crescent	
Mon 17 th	<i>Janani Luwum, archbishop, martyr, 1977</i>		
	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
Tue 18 th	1.30 pm	Silent Prayer in the church hall	
	4.45 pm	Evening Prayer	
	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
Wed 19 th	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
	7.00 pm	Churches Together Forum at URC	
	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
Thu 20 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	
	10.30 am	Tiny Tots	
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
	7.30 pm	Confirmation Service	
Sat 22 nd	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
	6.45pm	Choir practice	
Sun 23 rd	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
	7.20 am	Morning Prayer	<i>The Sunday next before Lent</i>
	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
	9.30 am	Parish Communion and Junior Church	
	12.00 pm	Fellowship Lunch	
	3.30pm	Baptism of Luca Mabert	
	4.30 pm	Community Sponsorship Team meeting	
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer		
6.45 pm	Food4Life – Compline (worship for teenagers)		

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.