



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



"BUILDING WITH CHRIST"

Sunday 1st March 2020

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

11.00am Parish Communion at Bygrave 12.00pm Messy Church

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

This Sunday is the First Sunday of Lent. At

our **9.30am Parish Communion** we think about our own need of acceptance and forgiveness as we hear

the story of Adam, Eve and the apple, and Jesus spending 40 days in the wilderness. There is another chance to receive the sign of the cross in your forehead whilst the choir sing the Lent Prose, and the

Ten Commandments form part of our preparation for worship.

Altogether a very Lenten start!



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

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 **12pm**, there is **Messy Church**

Join us for a delicious lunch of

Toad in the hole with mash and veg followed by pudding



(Vegetarian option available). **We will be thinking about our responsibility to care for God's creation** and how we can do

something different this Lent to show we care for about God's world. 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.

Next Sunday is the Second Sunday of Lent.

At our **9.30am Parish Communion** there is **Junior Church** and **Teenage Church** as we consider Jesus' wonderful promise about God's love for his world in John 3: 16. You will be invited to engage with the intercessory prayers in church. Either by praying in a group or by suggesting topics we might pray about.



At **4pm** next week, we host **the Brownie Thinking Day service.**



At **6pm**, next week, there is **Choral Evensong.** Join us for beautiful, evocative worship at the end of the day.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3: 1-17

Today's worship as sheet

Opening hymn: 190

Before the Gospel: 572

Offertory hymn: Christian dost thou see them

Final hymn: 379

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
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 Genesis 2: 15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.' Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' ² The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³ but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The Gospel Matthew 4: 1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' ⁴ But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' ⁷ Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; ⁹ and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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, 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, Michael Welch, Penny and Douglas Mitchell.

At the anniversary of their death:

George Bramwell, Joan Lawton, Helen Bunch, Walter Pooley, Martha Ferguson

After we celebrate our Christian faith in the words of the Creed, we are invited to consider our own need of God's forgiveness through the saving work of Christ on the cross. As part of this, those who would like to are able to receive the sign of the cross in ash on their forehead as a sign of commitment at the beginning of Lent.

Lent Prose – accompaniment by John Scott.

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory: lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings: listen, O Jesu, to our supplications. [Refrain]

O thou, chief Cornerstone, Right Hand of the Father: Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial: cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement. [Refrain]

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated: bow down and hearken to thy weeping children: pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses. [Refrain]

Sins oft committed now we lay before thee: with true contrition, now no more we veil them: grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution. [Refrain]

Innocent, captive, taken unresisting: falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced, save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer. [Refrain]

Offertory Hymn

I. Christian, dost thou see them
on the holy ground,
how the troops of Midian
prowl and prowl around?

Christian, up and smite them,
counting gain but loss;
smite them by the merit
of the holy cross.

2. Christian, dost thou feel them,
how they work within,
striving, tempting, luring,
goaded into sin?

Christian, never tremble;
never be down-cast;
smite them by the virtue
of the Lenten fast.

3. Christian, dost thou hear them,
how they speak thee fair?

“Always fast and vigil?
always watch and prayer?”

Christian, answer boldly,
“While I breathe I pray:”
peace shall follow battle,
night shall end in day.

4. “Well I know thy trouble,
O my servant true;
thou art very weary,

I was weary too;
but that toil shall make thee
some day all mine own,
and the end of sorrow
shall be near my throne.”

Choir Anthem: I will walk in the presence of God. By Marty Haugen.

For the love of the One who has heard my cry: I will walk in the presence of God. God has heard my distress, and I shall not die: I will walk in the presence of God.

I will walk in the presence of God in the land, in the land of the living. For the love of the One who has heard my cry: I will walk in the presence of God.

In the cords of my death, I was tangled 'round: I will walk in the presence of God. Those who seek you in anguish shall not be bound: I will walk in the presence of God. [Refrain]

What return can I give for the gifts I claim? I will walk in the presence of God. Lift the cup of salvation and praise your name: I will walk in the presence of God. [Refrain]

Post Communion

Lord God,

you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope,

and strengthen our love:

teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word

that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen**

Upcoming Meetings:

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

Thursday Home Group: Thu 5th Mar at 10.30am in the church hall

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

Baldock PCC: Mon 23rd Mar at 7.45pm in the hall

Community Sponsorship: Sun 19th Apr at 4.30pm

Eco Tip 4: Air pollution from car exhausts and braking harshly is unseen but increasingly serious, especially in urban areas. Try not to sit with your car engine idling while picking up/dropping off school children or at traffic lights / train crossings. Brake more gently using your car's gears rather than brakes - some brake and tyre particles are small enough to be inhaled and are also toxic.

New cycles of prayer for the benefice are available at the back of church (in either A5 or handy A6 size.) Please take one and use it daily as a focus for praying for St Mary's Church and St Margaret of Antioch Church.

History in the afternoon (at the Arts and Heritage Centre)

Fri Mar 13th at 2.30pm. St John Henry Newman – the life of a great Victorian.

An illustrated talk by Brendan King. Admission £4.

Fri Apr 3rd 2.30pm. In the Footsteps of St Columbanus – A pilgrimage through Ireland and France following a 6th Century Irish missionary

An illustrated talk by Andrew Holford. Admission £4.

Bygrave is having a **church and churchyard cleaning and clearing** morning on Saturday 21st March starting at 10am. Please dig out your rubber gloves, brooms and hedge clippers!

Did you know? The Church budgets £3 000 per year for general maintenance around the building (not including the hall). Last year we spent £2 154, but in 2018 it was £4 017. This year is likely to be over budget because of some work we need to do in the tower removing pigeon droppings and pigeon proofing the drains. That's £10 000 over three years.



Hidden Humour

A man has given up meat for Lent. He goes into a monastery for an hour's prayer and then shares their meal which is Fish and Chips, the best he's ever tasted. After dinner, he goes into the kitchen to thank the chefs. He's met by two brothers, "Hello, I'm Brother Michael, and this is Brother Francis." He gives them warm thanks and asked who cooked what? Brother Michael replies, "Well, I'm the fish friar." The man turns to the other brother and says, "Then you must be . . ." "Yes, I'm afraid I'm the chip monk."

Good Friday: Each Good Friday we organise children's activities, and sing outside Tesco, whilst handing out hot cross buns and Easter leaflets with service details from all the local churches. This has always proved to be an immensely satisfying thing to do with a great 'feel good' factor, as we engage with the parish on with the central message of love and hope that Christianity brings. This year we want to have a large group of people to sing hymns and Christian songs, accompanied by a keyboard. Please could you see if you can commit an hour on Good Friday to this between 11am and 12pm. Soup lunch follows in the church hall for those who would like it. Enthusiasm rather than tunefulness is the main criteria! *It will be really helpful to have an idea of how many are able to come, so please sign the list at the back of church if you are likely to be there.*

High Street Methodist Church in Stevenage is advertising for a Youth and Children's worker (22.5 hours per week). See the poster in the coffee corner for more details. Closing date March 9th. For information and an application pack, contact Graham on graham.claydon-knights@methodist.org.uk

Whilst the progress in controlling the coronavirus is uncertain we have been instructed that receiving communion by intinction (dipping the wafer into the chalice) is not to take place. It is actually more likely to pass on infection this way than by drinking from a silver chalice that is wiped and rotated between each person. There is no need at this stage to stop receiving from the chalice but if you feel happier it is perfectly acceptable to receive communion in one kind (the bread alone) and still have joined in the heavenly meal with Jesus.

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 Mar	7.20 am	Morning Prayer	<i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>
	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
	9.30 am	Parish Communion and Junior Church	
	11.00 am	Parish Communion at Bygrave	
	12.00 pm	Messy Church	
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer and worship leaders' meeting	
Mon 2 nd	7.00 pm	Young people's Lent Group (with food) in church hall	
	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	<i>Chad, bishop, missionary, 672</i>
	10.30 am	Communion at Magdalene Court	
	1.30 pm	Silent Prayer in the Church Hall	
	3.45 pm	Friends of St Mary's Committee in the church hall	
	4.45 pm	Evening Prayer	
	8.00 pm	Monday Lent Group at 3 The School House	
	8.00 pm	Deanery Synod at Baldock	
Tue 3 rd	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	9.30 am	St Mary's Infants Year 1 visit Church	
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
	7.30 pm	Tuesday Lent Group meets at Rectory	
Wed 4 th	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	<i>Ember Day</i>
	9.30 am	Holy Communion	
	10.30 am	Tiny Tots	
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
Thu 5 th	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	10.30 pm	Thursday Lent Group meets at the Church Hall	
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
	6.45pm	Choir practice	
Fri 6 th	2.00 pm	Women's World Day of Prayer at Methodist Church	
Sat 7 th	<i>Perpetua, Felicity and companions, martyrs, 203. Ember Day</i>		
Sun 8 th	7.20 am	Morning Prayer	<i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>
	8.00 am	Holy Communion (preacher: Sharon Cooper)	
	9.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior and Teenage Church (preacher: Sharon Cooper)	
	4.00 pm	Brownie Thinking Day Service	
	6.00 pm	Choral Evensong	
	7.00 pm	Young people's Lent Group (with food) in church hall	

One does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God