



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



"BUILDING WITH CHRIST"

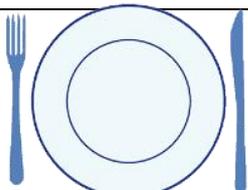
Sunday 23rd February 2020

8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Parish Communion
12.00am Fellowship Lunch

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 **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.

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.**

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday.



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.**

Next 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** next week, there is **Parish Communion** at **Bygrave**.



At **12pm** next week, 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.

Today's worship as sheet

Opening hymn: 105

Before the Gospel: 357

Offertory hymn: 408

Final hymn: 409

The Collect

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
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 Exodus 24: 12-end

¹²The LORD said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.' ¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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 Reading 2 Peter 1: 16-end

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The Gospel Matthew 17: 1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' ⁸ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

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

Eagle Court, Farriers Close, Lavendar Ct, Gates Ct, Sauvignes Court, Bowmans Green

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:

Tina Nash, Ken King, Peter Lilley, William Palmer, Frederick Arbury, Rose Morrison

**Choir Anthem: O Wondrous sight, O vision fair
(melody: Deo Gracias (The Agincourt Song), c.1415. Arr.
Rebecca Groom te Velde (b.1956)**

O Wondrous sight, O vision fair
Of glory that the church shall share,
Which Christ upon the mountain shows,
Where brighter than the sun he glows!

From age to age the tale declare,
How with the three disciples there,
Where Moses and Elijah meet,
The Lord holds converse high and sweet.

The law and prophets there have place,
Two chosen witnesses of grace;
Our Maker's voice from out the cloud
Proclaims his only Son aloud.

With shining face and bright array
Christ deigns to manifest today.
What glory shall be theirs above
Who joy in God with perfect love.

And faithful hearts are raised on high
By this great vision's mystery,
For which in joyful strains we raise
The voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

Post Communion

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*During the Last hymn you are invited to follow the cross outside as we
burn last year's palm crosses to make ash for the beginning of Lent.*

Upcoming Meetings:

Community Sponsorship: Sun 23rd Feb at 4.30pm

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

Thursday Home Group: Thu 27th Feb at 10.30am in the church hall

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



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.

Eco Tip 3: This Lent could you pledge to give up something to help the environment? Try going Vegan or Meat Free 1 day x week or buying NO fruit, or veg wrapped in plastic 1x week or walking / cycling to school / work / shops rather than going in a car 2 or 3x week. (of course if you do these already- set yourself harder challenges!!!)

If you have any suggestions for things to add to the **Benefice Cycle of prayer**, let Andrew know today! We'll reissue it at the beginning of Lent.

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.

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.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Genesis 2: 15-17; 3:1-7, Matthew 4: 1-11

Hidden Humour

I can't believe it's Shrove Tuesday again. Honestly, it just crêped up on me.

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 23 rd	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	
Mon 24 th	7.00 pm	Young people's Lent Group (with food) in church hall	
	7.50 am	Morning Prayer	
Tue 25 th	4.45 pm	Evening Prayer	
	7.50 am	Morning Prayer	
Wed 26 th	3.30 pm	House Communion and prayer for healing and wholeness at 83 Coachman's Lane	
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
	7.50 am	Morning Prayer	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
	9.30 am	Communion for the beginning of Lent with ashing	
	10.30 am	Tiny Tots	
	2.20 pm	Ash Wednesday service at Junior School with ashing	
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
Thu 27 th	7.30 pm	Communion with hymns at Bygrave for the beginning of Lent with ashing	
	7.50 am	Morning Prayer	<i>George Herbert, priest, poet, 1633</i>
	10.30am – 12.00pm: Thursday Lent Group in Church Hall		
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
Fri 28 th	6.45pm	Choir practice	
	7.50 am	Morning Prayer	
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
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	
	7.00 pm	Young people's Lent Group (with food) in church hall	

<p>You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.</p>
--