



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



"BUILDING WITH CHRIST"

Sunday 15th March 2020

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

11.00am Parish Communion at Bygrave

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

This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Lent.

At our **9.30am Parish Communion** there is
Junior Church and the **Music Group, choir**

and organ accompany our worship as we continue our walk with Jesus considering how to live in harmony with his created world, ourselves, our neighbours and indeed God himself.



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

At **1.30pm** there is worship at Temple Court

Next Sunday is Mothering Sunday. Join us at
9.30am for **Communion for All Ages** where we
celebrate being part of the whole family of God. The
Praise be Band, choir, Infant School



Christian choir and organ accompany our worship. Special gifts for every woman in the Church. Lots to engage children and adults of all ages. We aim to have a really inclusive service.

Today's worship

Opening hymn: 658 (Music Group) Before the Gospel: 620 (Music Group)

Offertory hymn: 310

Final hymn: 205

The Collect

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Psalm 95: Come, ring out your joy. South American, arr. Martin Foster.

Come, ring out your joy to God. Hail the Lord, the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord.
Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord.

The New Testament Reading Romans 5: 1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Gospel John 4: 5-42

⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' ¹¹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?' ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' ¹³ Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' ¹⁵ The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' ¹⁷ The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' ¹⁹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' ²¹ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' ²⁵ The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' ²⁶ Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' ²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' ²⁸ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him. ³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.'

³² But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' ³³ So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' ³⁴ Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.' ³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

This week, please remember in your prayers these areas of our parish:
Ashtons Lane, Weston Way, Willian Road, The Close, The Spinney, The Dell

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, Martin Reed.

Those who have died recently:

Yvonne Jackson, Brian Edwards.

At the anniversary of their death:

Ron Smith, Dan Ellis, Ann Garside-Neville, Derek Watson, George Harding, Ernest White, Alec Stevenson, Ethel Ransford, Jessie Kingsley, Christine Bilton, Barry Haigh, Rose Paine

Choir Anthem: Psalm 51:2-3: Wash me thoroughly by David Halls (b.1963)

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and forgive me all my sin.
For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me.

Post Communion

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Upcoming Meetings:

Monday Home Group: Mon 16th Mar at 8pm at 19 Alder Close

Tuesday Home Group: Tues 17th Mar at 7.30pm at the Rectory

Thursday Home Group: Thu 19th Mar at 10.30am in the church hall

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

Fellowship lunch: Sun 29th Mar at 12pm in the hall (for Christian Aid)

Healing Communion: Tues 31st Mar at 3.30pm at 29 Weston Way

Community Sponsorship: Sun 19th Apr at 4.30pm in the hall

Friends of St Mary's Committee meeting: Mon 20th Apr at 3.45pm

Baldock Coronavirus Support Group and helping vulnerable neighbours

A Coronavirus Support Group has been set up in Baldock to discuss ways of supporting our local community. The St Mary's Church Office phone number (01462 892838) has become the Baldock Corona Volunteer Support Line and will be monitored daily - if no one answers, there is an answerphone which will be checked regularly. The line is for anyone who is concerned about the virus, and particularly those with elderly or vulnerable local friends or neighbours. However, if the question is about medical concerns, please call NHS 111 and not the helpline.

In addition, we are seeking volunteers to support the elderly and vulnerable during the Corona outbreak, in a safe way which will reduce the risk of spreading the infection further. If you would like to help, please contact St Mary's Church (baldockbenefice@gmail.com or leave a message on the helpline number). Even if you are unable to volunteer more generally, please look out for your neighbours, particularly if they are elderly or vulnerable.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: I Samuel 16: 1-13, John 9

Church of England guidance re Coronavirus

From this Sunday, we will be adhering to the new guidance regarding Coronavirus which is displayed around the church. This involves only receiving the host at Communion, not shaking hands, using hand gel, washing hands before the service, serving tea / coffee in paper cups and no biscuits will be provided. Thank you for your understanding regarding these important changes which will help reduce the risk of the virus spreading further.

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 at 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!

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

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.



Eco Tip 6: Invest in blinds/curtains for any windows that don't have them yet and remember to close them at dusk to save on heating bills.

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

Lent Groups

We have four Lent groups running this Lent:

Mondays at 8pm starting Mar 2nd (please note that the venue will change each week for this group – check the weekly pewsheets for the details of the venue)

Tuesdays at 7.30pm starting Mar 3rd in the Rectory

Thursdays at 10.30am starting Feb 27th in the Church Hall

Sundays at 7pm – a special group for young people on similar themes.

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.

Hidden Humour

Q: What do you give someone who has fallen into a watering hole?

A: A get well card.

Q: Why does water never laugh at jokes?

A: It isn't a fan of dry humour.

"No problem with Hidden Humour then!" - Ed

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! **WE NEED PEOPLE TO COMMIT TO THIS IN ORDER TO GO AHEAD. PLEASE SIGN THE SHEET IF YOU ARE LIKELY TO BE THERE.**

Bible Reading Fellowship: Please could you let Andrew or Alex know if you ordered the BRF Bible Reading Notes (Guidelines or New Daylight) from Freda Wilkinson. Freda was our group representative and we now need someone to take on this role, otherwise we will have to close the group subscription (although you can still order notes as an individual but at a greater cost). If you would like to know more about what it entails, please ask one of us.

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 15 th	7.20 am	Morning Prayer	3 rd Sunday of Lent
	8.00 am	Holy Communion (preacher: Katrina Nice)	
	9.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church (preacher: Katrina Nice)	
	11.00 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church at Bygrave (preacher: Katrina Nice)	
	1.30 pm	Worship at Temple Court	
Mon 16 th	7.00 pm	Youth Lent Group (with food) in church hall	
	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	1.30 pm	Silent Prayer in church hall	
	<u>5.00 pm</u>	Evening Prayer	
Tue 17 th	8.00 pm	Monday Lent Group at 19 Alder Close	
	8.40 am	Morning Prayer <i>Patrick, bishop, missionary, patron of Ireland</i>	
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
Wed 18 th	7.30 pm	Tuesday Lent Group meets at Rectory	
	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	9.30 am	Holy Communion	
Thu 19 th	10.30 am	Tiny Tots	
	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 20 th	<i>Cuthbert, bishop, missionary 687</i>		
Sat 21 st	<i>Thomas Cranmer, archbishop, reformation martyr, 1556</i>		
Sun 22 nd	10.00 am	Bygrave churchyard and church spring cleaning	
	7.20 am	Morning Prayer	Mothers' Sunday
	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
	9.30 am	Communion for All Ages	
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
	7.00 pm	Youth Lent Group (with food) in church hall	

Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us

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

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