



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



“BUILDING WITH CHRIST”

Sunday 22nd March 2020

**Following guidance from the Archbishop of Canterbury,
Baldock and Bygrave churches are closed for public
worship. St Mary's is open for private prayer every day.**

**Do come in, light a candle pray for those you are worried
about and fill in our prayer request book.**

Free resources for prayer available inside the church and will
shortly be on our website www.stmarysbaldock.org.uk,
or on Facebook

<https://m.facebook.com/StMaryTheVirginBaldock/>

Call 01462 892838 or email baldockcs0@gmail.com if you
know someone who is housebound and needs support or if
you need practical support during the crisis

Call 01462 896273 or email 2008luddite@gmail.com to speak
to the Rector Andrew Holford.

Prayers and readings for this Sunday

The Collect

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

LENT 

Oft in danger, oft in woe

Oft in danger, oft in woe,
onward, Christians, onward go;
bear the toil, maintain the strife,
strengthened with the bread of life.

Onward, Christians, onward go,
join the war, and face the foe;
will ye flee in danger's hour?
Know ye not your captain's power?

Let not sorrow dim your eye;
soon shall every tear be dry:
let not fears your course impede;
great your strength, if great your
need.

Let your drooping hearts be glad;
march in heavenly armour clad;
fight, nor think the battle long:
soon shall victory wake your song.

Onward then in battle move;
more than conquerors ye shall
prove:
though opposed by many a foe,
Christian soldiers, onward go.

The Old Testament Reading I Samuel 16: 1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'² Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the LORD said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD."' ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' ⁵ He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD.' ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen any of these.' ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome.

The LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Psalm 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd; ♦
therefore can I lack nothing.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures ♦
and leads me beside still waters.

³He shall refresh my soul ♦
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; ♦
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; ♦
you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

⁶Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, ♦
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; ♦
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

The New Testament Reading Ephesians 5: 8 – 14

⁸ For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

The Gospel John 9: 1 - 41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' ³ Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the

ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' ⁹ Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' ¹¹ He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' ¹² They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.' ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.' ¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' ²⁰ His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.' ²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' ²⁵ He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' ²⁶ They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' ²⁷ He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' ³⁰ The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' ³⁴ They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' ³⁶ He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in

him.’ ³⁷ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.’ ³⁸ He said, ‘Lord, I believe.’ And he worshipped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, ‘I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.’ ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, ‘Surely we are not blind, are we?’ ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, “We see”, your sin remains.

Prayers

Let us pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety:
For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,
and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.
Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

This week, please remember in your prayers these areas of our parish:
West Avenue, Norton Crescent, Gates Court, Norton Road, The Sycamores

Those in need of healing:

Paula Conder, Jeanette Jackson, Sheila Boudreau, Olive Elves, Oliver Britton,
Stephen Cooper, 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:

Stanley Clowes, Mary Peters, Peter Walden, Jack Scurr, Peter Flack,
Christine Norman, Fred Prentice

Post Communion

Lord God,
whose blessed Son our Saviour
gave his back to the smiters
and did not hide his face from shame:
give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time
with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Following advice all public meetings and social events are cancelled until further notice except those specifically indicated.

Morning and Evening prayer will be said in St Mary's Church at the times indicated in Week at a glance. Communion will be said in St Mary's on Wednesdays at 9.30am and on Sundays at 9.30am. These will not be public services. If you are home, you may like to spend a few moments at the same time in prayer with us. St Mary's Church will be open for prayer every day.

We may not be worshipping together for some time but in order to thrive emotionally and spiritually (and therefore physically) it is really important that each of nurtures our relationship with each other and of course with God. Jesus, the Son of God, spent his ministry 'being with' people. So do your best to 'be with' each other, ring each other up, use social media if you have it, and be ready to share your worries and your frustrations as well as your joys and your relief. And be prepared to listen to other people. Make sure your neighbours are getting the support they need. Assure each other of your prayers. And when you are

praying for them, use the time to nurture your relationship with God. As you can't get to public worship together, make a special point of reading the bible and pondering what the readings are saying to you. There is lots of prayer material at the back of church and on our website. If you would like a hard copy delivered to you, please ring the Rectory 896273.

We plan to send out a daily email with a short bible verse to think about and a prayer and we hope that each week a sermon will be put on the website.

The Archbishops have called, along with fellow church leaders, for a day of prayer and action this coming Sunday - Mothering Sunday (22nd March).

Mothering Sunday has always been both a day of celebration for many and a sensitive and emotional day for some. Wherever you are this Sunday please do join in this day of prayer and action and remember especially those who are sick or anxious, and all involved in our Health Service. As one action, we are calling on everyone to place a lighted candle in their window at 7.00 p.m. as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished.



Baldock Coronavirus Support Group & 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. 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 the Support Group directly (baldockcs0@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.

Hidden Humour (A true story)

CORONAVIRUS was the buzzword underpinning Saturday Night Takeaway's live studio competition, where a woman was accused of deliberately losing so she could scoop a toilet roll as the booby prize. Audience member Tara was plucked from the crowd for the lucrative Win The Ads quiz, presented by hosts Ant and Dec. The last place prize has always been one roll of loo roll. As Tara failed to secure the major win in the segment, by getting a question wrong, she was instead rewarded with a roll - which some believed was a deliberate, strategic and savvy move.

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

CHURCH OPEN: Sun to Fri 8.40 am to 3.30 pm

Including Worship taking place in church this week

Sun 22 nd	8.00 am	Morning Prayer	<i>Mothering Sunday</i>
	9.30 am	Holy Communion	
Mon 23 rd	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
	PCC cancelled		
Tue 24 th	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
Wed 25 th	<i>Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>		
	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	9.30 am	Holy Communion	
Thu 26 th	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	5.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
Fri 27 th	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
Sat 28 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
Sun 29 th	8.00 am	Morning Prayer	<i>Passion Sunday</i>
	9.30 am	Holy Communion	
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	

Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

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: Ezekiel 37: 1-14, Romans 8:6-11, John 11: 1-45

Eco Tip 7: Zero waste shops reduce our use of plastic and packaging and have great raw ingredients & eco products. Local ones are: Replenish and Reuse, Buntingford; Bamboo Turtle, Letchworth; The Wholesome Weigh; Hitchin ; & in St Albans : The Refill Pantry (at 28 London Rd just up the road from the Diocesan Office!)