



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



**"BUILDING WITH CHRIST"**

## **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**8.00am Holy Communion**

**9.30am Parish Communion**

**4.00pm Brownie Thinking Day**

**6.00pm Choral Evensong**

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

**This Sunday is the Second Sunday of Lent.**

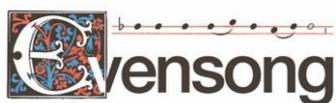
At our **9.30am Parish Communion** there is

**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** we host **the Brownie Thinking Day service.**



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

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

At **1.30pm** next week, there is worship at Temple Court

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## **Today's worship**

Opening hymn: 19

Before the Gospel: 312

Offertory hymn: 74

Final hymn: 281

## **The Collect**

Almighty God,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent  
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,  
and by following in his Way  
come to share in his glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## **Psalm 121: I lift up my eyes by Marty Haugen.**

*I lift up my eyes to the mountains, from where shall come my help?  
My help shall come from the One who has made the heavens and the earth,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

God will keep you from all evil, God will always guide your life,  
Guide your comings and your goings, from now and evermore.

*I lift up my eyes to the mountains, from where shall come my help?  
My help shall come from the One who has made the heavens and the earth,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

## **The New Testament Reading Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. <sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> If it is the adherents of the law who are

to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. <sup>16</sup> For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') - in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

## **The Gospel      John 3: 1-17**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

*During the prayers you are invited to join a small group to offer intercessions to God.*

This week, please remember in your prayers these areas of our parish:  
Hillside Park, Limekiln Lane, The Copse, Penfold Close, Providence Court,  
Providence Way

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.

At the anniversary of their death:

Rene Barton, Peter Sanderson, Jack Leahy, Mary Walker, Dilys Pollard, Anne  
Nickels, Lionel Hughes, Ken Gascoine, Jean Elliston, Louise Brackley,  
Peggy Wilsher, Joyce Greatorex, Irene Newling, Walter Crossley.

## **Choir Anthem: God so loved the world by John Goss (John 3: 16-17)**

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,  
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.  
For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world;  
but that the world through him, through him might be saved. Amen

## **Post Communion**

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:  
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,  
and inwardly in our souls;  
that we may be defended from all adversities  
which may happen to the body,  
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Romans 5: 1-11, John 4: 5-42**

## Upcoming Meetings:

**PCC Standing Committee:** Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Mar at 8pm at the Rectory

**Monday Home Group:** Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Mar at 8pm at 20 The Gardens

**Tuesday Home Group:** Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Mar at 7.30pm at the Rectory

**Thursday Home Group:** Thu 12<sup>th</sup> Mar at 10.30am in the church hall

**Baldock PCC:** Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar at 7.45pm in the hall

**Fellowship lunch:** Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Mar at 12pm in the hall (for Christian Aid)

**Community Sponsorship:** Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Apr at 4.30pm in the hall

**Friends of St Mary's Committee meeting:** Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Apr at 3.45pm

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

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

*An illustrated talk by Brendan King. Admission £4.*

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

*An illustrated talk by Andrew Holford. Admission £4.*

Bygrave is having a **church and churchyard cleaning and clearing** morning on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> March at 12noon.**

**Menu: Lent soup and cheese lunch**

**Eco Tip 5:** Save money on electricity bills as well as helping the environment by changing all your lightbulbs to LED ones (they last longer and use a fraction of the electricity conventional ones do). Ask your church/schools/work places to do the same!

**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.

**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**

This Lent I'm giving up making jokes about what I'm giving up!

**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 9<sup>th</sup>. For information and an application pack, contact Graham on [graham.claydon-knights@methodist.org.uk](mailto: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.

The latest edition of **Alban Life** is available at the back of church.

## Lent Groups

We have four Lent groups running this Lent:

**Mondays** at 8pm starting Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> (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 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Rectory

**Thursdays** at 10.30am starting Feb 27<sup>th</sup> in the Church Hall

**Sundays** at 7pm (see below)

They will be based around the six days of creation plus the day of rest and will relate these to the 'I am' sayings, Jesus' nicknames for himself in St John's Gospel. They will be loosely connected to the Lent book, *Saying yes to life*.

Day 1	light and darkness	<i>I am the light of the world</i>
Day 2	water	<i>Jesus offers living water</i>
Day 3	land, sea and vegetation	<i>I am the true vine</i>
Day 4	sun, moon and stars	<i>I am the good shepherd, I am the gate for the sheepfold</i>
Day 5	fish and birds	<i>I am the bread of life</i>
Day 6	animals and human beings	<i>I am the resurrection and the life</i>
Day 7	Sabbath rest	<i>I am the way, the truth and the life</i>

Each evening will include bible discussion relating the Old Testament to the New, a chance to think about practical action connected to the Lent booklets and an opportunity to write prayers on topics arising out of the discussions

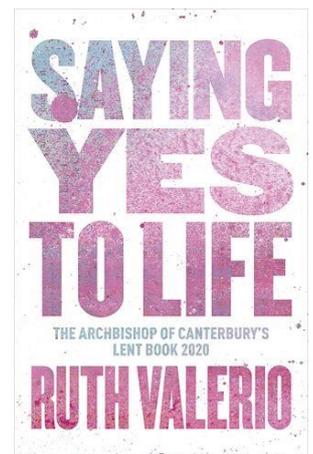
*It will be quite possible to attend only one or two Lent groups or to swop between Lent groups, and still get a lot out of them.*

We also have a special group for young people on Sundays at 7pm in the church hall with food, starting on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>. This will be on similar themes.

## 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**



# 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 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.20 am	Morning Prayer	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> 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	
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	4.45 pm	Evening Prayer	
	8.00 pm	Monday Lent Group at 20 The Gardens	
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	PCC Standing Committee meets at Rectory	
	8.40 am	Morning Prayer	
	4.30 pm	Evening Prayer	
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Tuesday Lent Group meets at Rectory	
	9.30 am	Holy Communion (Elizabeth Bunker)	
	10.30 am	Tiny Tots	
Thu 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Bells practice at Baldock	
	10.30 pm	Thursday Lent Group meets at the Church Hall	
	6.45pm	Choir practice	
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	7.20 am	Morning Prayer	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</i>
	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	
	7.00 pm	Youth Lent Group (with food) in church hall	

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**Rev'd Canon Andrew Holford: 01462 896273**

**(Note: Friday day off) [2008luddite@gmail.com](mailto:2008luddite@gmail.com)**

**Churchwardens: Phil Charsley (Premises): 01462 895665.**

**Emma Wilkinson (Safeguarding): 07836 749283**

**Alex Milne – Hall Hire: [alexandra.milne@gmail.com](mailto:alexandra.milne@gmail.com) / 01462 490062**

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