



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



“BUILDING WITH CHRIST”

**Advent Sunday
Worship on Sunday 29th November**

10.15am Zoom Morning Worship

You are invited to wear (or bring) something purple today!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85865137528?pwd=ZjVrV25sMzJKanNTN3pNZjdqMXVYdz09>

Meeting ID: 858 6513 7528

Passcode: 827152

6pm Zoom Evening Prayer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188370718?pwd=MVVDeINMbEppRldBYnFpN0NwTlhhQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 8837 0718

Passcode: 188423

Prayer is Zoomed most days. You are warmly invited to join us!

(check Week at a Glance for times on specific days)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188370718?pwd=MVVDeINMbEppRldBYnFpN0NwTlhhQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 8837 0718

Passcode: 188423

*Morning Prayer will be said each day in church, usually at 8.40am.
You are invited to join in church from Thursday 4th December.*

*Church buildings are closed for all public worship except funerals until Wednesday 2nd December.
The church building will remain open for private prayer everyday between 8.40am and 3.30pm.*



We are expecting to hold Parish Communion in church next Sunday at 9am and Messy Church in the hall at 11.15am. See page 8 for more details.



If you are aware of anyone who is unable to get food or medication etc, or people who are facing mental health issues or other problems and you cannot care for them yourselves, please get in touch. and please continue praying for each other and for the wounded world in which we live. If you are struggling yourself, please do not keep silent.

Our Home Groups are operating on Monday evening at 8pm, Tuesday evening at 7.30pm and Thursday morning at 10.30am. See Week at a Glance for dates this week. And our young people meet each Sunday evening for a Zoom session. Get in touch for more details.

This Sunday is Advent Sunday, the beginning of the Church's Year
This year we focus upon Mark's Gospel, the shortest and most enigmatic of the Gospels. Advent is the season of hope and expectation. This year of all years, we will be focussing on hope, which hopes are reliable and which are not, and as Christians, placing our hopes in Jesus Christ. What does this mean? Zoom in (or come to the building) and find out! *There is a sheet all about Mark enclosed with this pew sheet (apologies if you have seen it before).*

Prayers and readings for this Sunday

Hymn 405 Lo, he comes with clouds descending

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for mortal sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ appears on earth to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
we who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

The Ten Commandments

Hear the commandments which God has given to his people,
and examine your hearts.

I am the Lord your God: you shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not dishonour the name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Honour your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

You shall not covet anything which belongs to your neighbour.

**Amen. Lord, have mercy upon us
and write all these your laws in our hearts.**

The Collect

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him 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 Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence - ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, ◆
you that led Joseph like a flock;

2 Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, ◆
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

3 Stir up your mighty strength ◆
and come to our salvation.

NOT USED AT 10.15am ZOOM WORSHIP

4 Turn us again, O God; ♦
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

5 O Lord God of hosts, ♦
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

6 You feed them with the bread of tears; ♦
you give them abundance of tears to drink.

7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours ♦
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

16 Cherish this vine which your right hand has planted, ♦
and the branch that you made so strong for yourself.

17 Let those who burnt it with fire, who cut it down, ♦
perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

18 Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand, ♦
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.

NOT USED AT 10.15am ZOOM WORSHIP

The New Testament Reading I Corinthians 1:3-9

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Gospel Mark 13:24-end

²⁴ 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸ 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither

the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

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

California, Grosvenor Road, Martindale Court, Raban Court, Pearl Court, Arbury Place,
Mallard Court

Those in need of healing:

Paula Conder, Jeanette Jackson, Sheila Boudreau, Penny and Douglas Mitchell,
baby Luca Mabert, Olive Elves, Peter Harris, Oliver Britton, Liz Smith, Anne England,
Martin Reed, Martyn Gray, Ron Crumpholt, John Pearson, David Dane,
Karen Kynman, Andy Ball, Molly Upton, Brenda Copsey, Alan Russell, Mary Muir.

Those who have died recently

Iris Smith, Sylvia McGill

Those whose anniversary of death is remembered this week

Bill Woods, Eric Hunter, Beatrice Downing, Florence Rogers, Irene Miller, Jean Lloyd

Final prayer

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn 372 Judge eternal

Judge eternal, throned in splendour,
Lord of lords and King of kings,
with thy living fire of judgement
purge this realm of bitter things:
solace all its wide dominion
with the healing of thy wings.

Still the weary folk are pining
for the hour that brings release:
and the city's crowded clangour
cries aloud for sin to cease;
and the homesteads and the woodlands
plead in silence for their peace.

Crown, O God, thine own endeavour;
cleave our darkness with thy sword;
feed thy people's hungry spirits
with the richness of thy word:
cleanse the body of this nation
through the glory of the Lord.

Dismissal

With love and compassion,
come, Lord Jesus.

With judgement and mercy,
come, Lord Jesus.

In power and glory,
come, Lord Jesus.

In wisdom and truth,
come, Lord Jesus.

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Message of thanks: Rhian Dodds would like to thank everyone for their kind words, cards and messages of love and support over the past few weeks.

Eco Tip for Advent Sunday: Consider buying someone membership of a wildlife charity as a Christmas gift - e.g. RSPB, WWF, Marine Conservation Trust, Bumblebee Conservation Trust or something from their catalogues, you'll be giving God's creation a gift too!



Due to the virus, we were unable to do our annual envelope collection this year. Christian Aid are asking for help and if you would like to make a donation please call 020 7523 2269 quoting A035713 or online at: CAID.org.uk/neighbours
Thank you. Missions Committee

The Food Bank are always grateful for donations:-and would appreciate receiving gifts of biscuits, tinned fish, UHT or dried milk, tinned or dried potatoes. We do have large stocks of pasta, soup and beans.

Update from the Foodbank warehouse this week: We would be very grateful to receive tinned ham, tinned fruit, long life juice and UHT milk.

On **Sunday 6th December at 11.15am**, we hope to run **Messy Church in the Church hall**. This will be an **hour** session. Sadly we will not be able to serve a meal but families are welcome to bring their own snacks and drinks. There will be craft, activities **and worship and it will be our annual Christingle session, thinking about Jesus coming into the world at Christmas**. Each bubble will have their own table with all the materials they need for the session. All welcome, but we will need you to book in before the session. If you are unable to attend, but would still like the materials to hold your own Christingle at home, please let Emma Wilkinson know via the church email or on 07836 749283.



New toys needed: Home Start are collecting new toys for Christmas presents for families who are struggling. If you would like to give a present with a real purpose, please bring new UNWRAPPED presents to the rectory by Sunday 6th December. If we are open for worship on in church on Sunday you can bring them there on that day as well.

Hidden Humour

(I couldn't find a decent joke about Advent so here is one about Zoom meetings)

An Englishman, a Frenchman, a Spaniard, and a Dutchman are all on a zoom call with their boss. Their boss asks Can you see me? and they respond

Yes
Oui
Si
Ja



You will have seen in the Christmas worship details that we are once again pleased to offer free entry to the Tree Festival. However we are encouraging donations and will have a contactless card reader in place to allow people to make a donation of £5 or £10 by waving their card or any other amount by pushing a button first.



The Advent Festival of Carols will hopefully be on **Sunday 13th December at 6pm. Do join us in church for this really wonderful service!**

Advent Stone Trail

Draw or paint a picture (with acrylic paint/nail varnish/sharpeners) from the Advent Stone Trail we journey through the donkey towards Christmas Day. Not just for children!!

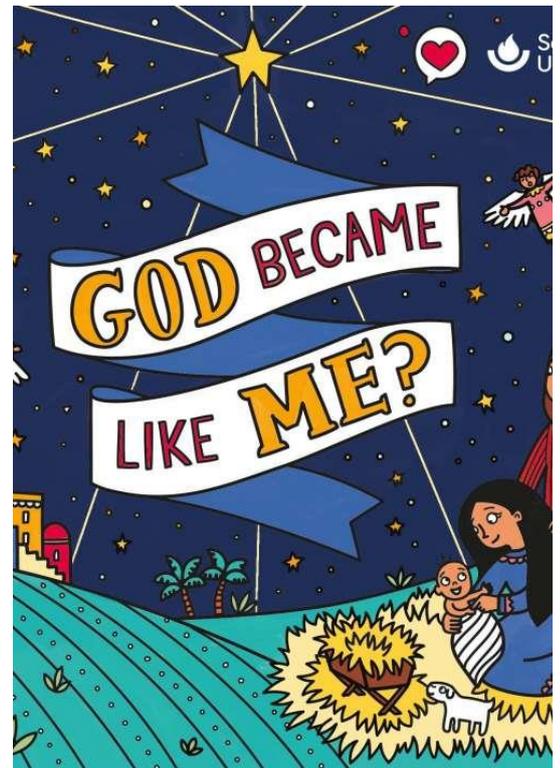


(with acrylic paint/nail varnish/sharpeners) the Christmas story and join in alongside St Mary's church as Advent with Mary, Joseph and celebrating the birth of Jesus on

More info from Katrina

The Tuesday Home Group is meeting on Tuesday 8th December for a chat and communion in church followed by a trip to the pub. Let Andrew know if you would like to come.

We are using the tree festival as our main way of communicating the Christian Christmas message to as many people as possible. There will be opportunities to ponder on the wonder of God sending his son to be born in a stable in poverty, as well as opportunities to light candles and pray for a variety of topics from creation to thinking about the people we love en route. The programme will have a few simple prayers and words of scripture on it and we will have inspirational readings and prayers read aloud at intervals as people enjoy the trees. As people leave we will offer them information about the Church and for children, a lovely little booklet (see picture) with the Christian story. We have ordered 500 of these. If you would like to help pay for them, it would be a wonderful way of adding meaning to your celebrations which are going to be so different this year.



If you have not yet made a will please consider doing so. It makes life so much easier for those who have to sort things out after you enter the fullness of the Kingdom of God! And if you have or are in the middle of doing so, have you thought of leaving a legacy to St Mary's or St Margaret of Antioch in your will. This year we have once again been promised substantial money in this way. We often try to use part of it to remember to person who has died. Speak to Andrew if you would like more details of how to do this.



This year might be a good year to send more Christmas cards than usual to make contact with people who are isolated. However we will have our usual option of a board in church for those who want to make a donation to their favourite charity instead.

Christmas Worship (Lockdown permitting!):



You'll need to book in advance for most of these to ensure a place.

To book a seat on any Christmas Eve worship or a time to visit the Christmas Tree Festival Worship visit our website: www.stmarysbaldock.org.uk or baldockbenefice@gmail.com or (if you do not have internet access), call the Parish Office 892838.

We anticipate a big response so advise you to book in good time. The booking for the general public opens on Sunday 29th November but the systems will be up and running a few days before if you want priority booking.

Christmas Tree Festival Worship FREE ENTRY



Fri 18th Dec: 5pm – 8pm

Sat 19th Dec: 11am – 7pm

Sun 20th Dec: 2pm – 6pm

Book online and arrive in your five minute time slot (alone or in a bubble of up to six). Follow a safe route around the church, whilst listening to festive music, engaging with the Christmas story and more...

WE'LL NEED YOUR HELP! Today we have our rota available to help man the festival. Please sign up for one or two slots as soon as possible:

https://doodle.com/poll/2znzdpzt5wptcsba?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link

Can you decorate a tree for the festival? It would be good to get as many church trees as possible.

There is a simple communion service at 12pm on Christmas Eve (no need to book)

Christmas Eve Crib Services 2pm and 4pm

Come dressed in your favourite Nativity costume, candles and a Christmas message. A different format from usual but hopefully still the same wonder!

Bygrave Christmas Eve Carols on Wedon Way field

6pm *(no need to book) Socially distanced carols, bonfire and Christmas message.*

Christmas Concert 7pm

Christmas readings and prayers, carols and anthem sung by the choir and a Christmas message



Christmas Day Communion 9am

Christmas Day Zoom Worship 10.15am

No need to book for Christmas Day worship

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

SUNDAY 29 th		<i>Advent Sunday</i>
Nov	8.40am	Andrew saying Morning Prayer in church
	10.15am	Morning Worship on Zoom
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
Mon 30 th		<i>Andrew the Apostle</i>
	8.40am	Andrew saying Morning Prayer in church
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
Tues 1 st	8.40am	Andrew saying Morning Prayer in church
Dec	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
Wed 2 nd		
	8.40am	Andrew saying Morning Prayer in church
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
Thurs 3 rd		
	8.40am	Morning Prayer - ALL WELCOME
	10.30am	Thursday Home Group on Zoom (contact Katrina)
	12.00pm	Communion in church - ALL WELCOME
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
Fri 4 th	INSET day for Church schools	
Sat 5 th		
	9.30am	Morning Prayer in church
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom and in church
SUNDAY 6 th		<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>
Dec	8.00am	Morning Prayer in church
	9.00am	Parish Communion in church
	10.15am	Morning Worship on Zoom
	11.15am	Messy Church in Church Hall
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom

And what I say to you I say to all: "Keep awake."

Rev'd Canon Andrew Holford: 01462 896273 2008luddite@gmail.com

Lay Minister: Katrina Nice: kmnice2013@gmail.com / 07708 064294

Alex Milne – Hall Hire: baldockbenefice@gmail.com / 01462 896149

Church email: baldockbenefice@gmail.com; Website: www.stmarysbaldock.org.uk

Next week's readings: Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85, 2 Peter 3: 8-15a, Mark 1: 1-8