



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



“BUILDING WITH CHRIST”

**3rd Sunday of Advent
Worship on Sunday 13th December**

9am Parish Communion in church

Share in the sacrament of communion. Enjoy the choir. Wear a mask unless you are exempt. We are delighted to be able to offer physical worship together.

10.15am Zoom Morning Worship

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

Meeting ID: 858 6513 7528

Passcode: 827152

11.15am Family Worship at Bygrave

Worship planned to engage all ages. Wear a mask unless you are exempt.

6pm Advent Carol service in church



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.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188370718?pwd=MVVDelNMbEppRldBYnFpN0NwTlhhQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 8837 0718

Passcode: 188423

*Morning Prayer will be said most days in church, usually at 8.40am.
You are also warmly invited to join in*

If you are aware of anyone who is unable to get food or medication etc, or people who are facing extra stress and anxiety 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.

Prayers and readings for this Sunday

Hymn 295 How lovely on the mountains

How lovely on the mountains
are the feet of him
who brings good news, good news,
announcing peace, proclaiming
news of happiness:
our God reigns; our God reigns.
Our God reigns (x4)

You watchmen, lift your voices
joyfully as one,
shout for your King, your King!
See eye to eye, the Lord restoring Zion:
our God reigns, our God reigns.
Our God reigns (x4)

Wastelands of Jerusalem, break forth with joy!
We are redeemed, redeemed.
The Lord has saved and comforted his people:
our God reigns, our God reigns.
Our God reigns (x4)
Ends of the earth, see the salvation of our God.
Jesus is Lord, is Lord!
Before the nations, he has bared his holy arm:
Our God reigns, our God reigns.
Our God reigns (x4)

The Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 61: 1-4,8-end,

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁸ For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Psalm 126

When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion:
Then were we like men restored to life.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter:
And our tongue with singing.
Then said they among the heathen:
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
Truly the Lord has done great things for us:
And therefore we rejoiced.
Turn again our fortunes O Lord:
As the streams return to the dry south.
Those that sew in tears:

NOT USED AT 10.15am ZOOM WORSHIP

Shall reap with songs of joy.
He who goes out weeping bearing the seed:
Shall come again in gladness
Bringing his sheaves with him.

Glory to the Father and to the Son:
And to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning is now:
And shall be forever. Amen

NOT USED AT 10.15am ZOOM WORSHIP

The New Testament Reading I Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²² abstain from every form of evil. ²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Gospel John 1: 6-8, 19-28

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' ²¹ And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' ²² Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' ²³ He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' ²⁶ John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This week, please remember in your prayers these areas of our parish:
Hillcrest, Page Close, Woodland Way, Temple Court, Chiltern Road, Beech Ridge

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, Brenda Copsey, Alan Russell, Mary Muir, Agnes (Agnes's Mum)

Those who have died recently

Iris Smith, Sylvia McGill

Those whose anniversary of death is remembered this week

Michael Crossley, Ada Clowes, Baby William Welch, Ron Page, Robin Upton,
Gladys Winter, Freda Wilkinson, Ernest Jackson

Hymn 557 People look East

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth, and set the table.

*People, look east, and sing today:
love the guest, is on the way.*

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is
bare,

one more seed is planted there:

Give up your strength the seed to
nourish,

that in course the flower may flourish.

*People, look east, and sing today:
love, the rose, is on the way.*

Birds, though ye long have ceased to
build,

guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
he for fledging-time has chosen.
*People, look east, and sing today:
love the bird, is on the way.*

Stars, keep the watch. When night is
dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
*People, look east and sing today:
love the star, is on the way.*

Angels, announce to man and beast
him who cometh from the east.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
*People, look east and sing today:
love the lord, is on the way.*

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Amen



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.

Eco Tip for Advent 3 : If you still haven't got a Christmas Tree, did you know you can hire one? It is dug up, you have it on your house over Christmas and then it goes back and is replanted for next year!

Hidden Humour

Q: Why are reindeer allowed to travel around the world on Christmas Eve?

A: They have herd immunity

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 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/sharpiers) from the Christmas story and join in the Advent Stone Trail alongside St Mary's church as we journey through Advent with Mary, Joseph and the donkey towards celebrating the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.

Not just for children!! More info from Katrina



Christmas Carol Jazz Special

Many of you may remember Paul and Wendy's son Jon Herring who came with Roots of Jazz to give one of the most amazing concerts St Mary's has hosted (back in the days when we could go to concerts!) They have done a Christmas carol jazz special, which you will enjoy. Do share it with your friends as well.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDIlbti9k4KH7TAjwgCkDrw?view_as=subscriber

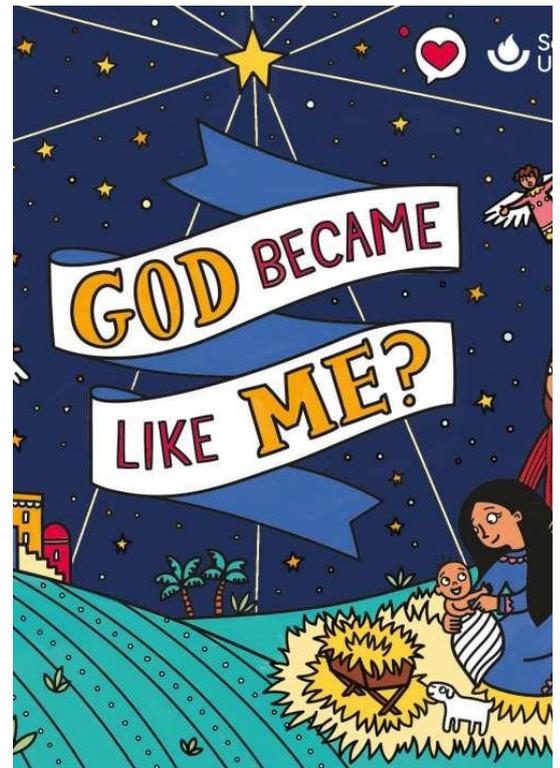
John 1 v4-5: In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Big Walk for Shelter

Maggie and Laurie Browne completed the 10km Big Walk to help raise money for the charity **Shelter** on Dec 10th. Please sponsor them if you haven't already and help them to raise much needed funds for this extremely worthwhile charity.

<https://thebigwalk.shelter.org.uk/fundraising/walking-for-charities>

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.



There will be a **quiet communion service at 9.30am on Christmas Eve** for those who want something a bit different from the rest of the Christmas service, or for those who want space to prepare.

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.



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes: Thank you to everyone who donated a shoebox full of toys. We contributed 20 boxes between both churches.

Postage stamps for RNIB: Just a reminder that we are still collecting stamps in the box at the back of church. Thank you for continuing to support this charity throughout the year. This has enabled us to send several parcels of stamps for which they are very grateful. Missions Committee.

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.

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 6). 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!

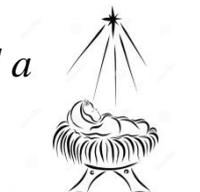
Bygrave Christmas Eve Carols on Wedon Way field

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 13th		<i>3rd 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	Family Service at Bygrave
	4.30pm	Community Sponsorship Team Meeting
	6.00pm	Advent Festival of Carols in church
Mon 14th		<i>John of the Cross, poet, teacher of the faith, 1591</i>
	8.40am	Morning Prayer in church
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
	8.00pm	Monday Home Group (contact Emma)
Tues 15th		
	8.40am	Morning Prayer in church
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
Wed 16th		
	8.40am	Morning Prayer in church
	9.30am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Interment of ashes of Vera Allsop
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom and in church
Thurs 17th		
	8.40am	Morning Prayer in church
	10.30am	Thursday Home Group on Zoom (contact Katrina)
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
Fri 18th		
	5pm – 8pm	Christmas Tree Festival Worship open
Sat 19th		
	9.30am	Morning Prayer in church
	11am – 7pm	Christmas Tree Festival Worship open
SUNDAY 20th		<i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>
Dec	8.00am	Morning Prayer in church
	9.00am	Parish Communion in church
	10.15am	Morning Worship on Zoom
	2pm – 6pm	Christmas Tree Festival Worship open
	6.00pm	Advent Festival of Carols in church

Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of Christ Jesus for you.

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: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11. 16; Psalm 89; Romans 16: 25-end; Luke 1: 26-38