



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



*“BUILDING WITH CHRIST”*

## I<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas Worship on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 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**

**6pm**

### **Zoom Evening Prayer**

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

**Meeting ID: 811 8837 0718**

**Passcode: 188423**



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.

Christmas Tree Festival Worship Thanks – thank you to everyone who supported the event last weekend. It was a resounding success and wonderful to offer something positive to our community at this difficult time. We raised about £900 for the work of the church in the process!

Evening 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=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.*

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## **Prayers and readings for this Sunday**

### **Hymn 641 The first Nowell**

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel!*

They lookèd up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

This star drew nigh to the north-west:  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full rev'rently upon their knee,  
and offered there, in his presence,  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heav'nly Lord  
who with the Father we adore  
and Spirit blest for evermore. [Refrain]

## The Collect

Merciful Lord,  
cast your bright beams of light upon the Church:  
that, being enlightened by the teaching  
of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John,  
we may so walk in the light of your truth  
that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

NOT USED AT  
OUR WORSHIP

## The Old Testament Reading Exodus 33:7-11a

<sup>7</sup>Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. <sup>8</sup>Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each of them, at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. <sup>9</sup>When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. <sup>10</sup>When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise and bow down, all of them, at the entrance of their tents. <sup>11</sup>Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

NOT USED AT 10.15am  
ZOOM WORSHIP

## Psalm 117

Praise your Maker, all you nations; and extol him, all you people.  
Everlasting is God's favour; strong and constant love surrounds us.

Praise the Lord! Alleluia! Amen!

## The New Testament Reading I John I

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – <sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us – <sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

### Hymn 745 While shepherds watched

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down  
and glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he - for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind -  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind:

'To you in David's town this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.  
And this shall be the sign:

'The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands  
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
goodwill henceforth from highest heaven  
begin and never cease!'

## **The Gospel John 21:19b-end**

<sup>19</sup>After this Jesus said to Peter, 'Follow me.' <sup>20</sup>Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, 'Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?' <sup>21</sup>When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, 'Lord, what about him?' <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!' <sup>23</sup>So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?' <sup>24</sup>This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. <sup>25</sup>But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

This week, please remember in your prayers these areas of our parish:  
Football Close, Icknield Court, Laurel Mews, Pryors Court, Icknield Way East,  
Icknield Way

Those in need of healing:

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

Those who have died recently  
Ralph Maytum, Agnes' mum (Agnes).

Those whose anniversary of death is remembered this week  
Jake Chapman, John Newman, Florrie Rogers, Hettie Darts, Jean Mitchell, Rose Bunker,  
Pam Jolley, Edna Page

## **Choir Anthem: Of the Father's love begotten (Hymn 486)**

Of the Father's love begotten,  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, and have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.

At his word they were created;  
he commanded; it was done:  
heav'n and earth and depths of ocean  
in their threefold order one;  
all that grows beneath the shining  
of the light of moon and sun,  
evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessèd,  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Saviour of our race;  
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav'n, adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing:  
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
ev'ry voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore.

## Post Communion

Grant, O Lord, we pray,  
that the Word made flesh  
proclaimed by your apostle John  
may, by the celebration of these holy mysteries,  
ever abide and live within us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Hymn 229 God rest you merry gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay,  
for Jesus Christ, our Saviour  
was born on Christmas day,  
to save us all from Satan's pow'r  
when we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

In Bethlehem, in Jury,  
this blessèd babe was born,  
and laid within a manger,  
upon this blessèd morn;  
at which his mother Mary  
did nothing take in scorn. [Refrain]

From God, our heav'nly Father  
a blessed Angel came,  
and unto certain Shepherds  
brought tidings of the same,  
how that in Bethlehem was born  
the Son of God by name. [Refrain]  
'Fear not', then said the Angel,  
'let nothing you affright,

this day is born a Saviour,  
of virtue, pow'r and might;  
by him the world is overcome  
and Satan put to flight,' [Refrain]

The Shepherds at those tidings  
rejoicèd much in mind,  
and left their flocks a feeding,  
in tempest, storm and wind,  
and went to Bethlehem straightway,  
this blessèd babe to find. [Refrain]

But when to Bethlehem they came,  
whereat this infant lay,  
they found him in a manger,  
where oxen feed on hay;  
his mother Mary kneeling  
unto the Lord did pray. [Refrain]

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and fellowship  
each other now embrace;  
this holy tide of Christmas  
all others doth deface. [Refrain]

Andrew and Helen wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and a New Year based on the sure hope of Jesus Christ who was born a human being to come close and share life in all its glory and pain. Thank you very much for all your cards and good wishes. We feel very blessed to be part of such a warm community.

**Eco Tip for Christmas I:** As a new year dawns, may we as Christians care more deeply for all God's creation and have the courage to act through his Holy Spirit to bring renewal and hope to a wounded world.

### Hidden Humour

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Thanks to Nadine Fafard (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-24-2001

THAT'S THE BEST ONE-STAR HOTEL THAT I'VE EVER SEEN

**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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDIlbti9k4KH7TAjwgCkDrw?view_as=subscriber)

**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.

On **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 11.15am, Messy Church will take place 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. 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. Please let Emma Wilkinson know via the church email or on 07836 749283.



# WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

SUNDAY 27 <sup>th</sup>		<i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas / John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>
Dec	8.00am	Morning Prayer in church
	9.00am	Parish Communion in church
	10.15am	Morning Worship on Zoom
	11.15am	Parish Communion at Bygrave
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup>		<i>The Holy Innocents</i>
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
	8.00pm	Monday Home Group (contact Emma)
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup>		<i>Thomas Becket, archbishop, martyr, 1170</i>
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup>	8.40am	Morning Prayer in church
	9.30am	Holy Communion
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
Thu 31 <sup>st</sup>	8.40am	Morning Prayer in church
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup>		<i>Naming and Circumcision of Jesus</i>
Jan 2021	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>		<i>Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops, teachers of the faith, 379 and 389</i>
	9.30am	Morning Prayer in church
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom and in church
SUNDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup>		<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas</i>
Jan	8.00am	Morning Prayer in church
	9.00am	Parish Communion in church
	10.15am	Morning Worship on Zoom
	11.15am	Messy Church in hall
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom

Jesus said to Peter, 'Follow me.'

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Next week's readings: Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Ecclesiasticus 24:1-12; Psalm 147, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1: [1-9] 10-18