



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



“BUILDING WITH CHRIST”

2nd Sunday of Advent Worship on Sunday 6th 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

Messy Church in church hall



Sit at a table with your bubble. Make your own Christingle. Crafts, activities and worship. Wear a mask unless you are exempt. Bring your food to eat if you wish. Book a table beforehand (07836 749283).

6pm

Zoom Evening Prayer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188370718?pwd=MVVDelNMbEppRldBYnFpN0NwTIhhQT09>

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.

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.

Prayers and readings for this Sunday

Hymn 527 On Jordan's bank

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be ev'ry breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

To heal the sick, stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Beatitudes

Let us hear our Lord's blessing on those who follow him.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Collect

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

Amen

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' ⁶ A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. ⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' ¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Ps 85: 1-2, 8-13

- 1 Lord, you were gracious to your land; ♦
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 2 You forgave the offence of your people ♦
and covered all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God will say, ♦
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,
that they turn not again to folly.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, ♦
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth are met together, ♦
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth ♦
and righteousness look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed give all that is good, ♦
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him ♦
and direct his steps in the way.

The New Testament Reading 2 Peter 3: 8-15a

⁸ But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³ But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Gospel Mark I: 1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight”’, ⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

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

Barley Rise, Chauncy Gardens, Maltings Close, Yeomanry Drive, Clothall Corner

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

Arthur Harris, William Stewart, Clifford Gibson, Clarice Thornton, Keith Blackburn, Dorothy Banks.

Choir Anthem: O comfort my people (Hymn 481)

O comfort my people
and calm all their fear,
and tell them the time
of salvation draws near.
O tell them I come
to remove all their shame.
Then they will, forever,
give praise to my name.

Proclaim to the cities
of Judah my word;
that “gentle yet strong
is the hand of the Lord”.
I rescue the captives,
my people defend,
and bring them to justice
and joy without end.

All mountains and hills
shall become as a plain,
for vanished are mourning
and hunger and pain.
And never again shall
these war against you.
Behold I come quickly
to make all things new.

Hymn 282 Hills of the north

Hills of the north, rejoice,
echoing songs arise,
hail with united voice;
him who made earth and skies:
he comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.

Isles of the southern seas,
sing to the list'ning earth,
carry on ev'ry breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
in Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the east, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
the God whom you have longed to know
in Christ draws near and calls you now.

Shores of the utmost west,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heav'nly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey on,
songs be in ev'ry mouth,
lo, from the north they come,
from east and west and south:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the longing earth be blest.

Post Communion

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Eco Tip for Advent 2: Try to avoid shiny or glittery wrapping paper - it will have plastic in it and can't be recycled! Use ribbon or string to tie up presents rather than masses of sticky tape.



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 will have Messy Church in the Church hall.** More info is on the front of the pewsheet. 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.



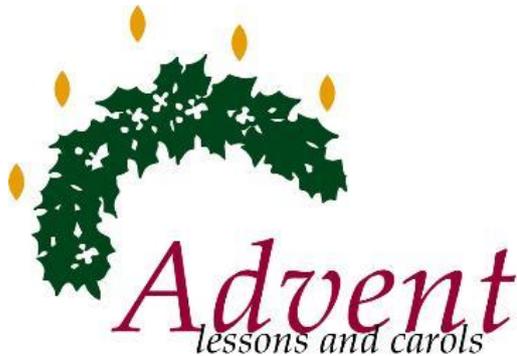
New toys needed: Home Start are collecting new toys for Christmas presents for families who are struggling. If you would like to give a present with a real purpose, please bring new UNWRAPPED presents to the rectory by Sunday 6th December or bring them to church on the Sunday.

Hidden Humour

A woman was pacing back and forth in the hall of their house. She glanced at her watch, frowned and called grumpily, "Aren't you ready yet? We're going to be late for the film."

Shouting back, her husband replied, "For crying out loud, I've been telling you for the last half hour that I'll be ready in a minute!"

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/sharpeners) 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



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

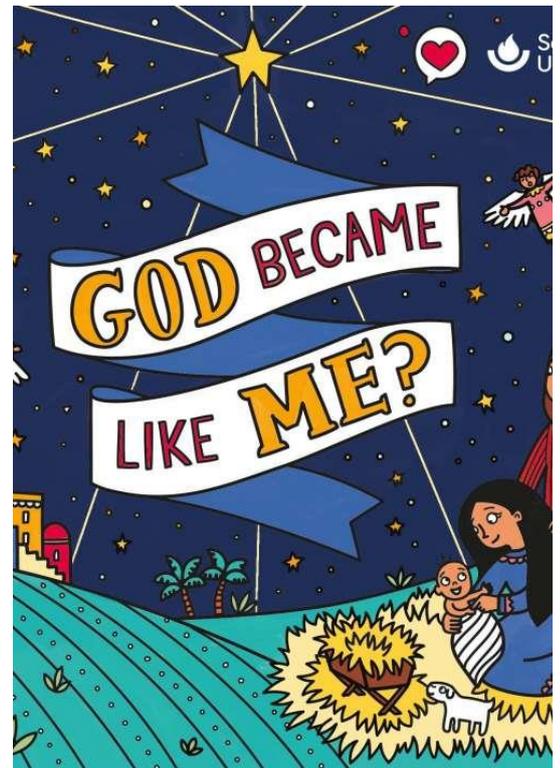
There will be a quiet communion service at 9.30am on Christmas Eve for those who want something a bit different from the rest of the Christmas service, or for those who want space to prepare.

The Big Walk for Shelter

Maggie and Laurie Browne are doing the 10km Big Walk to help raise money for the charity **Shelter** on Dec 10th. Please sponsor them if you can 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.



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.

Next week's readings: Isaiah 61: 1-4,8-end, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1: 6-8, 19-28

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 6th		<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
Mon 7th		<i>Ambrose, bishop, teacher of the faith, 397</i>
	8.40am	Morning Prayer in church
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
	8.00pm	Monday Home Group (contact Emma)
Tues 8th		<i>Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
	8.40am	Morning Prayer in church
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
	7.30pm	Tuesday Home Group Communion service in church – All welcome
Wed 9th		<i>Ember Day</i>
	8.40am	Morning Prayer in church
	9.30am	Holy Communion
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom and in church
Thurs 10th		
	8.40am	Morning Prayer in church
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
Fri 11th		<i>Ember Day</i>
Sat 12th		<i>Ember Day</i>
	9.30am	Morning Prayer in church
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom and in church
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

What sort of person ought you to be in leading live of holiness and godliness.

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

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