



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



“BUILDING WITH CHRIST”

First Sunday of Lent Worship on Sunday 21st February 2021

9am

Parish Communion in church

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

To take part in Parish Communion online either at 9am on Sunday or at any time during the following week, click on this link:

<https://youtu.be/1D4Kh8seNxU>



10.15am

Zoom Morning Worship

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

Meeting ID: 858 6513 7528

Passcode: 827152

11.15am

Messy Zoom

Activities, prayers and a bible story based around Jesus' temptations in the wilderness and the 40 days of Lent

6pm

Zoom Evening Prayer

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

Meeting ID: 811 8837 0718

Passcode: 188423

Question for the week:

What can you point to that demonstrates your shared community, not just with other human beings but with God the creator and his sharing Son?

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=MVVDeINMbEppRldBYnFpN0NwTlhhQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 8837 0718

Passcode: 188423

*Morning Prayer and some Evening Prayer will be said in church, usually at 8.40am.
You are also warmly invited to join in. See Week at a Glance for days and times*

The Church is open Monday – Saturday at roughly 9am - 3.30pm for private prayer.



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. And our children and young people meet most Sunday evening for a Zoom session. Get in touch for more details.

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 190 Forty days and forty nights

Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights,
tempted still, yet unbeguiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day,
chilly dew-drops nightly shed,
prowling beasts about your way,
stones your pillow, earth your bed.

Let us your endurance share,
and from earthly greed abstain,
with you vigilant in prayer,
with you strong to suffer pain.

Then if evil on us press,
flesh or spirit to assail,
Victor in the wilderness,
help us not to swerve or fail.

So shall peace divine be ours;
holy gladness, pure and true:
come to us, angelic powers,
such as ministered to you.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear
at th'eternal Eastertide.

The Collect

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Old Testament Reading Genesis 9:8-17

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ ¹²God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’ ¹⁷God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

Psalms 25 1-6

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust; **let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me.** ◆
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame, **but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.** ◆
- 3 Make me to know your ways, O Lord, **and teach me your paths.** ◆
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, **for you are the God of my salvation; for you have I hoped all the day long.** ◆
- 5 Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, **for they are from everlasting.** ◆
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, **but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love.** ◆

The New Testament Reading I Peter 3, 18-end

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Gospel Mark 1:9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’ ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

This week, please remember in your prayers these areas of our parish:
Coachmans Lane, Hadrian Way, Hopewell Road, Pepys Way, Letchworth Road,
Burleigh House

Those in need of healing:

Paula Conder, Jeanette Jackson, Penny and Douglas Mitchell, Olive Elves, Peter Harris, Oliver Britton, Anne England, Martin Reed, Martyn Gray, Ron Crumpholt, Dick Haynes, Mary Muir, Alan Russell, Stefano Di Lello, Margaret Arthur, Tracy Copping, David Dane, Karen Kynman, Brenda Copsey.

Those who have died recently

Maggie Hodges, Betty Stryjski

Those whose anniversary of death is remembered this week

Ernest Nicols, Norma Munson, Fred Coates, Tina Nash, Ken King, Peter Lilley, William Palmer, Frederick Arbury, Rose Morrison

Hymn 409 Lord for the years

Lord for the years
your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us,
cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us,
pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years,
we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word,
the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts
and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains,
rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word,
receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land
in this our generation,
spirits oppressed my pleasure,
wealth and care:
for young and old,
for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land,
be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world;
when we discern and doubt you,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless,
lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world,
we pray that Christ may reign.

Post communion

Lord God,
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,

and enable us to live by every word
that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Real Easter Eggs (see attached info): If you want to buy a Real Easter Egg, an Easter Egg with a Christian meaning this year from the Meaningful Chocolate Company, order them by emailing baldockbenefice@gmail.com before 1st March. Each fairtrade egg comes with an Easter Story activity booklet. **They will not be available in supermarkets this year.** You can choose between: The original £4.50; Dark Chocolate £5.50; Fun pack £5.00 (6 milk smaller eggs) Special edition £9.99 (luxury egg plus olive wood cross and orange milk chocolate bar)

Eco Tip for Lent I: When you are tempted to buy something new, pause a few seconds and think if it is really necessary. You could be about to save yourself money and the world of more material things if you say no.

Hidden Humour

Most people would like to be delivered from temptation but would like it to keep in touch.

The New 2021 cycle of prayer is available today. Lots of people use it and find it very helpful in their daily prayers.

Bird Spotting and Bird Feeder Competition: St Mary's Eco Church Group have set up a bird spotting and bird feeder competition for everybody to enter. More details will be circulated with this News Sheet and there is also a poster on the church notice board advertising it. This is the first of a series of initiatives to increase and improve our involvement with our beautiful, natural world, helping us to build towards a more sustainable future. Do spread the word and join in!

Hazel and Martin Frost's latest newsletter will be circulated with this News Sheet.

Next week's readings: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-end, Romans 4:13-end, Mark 8:31-end)

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The next Baldock PCC Standing Committee is on Mon 1 st March at 7.30pm on Zoom.
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Andrew is leading a **Lent Group focusing on prayer**. This will run on Thursdays at 7.30pm on Zoom.

We will take a different question each week, relate it to the bible and our own experience and involve various different types of prayer over the course. Each week will stand alone, you can opt in and out as you wish. The attached flyer has more information but the themes are:

1. Does God answer prayer?
2. What's the point in praying?
3. Should I pray for things I want?
4. Is prayer hard work?
5. What does the Holy Spirit do?
6. The Lord's Prayer



To join us, the Zoom link is below:

Topic: Prayer - a conversation with God?

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85185425495?pwd=aUZwNXRLQjJzMlI6bGtZNXErdnFZdz09>

Meeting ID: 851 8542 5495 Passcode: 559388

Lent Books: There's still plenty of time to choose a Lent book. See the list that came out last week.



Lent 2021 is a bit different from most years because many of us have commented that we feel as if most of the last year has been rather Lenten! It may be that you are not in the right place to give up hosts of things and to try to be very penitential at the moment?

Because of this, my advice is to focus more of positively following Jesus and trying to discern what he is calling to you to do rather than negatively giving something up.

If my sermon last weekend has disappeared into the deeper recesses of your subconscious nevermore to reappear (be honest!) here are the three questions I invited you to think about. You may find it helpful to make them your own questions this Lent.

1. How do you delight in creation and what effect does it have on the decisions you make in life?
2. How do you express your love for all humanity rather than just the people close to you?
3. What can you point to that demonstrates your shared community, not just with other human beings but with God the creator and his sharing Son?

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

SUNDAY 21 st	<i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	
	8.00am	Morning Prayer in church
	9.00am	Parish Communion
	10.15am	Morning Worship on Zoom
	11.15am	Messy church on Zoom
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
Mon 22 nd	8.40am	Morning Prayer in church
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
	7.30pm	United Almshouses Trustees meeting on Zoom
	8.00pm	Monday Home Group on Zoom (contact Emma)
Tues 23 rd	<i>Polycarp, bishop, martyr, c.155</i>	
	8.40am	Morning Prayer in church
	2.00pm	Silent Prayer on Zoom (contact Katrina)
	2.45pm	Funeral of Maggie Hodges RIP
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
Wed 24 th	8.40am	Morning Prayer in church <i>Ember Day</i>
	9.30am	Holy Communion
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer in church and on Zoom
Thurs 25 th	8.40am	Morning Prayer in church
	10.30am	Thursday Home Group on Zoom (contact Katrina)
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
	7.30pm	Lent Prayer Group on Zoom: What's the point in praying? (<i>Contemplative Prayer</i>)
Fri 26 th	11.00am	Funeral of Betty Stryjski RIP <i>Ember Day</i>
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
Sat 27 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer in church
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom and in church
SUNDAY 28 th	<i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	
	8.00am	Morning Prayer in church
	9.00am	Parish Communion in church (<i>for streaming info, see p1</i>)
	10.15am	Morning Worship on Zoom
	11.15am	Parish Communion at Bygrave
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom

¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' ¹⁷God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

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