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

*“BUILDING WITH CHRIST”*

Third Sunday of Advent

Worship on Sunday 12th December 2021

**PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE TO THOSE AROUND YOU AND WEAR A FACE COVERING WHILST IN CHURCH - THANK YOU**

**8am****Communion (traditional words)**

*A simple peaceful start to the day! The service will takes place at the High Altar.*

**9.30am****Parish Communion and Junior Church**

Today we light the third candle on our Advent Ring as we wait for the
coming of Jesus. We discover more about the message of John the
Baptist and open our hearts and lives to Jesus as we share hi communion
together. Children will be practising for the Nativity play.
*We have designated the south aisle for those who wish to be cautious.*

If you do not wish to be visible on the streaming service please sit in the north aisle of the church nearest the organ.
The camera does not capture anyone receiving communion.

**Share in Parish Communion in your own home**

Take part in Parish Communion online either at 9.30am on Sunday or any time during the following week, click on this link: <https://youtu.be/3xQNIkZ5m1w>

**11.00am****Family Worship at Bygrave**

Join us as we have a special Advent service. Activities for all ages!

*Morning and Evening prayer are said nearly every day in church.
See Week at a Glance for details and times.*

*Evening Prayer is Zoomed on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday (use the link below).*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81188370718?pwd=MVVDelNMbEppRldBYnFpN0NwT1hhQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 8837 0718 Passcode: 188423

*You are warmly invited to join the group of people who find this a valuable anchor for the day.*

**Next Sunday’s worship (19th December)**

*7.20am Morning Prayer in church*

8.00am Holy Communion (traditional words)

9.30am Communion for All Ages and Nativity Play

6.00pm Candlelit Service of Nine lessons and carols
 *followed by mulled drink and mince pies*

Please note. The Communion Service for the Epiphany on Sunday 2nd January 2022 will be at the slightly later time of **10am**. It will be a Messy Communion Service and will be followed by bacon butties.

**Prayers and readings for this Sunday**

**Hymns:**

480 O come O come Emmanuel
128 Come thou long expected Jesus
272 Heaven shall not wait
 Longing for light

**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**

**Canticle: Isaiah 12**

*Praise the Holy One! Praise the Holy Name! (x4)*

On that day you will say, “I will praise you, Holy One. **You were angry with me but your wrath has ceased and you have shown mercy.** O my saving God! I will trust you without fear. **You are my strength and my song, my sure deliverer.”**

*Praise the Holy One! Praise the Holy Name! (x4)*

You shall draw water joyfully from the springs of deliverance. **You shall say on that day, “Praise the Holy One! Proclaim the Holy Name!** Make God’s work known to everyone! **Declare that the Holy Name is exalted.”**

*Praise the Holy One! Praise the Holy Name! (x4)*

Sing to the Holy One, who has done glorious things. **Let this be known to all the world.** Shout for joy, people of Jerusalem, **for the majesty of the Holy One of Israel is among you.**

*Praise the Holy One! Praise the Holy Name! (x4)*

**The New Testament Reading Philippians 4: 4 – 7**

**4**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. **5**Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. **6**Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7**And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**The Gospel Luke 3: 7 – 18**

**7**John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8**Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. **9**Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

**10**And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ **11**In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ **12**Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ **13**He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ **14**Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

**15**As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, **16**John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **17**His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’ **18**So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

Arlwood Mews, Riddell Gardens, Simpson Court, Simpson Drive, Thurnall Close, The Twitchell

Those in need of healing:

Paula Conder, Penny and Douglas Mitchell, Peter Harris, Oliver Britton, Martin Reed, David Dane, Alan Russell, Martyn Gray, Tracy Copping, Karen Kynman, Shaun Trussell, Jeanette Jackson, Sheila Wadsworth, Timothy Growns, Stuart Hodges, Peter Goodchild.

Those who have died recently:
Ivy Evens, Joyce Vine, John Gordon

Those whose anniversary of death is remembered this week

Keith Blackburn, Dorothy Banks, Michael Crossley, Ada Clowes, Baby William Welch, Ron Page, Robin Upton, Gladys Winter, Freda Wilkinson

**Choir Anthem: Come Lord Jesus (words and music by Oliver Tarney (b.1984).)**

**Post Communion**

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**

**Final Hymn Longing for Light**

Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to You.
Make us Your own, Your holy people
Light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. [Refrain]

Longing for food, many are hungry
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us Your bread, broken for others
Shared until all are fed. [Refrain]

Longing for shelter, many are homeless
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us Your building, sheltering others
Walls made of living stone. [Refrain]

Many the gift, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another
Making Your kingdom come. [Refrain]

**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 parcels of stamps for which they are very grateful. Missions Committee.

The St Mary’s Christmas card board will be open this Sunday. Put one card there for the whole congregation rather than sending separate cards to everyone and give the money you save to your favourite charity.

There will be a **quiet communion service at 12pm on Christmas Eve** to help prepare for the rather more exuberant services that follow! If are likely to come, please let Andrew know so he knows whether he will have a congregation!

**Christmas services**

We are planning for Christmas services to follow a normal pattern:

Sun 19th Dec Advent 4 9.30am Nativity Play and Communion for All Ages
6.00pm 9 lessons and carols
 followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Fri 24th Dec Christmas Eve 3.00pm Crib service
*(social distancing will not be possible at this service)*

6.00pm Carol Service at Bygrave
*(social distancing will not be possible at this service)*

 11.15pm Midnight Mass

Sat 25th Dec Christmas Day 8.00am Communion
9.30am Christmas Communion

**Messy Church** in **January** will be a **Messy Communion Service** and will take place **at the earlier time of 10am.** Join us in church with the rest of the congregation for what will be very much an all age service with lots of craft and activities and lots of time to worship together as the whole Church family. We’ll finish with sharing bread and wine or a blessing together (and then we’ll have bacon butties!)



**Tiny Tots!!**

Tiny Tots runs in church on Wednesdays at 10.30am. Do join us for Christian growth for pre-schoolers and companionship for adults!!

**MISSION 2022 - FAITH AND CLIMATE**

Around the Baldock Festival next year we hope each one of us will invite a friend or neighbour or a member of our family to an evening where we will hear how people’s Christian faith has influenced their views and the way they live their life combatting climate change. Who are you hoping to invite? Please start praying now!

Each evening will include a short talk, some questions and answers and some fringe events, to do with living sustainably. We hope to be providing light refreshments.

In the new year we will be inviting you to prepare by considering four questions:

1. How did you become a Christian?
2. Does the bible have anything to say about climate change?
3. What would you say if a friend asked you how your faith affects your views about climate change?
4. Who are you going to invite to the evenings?

So far we have two speakers:

* Phil Evans will be coming on Tuesday 26th April to speak about the vital work Christian Aid is doing to combat climate change and why he is part of it.
* John Cherry, local Christian farmer is coming on Wednesday 11th May to speak about the major festival he runs each year in Weston, called Groundswell which focusses on sustainable farming.
* We hope to have 2 more speakers



What to do now:

* Pray about who you might invite to an evening
* Think about your answers to the questions above
* If you would like to be involved in the planning or have good ideas of what you think should happen, please let Andrew know. We are meeting at 6.45pm on Sunday 12th Dec at the rectory (bread and cheese provided) All welcome.

The earth is the Lord’s and all that fills it.

*Psalm 24 verse 1*

**Mince pies:** If anyone is able to make or otherwise provide some mince pies for 9 lessons and carols on Sun 19th Dec, please let Andrew know.

**Planned Giving:** Thank you so much to everyone who has responded to the planned giving campaign. I’m delighted to say we have so far received increased pledges totalling a little over £220 per month. This is really encouraging considering the large increase in giving we were blessed with last year. However when reductions in giving are taken into account (due to people dying or moving away) much of this is used to make up the difference **Please send your response in as soon as possible if you have not already done so (even if there is no change) as it enables us to remove so much uncertainty in our budgeting.**

Home Group is operating on Monday evening at 8pm. The Thursday morning Home Group (at 10.30am) will restart in Lent (March) at the earliest. See Week at a Glance for dates.

**Eco Tip Advent 3:** Stop water freezing over completely in your pond, however big or small, by floating a tennis ball in it- the movement of the ball will help stop the top layer freezing but if it does, just remove the ball and you have an instant oxygen hole for fish and plants!

**Hidden Humour**

The Three Simple Things in This World That Give Me The Most Joy In This Life Are…

Eating Puppies and Not Using Commas Appropriately.

**Junior Choir**

Junior Choir runs each Wednesday 4pm – 4.45pm.
Please speak to Madeleine Middleton for more details.

Our

**Rector:** 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](http://www.stmarysbaldock.org.uk)

Next week’s readings: Micah 5:2-5a, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

**CCLI number: 752089**

**WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE**

SUNDAY 12th *3rd Sunday of Advent*7.20am Morning Prayer in church
8.00am Holy Communion (preacher: Katrina)
9.30am Parish Communion and Junior Church (Preacher: Katrina)

 11.00am Family Worship at Bygrave

3.00pm Baptism of Ava White

 6.00pm Evening Prayer in church

 6.45pm Planning meeting for parish Mission: Faith and Climate

Mon 13th *Lucy, martyr, 304*

8.40am Morning Prayer in church

5.00pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

7.30pm Knights Templar Carol Service

8.00pm Monday Home Group on Zoom (contact Emma)

Tues 14th *John of the Cross, poet, teacher of the faith,1591*

8.40am Morning Prayer in church

2.00pm Silent Prayer

5.00pm Evening Prayer in church

Wed 15th 8.40am Morning Prayer in church

9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Tiny Tots

1.30pm Thanksgiving Service for Ivy Evens (RIP) in church

4.00pm Junior choir

4.45pm Evening Prayer on Zoom
5.00pm Evening Prayer in church

Thurs 16th 8.40am Morning Prayer in church
5.00pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

 6.45pm Senior choir

Fri 17th 2:00pm Funeral of John Gordon RIP

Sat 18th 9.30am Morning Prayer in church

 11.00am Nativity Play rehearsal

5.00pm Evening Prayer in church

SUNDAY 19th *4th Sunday of Advent*7.20am Morning Prayer in church
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Communion for All Ages and Church Nativity Play

6.00pm Candlelit service of Nine Lessons and Carols (*followed by mulled drink and mince pies*)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.