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

*“BUILDING WITH CHRIST”*

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship on Sunday 19th December 2021

**FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT DIRECTION: YOU ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK UNLESS YOU ARE EXEMPT.**

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

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

**9.30am****Communion for All Ages and Nativity Play**

Join us for a very special morning as we worship together and look forward
with a child’s wonder to the extraordinary birth of the Son of God.
*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/ERnyYnjaJaA>

**6.00pm****Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**

Many people consider this to be the highlight of the year. We plan it to be a time for singing carols, and listening to traditional bible readings and some wonderful choir anthems to help us welcome Jesus Christ the Son of God, a baby in a cattle trough, into our hearts. We hope to serve mulled drink and mince pies after the service.

*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 Week’s highlights** *(for full details – see Week at a Glance)*

Christmas Eve

12.00pm A quiet service of Holy Communion

3.00pm Children’s Crib Service *(It will not be possible to socially distance)*

6.00pm Carol Service at Bygrave *(It will not be possible to socially distance)*

11.15pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion (traditional words)

9.30am Christmas Communion

Boxing Day

8.00am Holy Communion (traditional words)

9.30am Parish Christmas *A chance to sing carols!*

11.00am Parish Communion at Bygrave

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:**

634 The angel Gabriel
631 Tell out my soul (TBC)
243 Go tell it on the mountain

406 Long ago prophets knew

596 Silent night

641 The first nowell

**The Collect**

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**The Old Testament Reading Micah 5:2-5a**

The LORD says to his people:
2But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
3Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
4And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
5and he shall be the one of peace.

**The Gospel Luke 1:39-55**

39Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. 45And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

46And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, 47and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, 48for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

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

Park Close, Park Gardens, Mansfield Road, Walkers Court, Payens Corner, Elm Park.

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:
John Gordon, William Millett

Those whose anniversary of death is remembered this week

Ernest Jackson, Joyce Mullen, Doreen Thompson, Joe Crumpholt

**Post Communion**

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

Andrew and Helen would like to wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas. We are extremely grateful for all the love and support you have shown over the last year. In January we have to take several weeks off supporting family members and once again are very grateful to many of you for enabling this to happen.

**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

**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!! 

**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!)

**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.**

**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 three evenings planned:

* 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.
* On Ascension Day (Thursday May 26th) as part of our Communion Service we will be thinking about different views of what the bible says about Climate Change and God’s involvement with his wounded world. This is also Andrew’s 60th birthday so he hopes you will come and celebrate with him as well (possibly with something fizzy!)

What to do now:

* Pray about who you might invite to an evening
* Think about your answers to the questions above

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

*Psalm 24 verse 1*

**Junior Choir**

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

Our

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 4:** Try not to use rolls and rolls of sticky tape when you wrap presents – why not use ribbon (can be re-used later) or coloured string or wool? The planet will thank you for it!

**Hazel and Martin Frost’s latest Newsletter** will be circulated with this News Sheet.

**Hidden Humour**

How did Mary and Joseph know Jesus’ weight when he was born? They had a weigh in a manger…

**Peal of Bells**

There will be a full peal of bells on December 27th starting at 10am.

**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: 1 Samuel 2:18-20,26; Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-end

**CCLI number: 752089**

**WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE**

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*)

Mon 20th 8.40am Morning Prayer in church

11.00am Interment of Ron Crumpholt RIP
5.00pm Evening Prayer on Zoom and in church

8.00pm Monday Home Group on Zoom (contact Emma)

Tues 21st 8.40am Morning Prayer in church

 2.00pm Silent Prayer on Zoom (contact Katrina)

 5.00pm Evening Prayer in church

Wed 22nd 8.40am Morning Prayer in church

9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Tiny Tots

4.45pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

5.00pm Evening Prayer in church

Thurs 23rd 8.40am Morning Prayer in church
5.00pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

 6.45pm Senior choir

Fri 24th *Christmas Eve*

 8.40am Morning Prayer in church

12.00pm Holy Communion

3.00pm Crib Service

4.30pm Evening Prayer in church

6.00pm Carol Service at Bygrave

11.15pm Midnight Mass

Sat 25th *Christmas Day*

 7.20am Morning Prayer in church

 8.00am Holy Communion

 9.30am Christmas Communion

SUNDAY 26th  *Boxing Day St Stephen / 1st Sunday of Christmas*

 7.20am Morning Prayer in church
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion

 11.00am Communion at Bygrave

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.