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

*“BUILDING WITH CHRIST”*

Third Sunday of Lent

Worship on Sunday 20th March 2022

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

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

**9.30am****Parish Praise!**

Join us for All Age worship of our God of mercy, second chances and

abundance! The music group make a welcome return today..

*A reminder that this week we will return to taking a financial collection during the third hymn. You will be able to give to the work of the Church using the collection plate or the contactless card reader.*

*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 Praise! in your own home**

 Take part online either at 9.30am on Sunday or any time during the following week, click on this link: <https://youtu.be/42DId6sM07M>

*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 the days in Week at a Glance (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** 27th March 2022

**Mothering Sunday**

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion with Junior Church

11.00am Parish Communion at Bygrave

6.00pm Evening Prayer

**Prayers and readings for this Sunday**

**Hymns:**

310 I heard the voice of Jesus say

 Shalom my friend (Music Group)

195 From heaven you came (Music Group)

Anthem: Jesu lover of my soul

252 Guide me O thou great redeemer

**The Collect**

Eternal God,

give us insight

to discern your will for us,

to give up what harms us,

and to seek the perfection we are promised

in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 55:1-9**

The LORD says this: 1Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. 3Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. 4See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. 5See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. 6Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; 7let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. 9For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**Hymn: Shalom, my friend**

Shalom, my friend,

shalom, my friend, shalom, shalom.

The peace of Christ I give you today.

Shalom, shalom.

**The Gospel Luke 13:6-9**

6Then Jesus told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?” 8He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. 9If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.” ’

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

Park Street, Drapers Court, 7 Roes Malting, Saddlers Close, Gentle Court

Those in need of healing:

Paula Conder, Penny and Douglas Mitchell, Peter Harris, Oliver Britton, Martin Reed, David Dane, Martyn Gray, Tracy Copping, Karen Kynman, Shaun Trussell,

Jeanette Jackson, Sheila Wadsworth, Stuart Hodges, Peter Goodchild,

Christine Roderick, Andy Ball.

Those who have died recently:
Brian Rudd

Those whose anniversary of death is remembered this week

Alec Stephenson, Ethel Ransford, Jessie Kingsley, Christine Bilton, Barry Haigh,

Rose Paine, Stanley Clowes, Mary Peters, Peter Walden, Jack Scurr, Peter Flack

**Choir Anthem: Jesu lover of my soul**

**Post Communion**

Merciful Lord,

grant your people grace to withstand the temptations

of the world, the flesh and the devil,

and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Fellowship Lunch – today (Sunday) at 12pm**

Come and join us for a simple (but tasty!) soup lunch during Lent. No charge, but donations welcome. Everybody welcome – don’t eat lunch alone, come and share it with friends.

**Eco Church are delighted to host the marvellous What-If Craftivist banner** (used in our service today) on the railings outside the north side of the church for a couple of weeks to highlight the wonders of the Ocean World and their desperate need for protection from warming/acid seas and pollution - caused by us.

**Eco Tip Lent 3:** Try and buy sauces, mayo, honey etc in glass jars not plastic - it will cut down plastic use, and give you free storage jars to use afterwards !

**Friends of St Mary’s update:**

**Thank you** to everyone who was involved in our last two events – we’ve raised nearly £1,500 from the concert and quiz night combined, which is a fantastic result. We couldn’t have done it without your support (and, of course, the talents of our local community!) And there’s more to come…

**Forthcoming events:**

**An Evening with Flanders & Swann** (as interpreted by Peter Chapman and Mike O'Neill) - Fri 6th May at 7.30pm. £10 per person in advance / £12 on the door.

**Hymns & Desserts**, hosted by Pam Rhodes from BBC Television’s ‘Songs of Praise’ - Sunday 8th May at 6pm. £6 including a choice of puddings.

**Jubilee Wine Tasting** - Sat 4th June at 7.45pm in the church hall. £12 per person.

For more information on the above events, please contact fosmbaldock@gmail.com

**Lent in Baldock and Bygrave**

**Christianity – A changed life?**

**Tuesdays** at 7.30pm in the Rectory

Tuesday March 22nd How to be happy: The Gospel: Following Jesus to death and glory.

A typical desire of people in Britain today is to want a happy life. Does Christian Faith promise this? If not, why would anyone want to be a Christian?

Key bible passage: John 17: 20 – 26

Each evening will include a discussion based around a bible passage with plenty of chances for you to say what you think. It will end with the beautiful late evening service of Compline.

Each evening will also have the opportunity to join by Zoom. Use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84307870703?pwd=QU9FaHNWSm5JdTFHRWdtd21hVDRUUT09>

Meeting ID: 843 0787 0703 Passcode: 903666

*It will be quite possible to attend only one or two Lent groups and still get a lot out of them.*

**MISSION 2022 - FAITH AND CLIMATE**

Next week we will have invitations for you to hand out to people who may be interested.

We are inviting you to prepare by considering four questions:

1. How did you become a Christian? and Where are you on your Christian journey?
2. Does the bible have anything to say about climate change? *We will be thinking about this in our Sunday service on April 3rd*
3. What would you say if a friend asked you how your faith affects your views about climate change? *We will be thinking about this in our Sunday service on April 24th*
4. Who are you going to invite to the evenings? *We hope you will be challenged by this and we will give you opportunities to do so!*

Our Lent discussion group will also engage with most of these questions.

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!)

**Holy Week events**

We are really hoping we will be able to celebrate Holy Week and Easter in a more normal way this year. Outline details are below:

There will be a sheet in church next week to sign for bringing food for the bring-and-share meal on Maundy Thursday in the church hall.

**Sunday April 10th Palm Sunday**

 8.00am Holy Communion, Palms and Passion

**9.30am** *The service starts in church hall*

Act 1

Receive a palm cross and remember Jesus entering Jerusalem as king of peace, process to Church for: **Parish Communion,***A service around the dramatic retelling of the last week of Jesus’ life before he was crucified.***and hot cross buns -**

FOR

ALL

AGES

**11.00am Morning Prayer at Bygrave  *Palm Sunday – procession, palm crosses, hot cross buns …***

 **6.00pm Choral act of devotion for Holy Week**

 **Stainer’s Crucifixion**

**Mon April 11th Monday of Holy Week**

**7.00pm Silent Prayer in Bygrave Church**

**8.00pm Compline (St Margaret of Antioch, Bygrave)
*lifts available – please ask***

**Thurs April 14th Maundy Thursday**

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**7.00pm Communion of the Last Supper**

 **BRING AND SHARE meal in hall,
with singing, readings, and communion**

 **8.15pm ish Procession to church to commemorate the journey to the Garden of Gethsemane** *service ends about 8.30pm*

 **Watch with Jesus at the Altar of Repose
SIGN UP FOR A 20 MINUTE SLOT**

Act 2

9.55pm Compline before the altar of repose in church



**Fri April 15th Good Friday**

**12.00pm The Glory of the Cross
dramatic retelling of the Gospel story, prayers and sermon, kneel before the cross and imagine the scene, share in communion. Take away a token of the crucifixion**

Act 3

FOR

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**Sat April 16th Holy Saturday**

**7.00pm Service of Light at Bygrave**

 **Retelling the story of God saving his people, (in a darkened church). Setting fire to a hay bale, lighting the Easter Candle and bringing light back into a dark world. Renewing our baptism vows, Easter egg hunt and party!** *Lifts available – please ask*

**Sun April 17th Easter Day**

 8.00am Communion

**9.30am Easter Communion
with blessing of Easter Garden,
and Easter Eggs and baptism**

Act 4

FOR

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**11.00am Easter Communion at Bygrave**

 6.00pm Evening prayer

**From the Rector …**

Many of you will know that Helen and I had to spend a good month at the beginning of the year caring for family members. It has become clear that this going to continue for the foreseeable future.

After a process of discernment we have come to the conclusion that our vocation to our family and my vocation as Rector of Baldock and Bygrave are not mutually sustainable.

Therefore after nearly 18 years as Rector of Baldock and Bygrave it is with very mixed feelings that I have written to the Bishop informing him that I am planning to retire. Our last Sunday in this benefice will be Sunday 26th June before we move not too far away into a house we have bought in Sandy.

This is also Emma’s last Sunday here before she is ordained and transfers to St Thomas’s Wilbury to serve her curacy. We decided together we wanted to be there for each other’s farewell and so plan to have one ‘party to end all parties’ rather than two smaller ones.

The last 18 years have I think been the happiest and most fulfilling of my life and years in which I believe we have clearly seen God move amongst us, healing, inspiring, occasionally judging, often cajoling and enabling. As a Christian community we have listened to the Holy Spirit and I believe he has done some incredible things among us.

There will be lots of time for lots more words but I want to put it on record today that I feel extremely privileged to have been your Rector and that Helen and I have felt upheld and supported over the years by your warmth, friendship and love.

**Ukraine**

The situation for those wanting to help in some way is extremely fast moving. The two major ways to help are by donating money or by offering to host Ukrainians in your home.

Bishop Alan writes: The situation we face is undoubtedly going to keep on changing in the coming days. You will have seen the government flag its proposed scheme for offers of support yesterday. We’ve also learned that it is expected that many more people from Ukraine and needing support will start to arrive in the next few days.

Please remember that the strength we bring to all that needs to happen is our ability to offer help as a community. No one should be seeking to offer help alone. … We are likely facing a marathon, not a sprint. So being able to sustain the good we want to do is going to be imperative. Thank you for all that we shall be contributing together to help people in great need.

The diocese has a very helpful webpage which provides a way to give money and details about hosting and other support.

[Support Ukraine: how you can help - Diocese of St Albans (anglican.org)](https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/supportukraine/)

Baldock Action Aid is also providing a platform for those wanting to be involved to link with. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/baldockanddistrictactionaid>

**Final call for** **Electoral Roll forms**

The church electoral roll is being revised in preparation for the annual meeting in April. If you are already on the roll, there is no need to reapply. However, if you are not on the roll and would like to be, providing you are over 16 and baptised, and either live in the parish or have been a regular attender at this church for at least six months, then you may apply. Application forms are in church or can be found at the below link. Completed forms can be put into the black post box outside the church hall.

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/apcm-er/>



There are **Easter Eggs for sale** at the back of church / vestry: milk chocolate (£4.50) or plain chocolate (£5.50). These are the Real Easter Eggs which help reclaim Easter Eggs from the realms of the Easter bunny. They are Fairtrade, include a donation to charity, and include the Easter story in an attractive booklet. You can’t get them in any local shops (as far as we know) this year. Get them from St Mary’s Church on Sunday or speak to Alex.

The next **Communion service at Magdalene Court** is on Monday 4th April at 10.30am.

**Hazel and Martin Frost’s latest newsletter** is being circulated with this news sheet.

**Hidden Humour**

### When is the best time to run a marathon?

During Lent. That's when you fast.

**Rector:** Rev’d Canon Andrew Holford: 01462 896273 2008luddite@gmail.com

**Lay Minister:** Katrina Nice: kmnice2013@gmail.com / 07708 064294

**Hall Hire:** baldockchurchhall@gmail.com

**Church email:** baldockbenefice@gmail.com;

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

Next week’s readings: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-end; Luke 15:1-3,11b-end

**WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE**

SUNDAY 20th *3rd Sunday of Lent*

7.20am Morning Prayer in church

 8.00am Holy Communion

 9.30am Parish Praise!

6.00pm Evening Prayer in church

Mon 21st *Thomas Cranmer, archbishop, Reformation martyr, 1556*

8.40am Morning Prayer in church

 11.00am Communion at Osbourne Court

5.00pm Evening Prayer on Zoom and in church

 8.00pm Monday Home Group on Zoom (contact Emma)

Tues 22nd **8.00am** Morning Prayer in church

2.00pm Silent Prayer on Zoom (contact Katrina)

**5.30pm** Evening Prayer in church

7.30pm Lent Discussion group at Rectory and on Zoom - *How to be happy: The Gospel: Following Jesus to death and glory*

*John 17: 20 – 26*

Wed 23rd 8.40am Morning Prayer in church

9.30am Holy Communion10.30am Tiny Tots

4.00pm Junior Choir

 5.00pm Evening Prayer on Zoom and in church

Thurs 24th 8.40am Morning Prayer in church

 5.00pm Evening Prayer in church

 6.45pm Senior choir

Fri 25th *Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary*

8.40am Morning Prayer in church

11.00am Interment of ashes of Patricia Bygrave at Bygrave

 5.00pm Evening Prayer in church

SUNDAY 27th *4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday*

7.20am Morning Prayer in church

 8.00am Holy Communion

 9.30am Parish Communion and Junior Church

 11.00am Parish Communion at Bygrave

6.00pm Evening Prayer in church

**CCLI number: 752089**

6Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near