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

*“BUILDING WITH CHRIST”*

 Fourth Sunday of Lent

Worship on Sunday 27th March 2022

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

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

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

Share in a meal of bread and wine, hosted by Jesus as the Church family thinks about the power of forgiveness motivated by love and the value God has for each individual. We hand out flowers to every woman in the church today.

*Today we re-introduce standing in a semi-circle in the nave to receive communion.*

*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 online either at 9.30am on Sunday or any time during the following week, click on this link: <https://youtu.be/HZV5JUb4qoU>

**11.00am****MOTHERING SUNDAY****Parish Communion at Bygrave**

A peaceful communion service in a village setting. We hand out flowers to every woman in the church today.

*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** 3rd April 2022

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

11.45am Messy Church

6.00pm Evening Prayer

**Prayers and readings for this Sunday**

**Hymns:**

184 For the beauty of the earth

Psalm 127

201 Give me joy in my heart

29 Amazing Grace

Anthem: Fathers and Mothers

411 Lord Jesus Christ

**The Collect**

God of compassion,

whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,

shared the life of a home in Nazareth,

and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:

strengthen us in our daily living

that in joy and in sorrow

we may know the power of your presence

to bind together and to heal;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Psalm 127**

*We give joyful thanks for children.*

Unless the Holy One builds the house,

its builders work in vain.

**Unless the Holy One guards the city,**

**its sentinels watch in vain.**

In vain do you get up early,

go to bed so late,

toiling for the bread you eat.

**To the beloved the Holy One**

**gives sleep.**

*We give joyful thanks for children.*

Children are a heritage from the Holy One,

the fruit of the womb, a gift from God.

**Children born in one’s youth**

**are like arrows in a warrior’s hands.**

Happy are those who fill their quivers

with them;

**they shall not be shamed**

**when they talk to enemies in the gate.**

*We give joyful thanks for children.*

**The New Testament Reading 2 Corinthians 5:16-end**

16From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**The Gospel Luke 15:1-3,11b-end**

1All the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. 2And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, ‘This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.’

3So he told them this parable: ‘There was a man who had two sons. 12The younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.” So he divided his property between them. 13A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 17But when he came to himself he said, “How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’ ” 20So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21Then the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” 22But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly, bring out a robe - the best one - and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate.

25‘Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27He replied, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.” 28Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29But he answered his father, “Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!” 31Then the father said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.” ’

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

Football Close, Icknield Court, Laurel Mews, Pryors Court, Icknield Way,

Icknield Way East

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

Christine Norman, Fred Prentice, Olive Thompson

**Choir Anthem: Fathers and mothers**

**Post Communion**

Loving God,

as a mother feeds her children at the breast

you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:

help us who have tasted your goodness

to grow in grace within the household of faith;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**A picture containing colorful, decorated, bedclothes, several

Description automatically generatedEco Church are delighted to host the marvellous What-If Craftivist banner** 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 4:** Why not celebrate all mothers today with a gift of / sowing native plants to give a boost to our environment too?

**[](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&url=https://www.twinkl.es/illustration/ash-wednesday-cross&psig=AOvVaw1y524hkVyR-yPzbFgRt2z0&ust=1580898493863000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCMiZ3_3Xt-cCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD)Lent in Baldock and Bygrave**

**Christianity – A changed life?**

**Tuesdays** at 7.30pm in the Rectory

Tuesday March 29th *The big story of the bible: How the Old and New Testaments support and inform each other.*Many Christians think the Old Testament is superseded by the New Testament and that God has given up with the Jews and tried a new method to save the world, Jesus Christ. Is this fair? Come on a journey through the pages of the bible and discover an hourglass structure that makes both Old and New Testaments essential to each other. Key bible passage: Acts 2: 22 - 36

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**

**Collect your information pack today!!**

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 four 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!)
* John Gummer is coming on Monday 20th June. John Selwyn Gummer, (Lord Deben), who is chair of the Government’s climate change committee and a prominent Roman Catholic, will be speaking about his work nationally in the battle against climate change and how his faith impacts on what he does.

**CCLI number: 752089**

**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*

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 -**

Act 1

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**

A picture containing tree, sky, outdoor, bird

Description automatically generated**7.00pm Silent Prayer in Bygrave Church**

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

**Thurs April 14th Maundy Thursday**

FOR

ALL

AGES

**7.00pm Communion of the Last Supper**

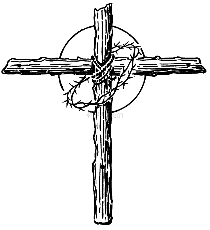
**BRING AND SHARE meal in hall,   
with singing, readings, and communion**

 **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

ALL

AGES

**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

ALL

AGES

**11.00am Easter Communion at Bygrave**

6.00pm Evening prayer

**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>

Timeline

Description automatically generated

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 Messy Church is on Sun April 3 at 11:45am, meeting in the hall. The theme is Thankfulness as we look at Mary's outpouring of appreciation of Jesus's love by bathing his feet in perfume. Please book via our new email address: [messychurchbaldock@gmail.com](mailto:messychurchbaldock@gmail.com) to help us cater.  No charge but donations welcome.

**Hidden Humour**

… will be back next week (due to lack of space – apologies)

**Rector:** Rev’d Canon Andrew Holford: 01462 896273 [2008luddite@gmail.com](mailto:2008luddite@gmail.com)

**Lay Minister:** Katrina Nice: [kmnice2013@gmail.com](mailto:kmnice2013@gmail.com) / 07708 064294

**Hall Hire:** [baldockchurchhall@gmail.com](mailto:baldockchurchhall@gmail.com)

**Church email:** [baldockbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:baldockbenefice@gmail.com);

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

**WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE**

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

Mon 28th 8.40am Morning Prayer in church

3.30pm Evening Prayer in church

5.00pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

8.00pm Monday Home Group on Zoom (contact Emma)

Tues 29th 8.40am Morning Prayer in church

2.00pm Silent Prayer on Zoom (contact Katrina)

5.00pm Evening Prayer in church

7.30pm Lent Discussion group at Rectory and on Zoom - The big story of the bible: How the Old and New Testaments support and inform each other. Acts 2:22-36

Wed 30th **7.45am** Morning Prayer in church

9.30am Holy Communion10.30am Tiny Tots

4.00pm Junior Choir   
4.45pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

5.00pm Evening Prayer in church

Thurs 31st 8.40am Morning Prayer in church

5.00pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

6.45pm Senior choir

Sat 2nd 9.30am Morning Prayer in church

APRIL 5.00pm Evening Prayer in church

SUNDAY 3rd 7.20am Morning Prayer in church 5th *Sunday of Lent*

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Communion

11.45am Messy Church in the church hall

2.00pm Stainer’s Crucifixion rehearsal

6.00pm Evening Prayer in church

20So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

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

The next **Communion service at Osbourne Court** is on Monday 25th April at 11am

Next week’s readings: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8