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

*“BUILDING WITH CHRIST”*

2nd Sunday of Easter

Worship on Sunday 7th April 2024

**8.00am****Holy Communion**

A simple, peaceful start to the day, taking place at the High Altar. Revd Elizabeth Bunker will be leading and preaching today.

**9.30am****Parish Communion**

Revd Elizabeth Bunker will be leading and preaching at our worship. We hear the story of Doubting Thomas in our Gospel reading.

*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: 14th April (Easter 3)**

8.00am Holy Communion (Revd Phillipa Maddox)

9.30am Parish Communion (Revd Phillipa Maddox)

11.00am Parish Communion at Bygrave (Revd Phillipa Maddox)

**Prayers and readings for this Sunday**

**Hymns:**

137 Crown Him with many crowns

362 Jesus stand among us

9 Alleluia, alleluia, hearts to heav'n and voices raise

666 The Spirit lives to set us free

**The Collect**

Risen Christ,

for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:

open the doors of our hearts,

that we may seek the good of others

and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace

to the praise of God the Father.

**Amen**.

**Psalm 133a How good a thing it is**

How good a thing it is,

how pleasant to behold,

When all God’s people live at one,

the law of love uphold.

As perfume, by its scent,

breathes fragrance all around,

So life itself will sweeter

be where unity is found.

And like refreshing dew

that falls upon the hills,

True union sheds its gentle grace,

and deeper love instils.

God grants the choicest gifts

to those who live in peace;

To them such blessings shall abound

and ever more increase.

**The New Testament reading Acts 4:32-35**

**32**Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. **33**With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. **34**There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. **35**They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

**The Gospel: John 20:19-end**

**19**When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ **20**After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. **21**Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ **22**When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. **23**If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’ **24**But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25**So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’ **26**A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ **27**Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ **28**Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ **29**Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’ **30**Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. **31**But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

South Road, Laxton Gardens, Walnut Avenue, South Close, Convent Gardens,

South Lodge Mews

\*Those in need of healing:

Paula Conder, Andy Ball, Nicky Bull, Stephen Collins, Norman Holmes, Nicola Rowe, Claire Farbrother, Ashley Pinn, Jeanette Jackson.

Those who have died recently:

Michael Cooper

Those whose anniversary of death is remembered this week:

John Swinburn, Gwen Hunter, Ivy Cesvette, Eva Stokes.

*\*please note that we will keep names on this list for up to one month and then remove them. If you would like your name to remain on the list, please contact Revd Phillipa.*

**Choir Anthem:** **O sons and daughters let us sing.**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

O sons and daughters, let us sing!

The King of Heaven, the glorious King,

o’er death today rose triumphing.

Alleluia.

That Easter morn at break of day,

the faithful women went their way

to seek the tomb where Jesus lay.

*Alleluia.*

An angel clad in white they see

who sat and speak unto the three:

‘Your Lord doth go to Galilee’.

*Alleluia.*

That night the Apostles met in fear;

amidst them came their Lord most dear,

and said, ‘My peace be on all here’.

*Alleluia.*

How blest are they who have not seen,

and yet whose faith has constant been;

for they eternal life shall win.

*Alleluia.*

On this most holy day of days

to God your hearts and voices raise

in the laud and jubilee and praise.

*Alleluia. Alleluia.*

**Post Communion**

Lord God our Father,

through our Saviour Jesus Christ

you have assured your children of eternal life

and in baptism have made us one with him:

deliver us from the death of sin

and raise us to new life in your love,

in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will be held in church at 11am on Sunday 21st April. All invited to attend.

**Eco Tip Easter 2:** When candidates for the local elections come canvassing, why not ask what their party is doing to tackle climate change and support renewable energy- the world desperately needs a greener future more quickly.

**The Friends of St Mary’s (FOSM) update**

FOSM are still seeking a Treasurer – can you help?

Friends of St Mary’s church, Baldock run various events to fundraise for the repairs and maintenance of our historic church, which is such an important building within Baldock. We are looking for someone to take on the role of our treasurer, to:

* maintain the financial records;
* pay expenses;
* bank income received;
* submit gift aid relief claims;
* and produce the annual accounts.

Might you be that person? Could you spare a couple of hours a month? The committee meets every 6-8 weeks. If you’d like to learn more about it, email fosmbaldock@gmail.com

Baldock Street Fair – Sat 18th May

FOSM will be hosting a stall at the Baldock Street Fair. If you would like to donate a bottle of wine for the ‘water into wine’ or cake donations for refreshments in the church, we would be very grateful. Wine donations can be left in the vestry and cake donations on the day (or day before) please.

Tower Trips – Sat 18th May

We are also having tower trips on 18th May – if you can help to staff the tower (four volunteers per shift are needed to keep the tower open), please contact Paul MacArthur on stmarystowertrips@gmail.com

**Join our new Group on Facebook!**

We have formed a new group on Facebook called **St Mary’s Church Chat**. This is a space where we can share ideas, discuss activities, highlight worship and promote events – and anything else connected to St Mary’s Church. To join the group, click on this [link](https://www.facebook.com/groups/426129636422913) or use the QR code.

**Could you be a school governor for our church school?** St. Mary’s Infant School is looking for a new governor. School governors are members of our local community who care about our school and the young people we support. Being a school governor can be a very positive experience. Share your skills and passion for the success of our school and become a governor. Talk to Rev. Phillipa, Aileen Barry or Laura Higgins to find out more.

**Electoral Roll:** 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 [here](https://resource.stalbansdiocese.org/courses-events-and-resources/form-for-enrolment-on-electoral-roll/). Completed forms can be put into the black post box outside the church hall.

The next **Fellowship Lunch** will be on Sunday 21st April (immediately after the APCM). More details to follow but please put it in your diaries.

The next **Communion service at Magdalene Court** is on Mon 8th April at 10.30am.



**Do join us for our next Messy Church!**

11.30am – 1pm on Sunday 5th May – ‘Pentecost’! Fun for all the family with crafts, short worship and a hot meal. Book your place by emailing Katrina at messychurchbaldock@gmail.com All welcome! (Note – there is no Messy Church this Sunday as we had an extra one in March to celebrate Easter).

**Foodbank update:**

****Please help local people in crisis by buying items from the list below and giving them to the Foodbank’s collection point.

• Tinned Meat

• Nappies - Size 5 & 6

• Men’s Deodorant

• Women’s Deodorant

• Tinned Vegetables

• Fruit Juice (Longlife)

**Hidden Humour:**

**Which area of the Promised Land was especially wealthy?** The area around the River Jordan where the banks kept overflowing.

**Friends of St Mary’s - Forthcoming Events**

We have lots of exciting events coming up in the church and church hall during the Baldock Festival next month.

Tickets go on sale next weekend (Saturday 13th April) at the Community Centre or on the Festival website: <https://baldockfestival.org.uk/events> There will also be a limited number of tickets available in church.

**Afternoon Tea to celebrate the first anniversary of the Coronation of King Charles III – Monday 6th May at 3pm (Church Hall)**

Come and join us for an Afternoon Tea whilst singing along to some traditional patriotic songs, as we celebrate the first anniversary of the Coronation of King Charles III.

A welcome glass of Prosecco upon arrival. Bring your Union Jacks!

Tickets: £10 per person from Baldock Community Centre or the Festival Website

**Entertainer Jude Simpson (Poet\*Wordsmith\*Writer\*Performer) - Friday 17th May at 7.30pm (Church)**

Jude Simpson writes and performs joyful comedy, combining quirky observational humour with poetry, wordplay and song.

Jude has performed at the Edinburgh Festival, as well as literature festivals, studio theatres and poetry clubs all over the country. Her work is witty, uplifting, funny, clever and has wide appeal. Pay bar available.

Tickets: £10 per person available from the Baldock Community Centre or Festival Website

**Tower Trips and refreshments - Saturday 18th May: 11am - 4pm (church)**

Tower trips will take place, weather permitting, throughout the day during the above times. Come and see Baldock from a different perspective!

No entry for children under 8. Sensible footwear is required.
Tickets: £5 adult / £1 child (8-16) on the day. No Advance Tickets

**Church tours and refreshments - Saturday 18th May: 11am - 4pm (church)**

Free Church Tours will take place on the hour, every hour.

Come and find out more about our historic building.

Refreshments available.

**Can you help?** If you would be willing to staff a level on the tower, the FOSM stand in the High Street, bake a cake for the refreshment stand or staff the refreshments (all of which happen on Saturday 18th May) please sign the list at the back of church – and please come and support any of the above events!

**WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE**

SUNDAY 7th *2nd week of Easter*

8.00am Holy Communion (Revd Elizabeth Bunker)

9.30am Parish Communion (Revd Elizabeth Bunker)

Mon 8th *Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary*

10.30am Communion service at Magdalene Court

4.30pm Silent Prayer on Zoom (contact Katrina Nice)

Wed 10th *William Law, priest, spiritual writer, 1761*

9.30am Holy Communion (Revd Phillipa Maddox)

 10.30am Tiny Tots

4.45pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

Thurs 11th No evening prayer today

 6.45pm Choir practice

SUNDAY 14th *3rd week of Easter*

8.00am Holy Communion (Revd Phillipa Maddox)

9.30am Parish Communion (Revd Phillipa Maddox)

11.00am Parish Communion at Bygrave (Revd Phillipa Maddox)

**Rector:** Revd Phillipa Maddox: rev.phillipa@stmarysbaldock.org.uk 01462 545310

(day off: Friday)

**Lay Minister:** Katrina Nice:kmnice2013@gmail.com

**Churchwarden:** David Morgan: 07974 913041 churchwarden@stmarysbaldock.org.uk

**Parish Administrator:** Alex Milne: admin@stmarysbaldock.org.uk

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

**Messy Church:** messychurchbaldock@gmail.com

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

Next Week’s Readings: Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1- 7, 2 Luke 24: 36b-48

**CCLI number: 752089**

Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’