

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN, EATON BRAY**

with



**EDLESBOROUGH & ALL SAINTS, DAGNALL**

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**WELCOME TO ST MARY'S**

**6TH OCTOBER 2024 – HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**Services**

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	8.00 - Holy Communion
	10.00 - Harvest Festival
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	19.30 - Bell ringing practice
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 - Funeral for Pam Courtice
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 - Holy Communion
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	18.00 - Beavers
	19.30 - PCC Meeting
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 - Parish Eucharist

**Hymns**

275, 271, 274, 254, 530

**Important Information**

***Please note our 10am Sunday service today will be live streamed.***

**Collection** of your envelopes and other offerings will now be taken during the service. We also have the Sum Up unit on the desk by the South Door, for easy contactless payment of your donations. Or you could scan the QR code (please see on the large notice board) on your mobile phone.

**Collect**

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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**

**Vicar: Revd Joy Cousans (01525 220261)**

***Please note: Joy's day off is Friday - please do not contact her on this day.***

**Churchwarden: Catherine Hayden (01525 220527)**



### **Joel 2:21–27**

A reading from the book of the prophet Joel.

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

### **1 Timothy 6:6–10**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

### **Matthew 6:25–33**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you O Lord**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the

grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ**

### **For Our Prayers:**

In our prayers for the Church this week, we pray for the Free Churches and in our own diocese, Bishop of St Albans’ Harvest Appeal, which this year is in co-operation with the Leprosy Mission in Sri Lanka, where the funds raised will help provide families affected by leprosy with the means to support themselves. Bishop Alan’s Harvest Appeal has a special prayer:

#### **Harvest Appeal Prayer**

God of abundant life and grace,  
whose Son proclaimed good news to the poor,  
fed the hungry and healed the sick:  
we pray your blessing on the people of Sri Lanka,  
on their farmers and those struggling economically,  
and particularly on those affected by leprosy.  
As we rejoice in the abundance of our harvest,  
may our thanks overflow with the joy of giving.  
Give us the imagination and generosity  
to share our plentiful resources with those in need,  
that your Gospel of salvation be life-giving and life-changing,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

In our own community we pray today for all who live in Dyers Road and The Orchards.

We pray for our Archdeacon (Dave Middlebrook) and Diocesan Officials

In the wider world we pray for our King, Government and Parliament.

We pray for the sick; and those who have died recently, especially for Pam Courtice. We pray for God’s Peace to her husband Vic, family and friends at this time and to all others that are grieving losses.

At their year’s mind, we remember Simon Woodgate, Hilda Reeves, Anne Thompson, Richard Evans, Lily Croxford, Watson Bennett, May Watts and Adam Bodsworth.

*A verse for us to reflect on:*

*1 Corinthians 12 v5*

*There are different kinds of service,  
but the same Lord.*

This verse will be displayed also, in the North Chapel  
of the Church.

### Notices

#### **MACMILLAN'S CANCER SUPPORT**

Sheila Banks and Macmillan Cancer Support would like say an enormous thank you to everyone who supported the World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Friday 27th September.

Floods and torrential rain didn't spoil a really successful morning which raised £850 for this good cause.

Thank you to everyone involved whether helping on the day, baking, supplying raffle prizes or coming along to enjoy coffee, cake and company.

#### **FOOD BANK**

Next Sunday will be FoodBank Sunday. Our shortages this month are meat meals, long life fruit juice, tins of fruit, tins of rice pudding, packets of tea (40s and 80s) and tinned potatoes.

#### **SICK LIST**

Today is the second of two Sundays when you can add names to this month's sick list. The blank list to receive names can be found on the prayer board at the front of the North Chapel.

#### **'BOOK SWAP – EXTRA'**

There is a small basket of books on religious topics on the north side of the church. They are there on a 'Book Swap' basis i.e. to take and keep, to borrow and return or to replace with another book on a religious topic – one for one only, please! I hope this is useful. Catherine H.

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 14.00 Poppy Prom

(Gordon would like to apologise for the misinformation in the Focus)

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 12.00 Christmas Fair