

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN, EATON BRAY**  
**with**  
**EDLESBOROUGH & ALL SAINTS, DAGNALL**



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**WELCOME TO ST MARY'S**

**12TH JANUARY 2025; Baptism of Christ**

**Services this week**

Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00	Parish Eucharist
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	19.30	Bell Ringing Practice
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Prayer and Praise
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Holy Communion
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	18.00	Beavers
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	8.00	Holy Communion
	10.00	Café Church
	10.30	Holy Communion at Dagnall
	12.00	Parish Lunch in Village Hall
	15.00	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Worship at Eaton Bray Salvation Army Chapel

**Hymns today**

87, 469, 90, 505, 525

**Important Information**

***Please note our 10.00 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.

**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)**



### **Collect**

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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**

### **Isaiah 43:1-7**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, 'Give them up,' and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

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

### **Acts 8:14-17**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

### **Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

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

**Glory to you O Lord**

In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of repentance. As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John

answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' 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 Archbishop of Canterbury and in our own diocese, The Bishop of St Albans.

In our own community we pray today for all who live in Lord's Mead, The Meads, Perry Mead, Knight's Close and Knight's Court.

We pray for marriage preparation and those preparing for their weddings.

In the wider world we pray about climate change and care of the planet.

We pray for the sick; and those who have died recently. We pray for their families and friends at this time and to all others who are grieving losses.

At their year's end, we remember Phyllis Carey, Joan Brooks, Rita Channing, Ethel Reay, Rosa Hines, Amy Hallam, and Cowen Giltrow.

### ***A verse for us to reflect on:***

***I have come into the world as a light, So no-one who believes in Me should stay in the darkness.***

***John 12:46***

This verse will be displayed also, in the North Chapel

## **NOTICES**

### ***PRAYER & PRAISE***

The Prayer and Praise group will meet in church at 10.30 on Tuesday 14th January where a warm welcome awaits all who would like to join us.

## ***PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY***

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Worship is at 3pm on Sunday 19th January at Eaton Bray Salvation Army Chapel.

### ***THANKS***

A great big thank-you to EVERYONE who helped in ANY WAY last Saturday with the Coffee and Cake morning; especially those who came out on a very frosty ('scrape the car') morning so making the preparation and baking all worthwhile! It was another very successful morning with lots of new faces along with our regular visitors. All chatting over coffee and cake and looking very happy. Thanks a million! from Marion.

### ***USED STAMPS***

Please save your 'used stamps' and pop them in the box on the windowsill near the kitchen in Church in aid of JR Whippet Rescue. Thank you.

### ***YEAR'S MIND***

If you would like the name of a dear one read out in church at their year's mind, please write their name in the red diary on the book case at the back of church. Their name will be read out and printed in the pew leaflet on the Sunday of the week prior to their special date.

### ***CARNIVAL 2025***

As some of you may know, even now the St Mary's Village Carnival Committee has begun to plan the 2025 event and are facing all the usual obstacles and challenges.

The Committee relies heavily upon support and help from both within St Mary's and, more than ever, from the wider population of these villages. However, in common with many voluntary organisations, clubs and societies we are finding it difficult to attract volunteers.

As a result, we would welcome any and all offers of help in planning for Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July - in the planning and organizing of events, and of course on the day itself. If you do feel able to assist, or if you know of anyone who might be interested in lending a hand do, please, let me know as soon as you can.

Our greatest current priority (other than somehow controlling the weather on the day) is to find people – friends or a family – to run the Grand Draw - significant source of income for the Carnival. This would involve everything from sourcing prizes through to running the stall on the day – albeit with support and guidance from Kate & Gary Freeman who have masterminded the stall for many years.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested again, please speak to me at any time. Chris Banks, 01525 221556