

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



www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk email: admin@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk

WELCOME TO ST MARY'S

23RD AUGUST 2026; TRINITY 12

Services this week

Sunday 23 rd	10.00	Parish Eucharist – Today, we are delighted to welcome Archdeacon Dave Middlebrook as our Celebrant and Preacher
Monday 24 th	19.30	Ringing Practice
Wednesday 26 th	10.00	Morning Prayer
Friday 28 th	10.30	Prayer Matters
Sunday 30 th	10.00	NCG Service: Celebrant Revd Canon Nicola Lenthall Preacher Revd Kaushall David
	15.00	Wedding Blessing

Important Information

Please note our 10.00 Sunday service EB today, will be streamed

Hymns

Sheet –We have come into this place; Sheet – Come now is the time to worship; 89; 170; Sheet – Jesus stand among us; 581; 262

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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.**

Churchwarden: Catherine Hayden
(07733357968)



Isaiah 51:1–6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be for ever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

Romans 12:1–8

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us:

prophecy, in proportion to faith;

ministry, in ministering;

the teacher, in teaching;

the exhorter, in exhortation;

the giver, in generosity;

the leader, in diligence;

the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

Matthew 16:13–20

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

Glory to you O, Lord

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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 Pentecostal Christians and in our own diocese, the Guild of Vergers.

In our own community we pray today for all who live in St Mary's Glebe, Church Gate, Tythe Mews and Church Croft.

We pray for our Village Schools.

We pray for the person to be our new Vicar and for the appointing team.

In the wider world we pray for the terminally ill and those close to death and their families.

We pray for the sick and those who have died recently. We pray for all who are grieving losses.

At their year's mind, we remember Muriel Awcock, Frank Gent, David Byng and Helen Fry (Tsioutsiousws).

A verse for us to reflect on: 1 Corinthians 16:v13

Be on your guard; stand firm in faith

This verse will be displayed also, in the North Chapel

NOTICES

PATHLIGHT

Just a reminder that there will be no Pathlight group in August. We will resume in September... everyone welcome!

Diane & Chriss

NCG ANNUAL SERVICE

Next Sunday, 30th August the NCG annual service will be held at St Mary's Eaton Bray at 10am led by Nicola Lenthal and Kaushal.

Let's offer a warm welcome to all NCG churches when they join us from other parishes. Sheila and Chriss (NCG reps).

CALLED TO PRAY

At our vacancy meeting in June with the Bishop and Archdeacon, we were invited to "pray, pray, pray" for the person who will become our new Vicar and for those on the appointing team. The Archdeacon said he believes God already knows who our vicar will be and so do we! All our prayers however play an important part in this.

The Prayer Matters group have committed to pray for this as indeed we do for all our church family, activities and growth. Our regular meetings are on the last Friday of the month in church at 10.30. This is open to all the congregation to discuss and pray about the ministry we feel God is calling us to at St Mary's. We have also started to meet at 9.30 before the Sunday morning service to pray for all who will lead and be involved in the service and attend that day. Again, all are welcome to join, even if you wish to just sit and pray silently. In the Bible, St Paul encourages his readers to *"never stop praying"* and *"in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God"* (1 Thessalonians 5:17 and Philipppians 4:6) so let's do just that and "pray, pray, pray"!

The Prayer Matters Group

SAVE THE DATE

Coming soon. The World's Biggest Coffee Morning here at St Mary's on Friday 25th September. 10.00 till Midday. Fundraising for Macmillan Cancer support. More to follow nearer the date. Sheila

FREE BIBLE READING NOTES

The new quarterly bible reading notes from Our Daily Bread, beginning September, are now available on the shelf at the back near the Christian book library. These reading reflections are a lovely way of engaging with the word of God. Please do take a copy.

STEPHEN AXFORD

Stephen (our organist) will be licensed as a Reader in St Albans Abbey on Sunday 27th September at 4pm. If you would like to join those from St Mary's supporting him, and the other new Readers in the diocese, then please sign up on the sheet near the door, to help the Abbey with seating arrangements and refreshments.

ALL are welcome!

ADVANCED NOTICE OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

Today, we are delighted to welcome Archdeacon Dave Middlebrook as our celebrant and preacher.

We also look forward to the following services:

30th August: The North Chilterns Group Annual Service takes place here at St Mary's, when we will unite in worship with friends from the other North Chilterns parishes.

6th September: We welcome Canon Malcolm Grant back to Eaton Bray, and look forward to celebrating our Patronal festival with him.

13th September – Bishop Richard, Bishop of Bedford, will celebrate Holy Communion with us and during the service, welcome two babies in baptism."

