

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

8TH FEBRUARY 2026; 2nd before Lent

Services this week

Sunday 8 th	10.00	Parish Eucharist
Monday 9 th	19.30	Bell Ringing Practice
Tuesday 10 th	10.30	Prayer and Praise
Wednesday 11 th	10.00	Holy Communion
Thursday 12 th	18.00	Beavers
	19.45	PCC meeting
Sunday 15 th	8.00	Holy Communion
	10.00	Café Church
	10.30	Holy Communion at All Saints, Dagnall
	12.00	Parish Lunch in Village Hall

Hymns Today

474, 267, 250, 553, 453

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

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen**

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

A reading from the book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky.

And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so.

The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.

And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so.

God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind.

And God saw that it was good.

God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.'

And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.'

And it was so.

God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind.

And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'

God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude.

And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.

So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Matthew 6:25-34

Jesus taught his disciples, saying: 'Therefore I tell you, 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. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.'

FOR OUR PRAYERS

In our prayers for the Church this week, we pray for the General Synod of the Church of England and in our own diocese, Churches in the Deanery of Hemel Hempstead.

In our own community we pray today for those who live in the High Street and Lord's Terrace.

We pray for Churches Together in Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall.

In the wider world we pray for writers, artists, musicians, broadcasters and journalists.

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 Emma Tobin, Marianne Whittaker, Harold Rollings, Maurice Saunders and Vicky Lee.

*A verse for us to reflect on: **Romans 8:6***

The mind controlled by the spirit is life and peace.

This verse will also be displayed in the North Chapel

NOTICES

PRAYER & PRAISE

The Prayer and Praise group will be meeting this Tuesday, 10th February at 10.30am; in St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray where a warm welcome awaits all who would like to join us.

PRAYER MATTERS GROUP

We just thought we would like to highlight one of the many groups and activities that take place at St Mary's – which is Prayer Matters. The current group formed almost six years ago and our aim is to pray as a group and individually about God's vision for St. Mary's Church and then share thoughts with others to help develop these and deepen the prayer life of the church. This has included providing resources in church and the churchyard, engagement on social media and with community groups, and of course supporting the work of the PCC in prayer.

One of the first things we felt led to do was to continue the development of the North Chapel as a dedicated area that for prayer. Resources added at the time were the monthly Bible verse displayed on the chapel altar and the print of Holman Hunt's 'Light of the World' painting in the arched nook. Other ideas that have developed since have been the large prayer banner by the North Door; the prayer tree which has been widely utilised by visitors and those who have been bereaved; Christian poems and reflections on the tables at the monthly coffee mornings for people to take away; a Prayer Chain set up for people requesting urgent prayer; free helpful cards on the North Chapel windowsill for people to take away; and finally slates dotted about the churchyard with Bible verses to encourage passers-by.

We welcome anyone who would like to be a part of this group. We generally meet monthly and if you would like to come and join us in praying for the life and community at St Mary's please do speak to one of us; and/or come to our next meeting on Friday 13th February.

Chriss Hewitt, Marion Higley, Sheila Brown and Diane Goodwin

NCG LENT COURSE 2026 *The Adventure of Prayer!*

Join the NCG at Totternhoe Church Hall, LU6 1RH on Tuesday evenings: February 24th, March 3rd, March 10th, March 17th and March 24th to investigate 'The Adventure of Prayer'. All sessions start with refreshments at 7.30pm, concluding with a short act of worship and ending at 9.00pm.

February 24 th	The prayer Jesus taught us
March 3 rd	Praying with spiritual gifts
March 10 th	Praying with icons
March 17 th	Praying with the Iona Community
March 24 th	Help! I'm too busy to pray!

PRAYER AND PANCAKES!

Shrove Tuesday, 17th February at The Salvation Army, Eaton Bray, at 6.30pm.

This is a wonderful social evening with delicious food