

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

20TH SEPTEMBER 2026; TRINITY 16; 8.00 & 10.30

Services this week

Sunday 20 th	8.00	Holy Communion
	10.00	Café Church
	10.30	Holy Communion at Dagnall
	12.00	Parish Lunch in Village Hall
Monday 21 st	19.30	Ringin' Practice
Tuesday 22 nd	10.30	Pathlight Group Meeting at home of Diane Goodwin
Wednesday 23 rd	10.00	Morning Prayer (Stephen Axford)
Thursday 24 th	18.00	Beavers
Friday 25 th	10.00	World's Biggest Coffee Morning in Aid of Macmillan Cancer Support
Sunday 27 th	10.00	Parish Eucharist
	16.00	Licensing of Readers especially Stephen Axford at St Albans

Important Information

**Please note our 10.00 Sunday service EB today,
WILL NOT BE STREAMED**

Collect

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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

**Churchwarden: Catherine Hayden
(07733357968)**



Jonah 3:10 – 4:11

A reading from the book of Jonah.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, 'O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the LORD said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.' But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the LORD said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

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

Philippians 1:21–30

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with

one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well – since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

Matthew 20:1–16

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

Glory to you O, Lord

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last. This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

A verse for us to reflect on: Revelations 2:19

I know your deeds, your love and faith,

Your service and perseverance.

This verse will be displayed also, in the North Chapel

FOR OUR PRAYERS

In our prayers for the Church this week, we pray for the Anglican Church of South America and in our own diocese, Churches in the Deanery of Ampthill.

In our own community we pray today for those who live in Good Intent, Orchard End, Jackson's Close, Summerleys and Heathermead.

We pray for world-wide mission and the Churches' Missionary Societies.

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

In the wider world we pray for the persecuted, oppressed and prisoners of conscience.

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 Tom Thorne, Pam Courtice, David Roberts, Nigel Speechley, Marjorie Gadd, Ian Carter and Vera Davies.

NOTICES

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest Festival this year will be on Sunday 4th October. As there is no Bishop's Harvest Appeal this year, we have decided to support the Foodbank with donations of tins and packets of food. There will be no sale after the service so the flower arrangers have asked if you could please bring donations in advance of the day so they can be used as part of the church decorations. They can be left on the table by the south door and we will store them until Harvest. Also, if you have any garden flowers to donate, please ensure these are in church by Thursday 1st October as arranging will take place on Friday. There will be buckets for flowers, foliage and berries by the font. Thank you for your support.

PATHLIGHT GROUP

The next Pathlight group will meet Tuesday, 22nd September, at 10.30 at the home of Diane Goodwin. This monthly informal bible study group aims to discover more about how God speaks to us through his word; exploring familiar stories, subjects or characters of the Bible. Everyone welcome and no commitment to come every time! If you'd like to come along do speak to Chriss H or Diane G for the address or check in the new Parish Directory.

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 lovely way of engaging with the word of God. Please do take a copy.