

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

27TH SEPTEMBER 2026; TRINITY 17

Services this week

Sunday 27 th September	10.00	Parish Eucharist
	16.00	Licensing of Stephen Axford at St Albans
Monday 28 th	19.30	Ringling Practice
Wednesday 30 th	10.00	Holy Communion
Thursday 1 st October	18.00	Beavers
Saturday 3 rd	10.30	Coffee & Cake
Sunday 4 th	8.00	Holy Communion
	10.00	Harvest Festival

Important Information

**Please note our 10.00 Sunday service EB today,
WILL BE STREAMED**

Hymns This Week

311, 172, 375, 96, 525

Collect

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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

Exodus 17:1–7

A reading from the book of Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

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

Philippians 2:1–13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

Matthew 21:23–32

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

Glory to you O, Lord

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven," he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin," we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.'

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 Ordination Candidates and in our own diocese, Diocesan Vocations' Advisors.

In our own community we pray today for those who live in Main Road North, Main Road South, Studham Lane and Ringshall Road.

We pray for the FOCUS magazine and all engaged in publicity for the church.

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

In the wider world we pray for the unemployed and homeless people.

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 Paul Bashford, Doris Sparvell, Ian Field, Ada Morgan, David Mann, Bernard Creamer and Calvert Williams.

*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

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.

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 Philippians 4:6) so let’s do just that and “pray, pray, pray”! The Prayer Matters Group

**Churchwarden: Catherine Hayden
(07733357968)**

