

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

16TH AUGUST 2026, 8.00am; TRINITY 11

Services this week

Sunday 16 th	8.00	Holy Communion
	10.00	Café Church
	10.30	Holy Communion at All Saints' , Dagnall
	12.00	Parish Lunch in Village Hall
Monday 17 th	19.30	Ringing Practice
Tuesday 18 th	11.00	Funeral
Wednesday 19 th	10.00	Holy Communion
Sunday 23 rd	10.00	Parish Eucharist – with Archdeacon Dave

Important Information

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

Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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.**

Genesis 45:1–15

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.' So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed

were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there – since there are five more years of famine to come – so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty." And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.' Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

Matthew 15:10–28

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

Glory to you O, Lord

Then Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, 'Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.' Then the disciples

approached and said to him, 'Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?' He answered, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.' But Peter said to him, 'Explain this parable to us.' Then he said, 'Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.' Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

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 church in the Province of Rwanda and in our own diocese, churches in the Deanery of Stevenage.

In our own community we pray today for all who live in the High Street, Edlesborough.

We pray for those who care for our churches and churchyard and the Eco Group.

We pray for the person to be our new Vicar and for the appointing team. In the wider world we pray for young people and their clubs, societies and organisations.

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 Pat Stoten, Sybil Thorne, Kyra Shaw and Eileen Castle.

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

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

NCG ANNUAL SERVICE

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).

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

**Churchwarden: Catherine Hayden
(07733357968)**

