

The Benefice of St Mary the Virgin,  
Higham Ferrers with St John the Baptist,  
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott

# *St Mary's Patronal Festival*



## MEETING POINT

The Feast of the Assumption  
15<sup>th</sup> August 2021

# Online Worship

## ***Welcome to our Online Worship – Meeting Point***

*As Sunday Services now take place in our churches,  
our Online Worship continues in ‘Meeting Point’ –  
we are joined together as one worshipping family through our  
services at home and in church through the seasons of the  
Church Year and the themes of the Gospel.*

*Sunday Meeting Point helps us deepen our faith as we explore  
readings from scripture and experiences from our day to day lives.  
Today we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
into heaven. The Church teaches that, at the end of her life,  
Mary, our Lord’s Mother, was taken up into heaven, body and  
soul. She was not taken up like this because she was different  
from us, but as an example to us of how we too have hope that  
we will be raised from the dead and exalted to heaven to join with  
Blessed Mary and all the saints in the presence of God.*

*We celebrate Mary’s part in the mysteries of salvation because  
she responded faithfully to God’s unique call to her.  
In our celebration, we see her as an example of how we too  
should respond to God.*

*We celebrate this festival as our Patronal Festival at St Mary’s  
and it is joyful to join together as one Benefice both at St Mary’s  
this morning and online*

*We welcome today our guest preacher,  
Canon Sarah Brown, Canon Missioner of Peterborough Cathedral  
and Dean-designate of Hereford.*

# The Welcome

*Michelle introduces today's service.*

## Hymn

**Sing we of the blessed Mother  
Who received the angel's word,  
And obedient to his summons  
Bore in love the infant Lord;  
Sing we of the joys of Mary  
At whose breast that child was fed  
Who is Son of God eternal  
And the everlasting Bread.**

**Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,  
Of the sword that pierced her through,  
When beneath the cross of Jesus  
She his weight of suffering knew,  
Looked upon her Son and Saviour  
Reigning high on Calvary's tree,  
Saw the price of man's redemption  
Paid to set the sinner free.**

**Sing again the joys of Mary  
When she saw the risen Lord,  
And in prayer with Christ's apostles,  
Waited on his promised word;  
From on high the blazing glory  
Of the Spirit's presence came,  
Heavenly breath of God's own being,  
Manifest through wind and flame.**

**Sing the chiefest joy of Mary  
When on earth her work was done,  
And the Lord of all creation  
Brought her to his heavenly home;  
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,  
Raised on high and crowned with grace,  
May your Son, the world's redeemer,  
Grant us all to see his face.**

*Words:*

*Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH*



### ***The Greeting*** - Michelle

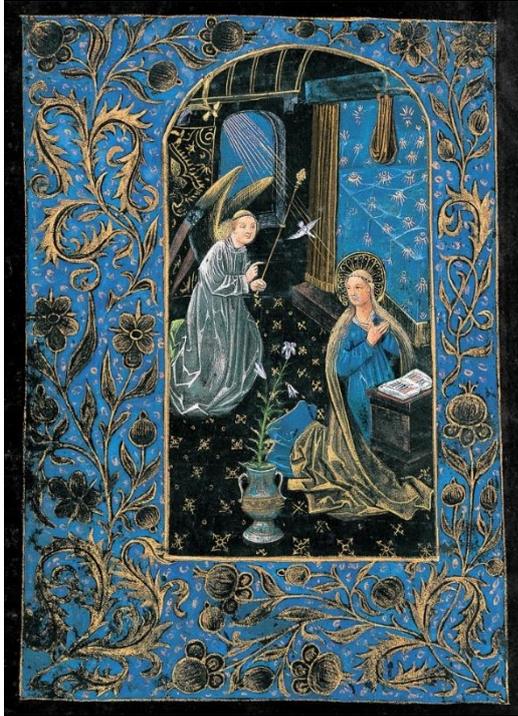
We meet in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

My brothers and sisters,  
we come together today to celebrate the mystery of God,  
to give thanks for our community of faith,  
and to give honour to the Blessed Mother of God,  
Mary our Patron.



## **Collect** – *Brenda*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who stooped to raise fallen humanity  
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary:  
grant that we, who have seen your glory  
revealed in our human nature  
and your love made perfect in our  
weakness,  
may daily be renewed in your image  
and conformed to the pattern of your Son  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **The Gospel Reading** – Luke 1: 46-55 – *Read by Linda*

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

‘My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the  
Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## ***Gabriel's Message***

**The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady.'**      ***Gloria!***

**'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;  
most highly favoured lady.'**      ***Gloria!***

**Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,  
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':  
most highly favoured lady.**      ***Gloria!***

**Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world  
will ever say 'Most highly favoured lady.'**      ***Gloria!***

*Words: Basque Carol, paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*  
*Music: Basque traditional carol*



# ***Mary's commitment to Christ and his Gospel***

*Canon Sarah Brown, Canon Missioner at Peterborough Cathedral*



## ***Music for Reflection***

*We are invited to meditate on the words of the hymn, recorded individually by members of our choir and assembled through the wonders of technology to provide us with a song to Mary for this festival:*

For Mary, Mother of the Lord  
God's holy name be praised,  
who first the Son of God adored  
as on her child she gazed.

God's handmaid, she at once obeyed  
by her, 'Thy will be done',  
the second Eve's love's answer made  
which our redemption won.

Hail Mary, you are full of grace,  
above all women blest;  
and blest your Son, whom your embrace  
in birth and death confessed.

*Words: JR Peacey (1896-1971)*

*Music: ST BOTOLPH, Gordon Slater (1896-1979)*

**Prayers of Intercession** – led  
by Fr Tom & Michelle



Let us pray to God, the Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
saying with Our Lady Mary:

Lord, we rejoice in you,  
**Holy is your name.**

Your angel declared to Mary that she was to be  
the mother of the Saviour.  
Help us to be open to your word  
and like Mary, to say ‘yes’ to your call to us.

Lord, we rejoice in you.  
**Holy is your name.**

Mary rejoiced with Elizabeth and sang your praise,  
‘My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.’  
Help us to live joyful lives that sing your praise,  
and proclaim your kingdom.

Lord, we rejoice in you.  
**Holy is your name.**

Mary bore a son of David’s line,  
a king whose reign would never end.  
Bless the nations of the world with Christ’s gift of peace,  
especially the people of the Lebanon,  
and all countries struggling with Coronavirus.

Lord, we rejoice in you.  
**Holy is your name.**

Jesus grew in wisdom and love  
in the home of Mary and Joseph.  
Strengthen our homes and families,  
and keep under your protection all those we love and care for.

Lord, we rejoice in you.  
**Holy is your name.**

Mary stood at the foot of the cross,  
and she held the body of her Son in her arms.  
Give comfort and healing to all who suffer  
and all who watch the suffering of those they love.

Lord, we rejoice in you.  
**Holy is your name.**

Mary is crowned Queen of heaven, robed with the sun.  
Bring us with all those who have died in the faith of Christ  
to share the joy of heaven with Mary and all the saints.

Lord, we rejoice in you.  
**Holy is your name.**



Almighty and everlasting God,  
your handmaid Mary magnified your name  
and rejoiced in your saving love:  
trusting in that same love,  
we ask all these our prayers  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## ***The Lord's Prayer***

Let us pray with our Blessed Lady Mary and all the saints,  
in the words that Jesus taught us, saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## ***The Peace - Michelle***

Unto us a child is born,  
unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the  
Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be  
always with you.  
**and also with you.**



## **Hymn**

**Jesus, good above all other,  
gentle child of gentle mother,  
in a stable born our brother,  
give us grace to persevere.**

**Jesus, cradled in a manger,  
for us facing every danger,  
living as a homeless stranger,  
make we thee our King most dear.**

**Jesus, for thy people dying,  
risen Master, death defying,  
Lord in heaven, thy grace supplying,  
keep us to thy presence near.**

**Jesus, who our sorrows bearest,  
all our thoughts and hopes thou sharest,  
thou to us the truth declarest;  
help us all thy truth to hear.**

**Lord, in all our doings guide us;  
pride and hate shall ne'er divide us;  
we'll go on with thee beside us,  
and with joy we'll persevere.**

*Words: Percy Dearmer (1906)*

*Music: 'Quem Pastores'*

## **Blessing** - Michelle

May the love of the Holy Family surround you.  
May the joy that was Mary's refresh you.  
May the faithfulness that was Joseph's encourage you.  
May the peace of the Christ-child fill your lives.  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**



## ***Final Acclamation – Paul***

Blessed is she who had faith  
that the Lord's promise would be fulfilled.

**All generations shall call her blessed.**

So tenderly has he looked upon his servant.

**All generations shall call her blessed.**

Blessed is she among women  
and blessed is the fruit of her womb.

**All generations shall call her blessed.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit. Holy is his name.

**All generations shall call her blessed.**



## ***Final Hymn***

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm  
has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and forevermore!**

*Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926) based on the Magnificat  
Music: WOODLANDS Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)*

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