

10th January 2021

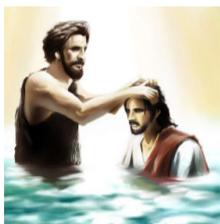
Baptism of Christ

Welcome!

to the Heart of England Group of Parishes

in the villages of Bidford, Binton, Exhall,
Salford Priors, Temple Grafton & Wixford

There are no live services in our churches this week.



Services this Sunday:

***A video recorded "Service of the Word" with
Rev Peter Walker***

***The recording of "Poems and Music for
Epiphany" is still available via the church
websites.***

***An online service from the Church of England. Links can be
found on our websites.***



Worshipping God
Making new Disciples
Transforming Communities



For your prayers this week:

- all who are unwell, especially Joanna Cotterell, John England, Michael Godfrey, James Hawkyard, Gwen Hill, Dorothy Johnson, Chloe Lambert, John Lawrence & Sue Short; Rhiannon Simmons, Rose Turner, Alex Waring, Laurence, Pam Sharpe, Roger Webb, Alan (Margaret's son), Joan (Peter Walker's mother-in-law), Steve (a fireman), Phil Dalby, Alan & Sarah Edwards and all the families, carers and medical staff who treat them
- all who mourn the loss of loved ones,
- All who are feeling lonely, anxious or depressed
- All who are worried about their businesses and jobs
- the successful roll out of the 2 vaccines in the UK and for these and other vaccines to become available across the world
- those on the front line in our public services - the NHS and those working in social care, for schools and many others on whom we depend; and for parents and carers of children at this anxious and stressful time

God of compassion,
 be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
 In their loneliness, be their consolation;
 in their anxiety, be their hope;
 in their darkness, be their light;
 through him who suffered alone on the cross,
 but reigns with you in glory,
 Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.”
Isaiah 12.2

Our **Christmas Appeal at St Matthew's** this year is being divided equally between the St Matthew's Foodbank scheme and “Crisis”—a charity which supports homeless people in the UK.

If you would still like to add to this appeal, then please either make a payment into the church bank account (referencing it “Christmas Appeal”) or contact Roger Huggins to discuss other methods of giving.



<u>Readings:</u>	10th January	17th January	24th January	31st January
1st Reading	Genesis 1.1-5	1 Samuel 3.1-10	Genesis 14.17-20	Malachi 3.1-5
2nd Reading	Acts 19.1-7	Revelation 5.1-10	Revelation 19.6-10	Hebrews 2.14-18
Gospel	Mark 1.4-11	John 1.43-51	John 2.1-11	Luke 2.22-40



St Matthew's Foodbank has started again and further donations of non-perishable foodstuffs are now needed. Your contributions are so well received by the families we are supporting and it helps them to keep food on the table on a regular basis. So **THANK YOU** for supporting this valuable outreach project.

Please contact Sarah or Roger to arrange delivery/collection.



The Alpha course seeks to introduce the basics of the Christian faith through a series of talks and discussions. It is described by its organisers as "an opportunity to explore the meaning of life".

In conjunction with The Barn in Bidford, we are running an online Alpha course provisionally starting on Tuesday 19th January 2021.

To book a place on this course or for more information please email: alpha@thebarn.org.uk

St Matthew's Family Services will revert to video recordings for the time being as it is difficult to meet in church. We hope to produce 2 services per month on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Please watch the website, Facebook page and emails for details .



CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Email enquiries to: admin@heartparishes.org.uk

Group website: www.heartparishes.org.uk
St Laurence's website: www.stlaurencebidford.org.uk
St Matthew's website: www.stmatthewssalfordpriors.org.uk
Parish Office: Birch House, Grange Lane, HARVINGTON, WR11 8NL

Collect & Readings for 10th January—Baptism of Christ

Collect:

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
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

1st Reading: Genesis 1.1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
³ And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light 'day', and the darkness he called 'night'. And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day.

2nd Reading: Acts 19.1-7

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ² and asked them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?'

They answered, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.'

³ So Paul asked, 'Then what baptism did you receive?'

'John's baptism,' they replied.

⁴ Paul said, 'John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.' ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1.4-11

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this

was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'