



### **The Collects for The Baptism of Christ**

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

Heavenly Father,  
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:  
may we recognize him as our Lord  
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen



#### **Contact information**

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## **THE BENEFICE OF WESTFIELD AND GUESTLING**

**A letter from Rev Joy 9 January 2022**

### **Baptism of Christ**

It's early Friday morning as I write because I'm going on an adventure tomorrow. 58 authorized lay ministers are going to be commissioned at Chichester Cathedral on Saturday afternoon by Bishop Ruth. Among them will be Westfield's Tom Norris and Guestling's Juliette Vane. Tom completed the Mission elective and Juliette the Worship and Liturgy elective. I think for a small rural benefice we've done very well and I'm proud of them both. I'm travelling to Chichester with Juliette and some Guestling friends and it will be the furthest journey I've made in 2 years! You can find out more about training for Authorised Lay Ministry from the Diocese of Chichester website ([www.chichester.anglican.org](http://www.chichester.anglican.org))

Our little Christmas tree has been returned to the garden minus its lights and decorations but it has grown a small fir cone whilst its been indoors. Clem took down the corkscrew willow branches and their lights whilst I held the stepladder and some passers by from further up the road who we didn't know said how much they would miss them! It's good to know that we contribute to other people's enjoyment of the Christmas season in this way. In summer our *erigeron* daisies that carpet the small space between the house and its railings are a source of compliments. We are thinking about what we can 'bring to the party' for springtime this year.



A far longer journey than Chichester is looming for me when I travel to Aberdeen for my Aunt Monica's funeral on Friday 21st January. She was the last remaining of the four Clifton sisters from Battle. My mother was the oldest and it is a comfort to think of the four of them reunited once more. My cousin Jane is planning a celebration of her Mum's life in Oxford much later in the year as, anxious about Covid, snow and distance, she fears not many will be able to get to the funeral.

This comes with my love, prayers and blessings as always,  
Joy

### Westfield Church Services

#### **Sunday 9th January Baptism of Christ**

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

10am Morning Praise

#### **Monday 10th January**

7.15pm PCC Meeting in Hall

#### **Tuesday 11th January**

1.15pm Funeral of Lyn Polhill at Hastings Crematorium

#### **Wednesday 13th January Aelred, Abbot 1167**

9.30am Holy Communion

#### **Sunday 16th January**

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

### Guestling Church Services

#### **Sunday 9th January Baptism of Christ**

11am Holy Communion

#### **Sunday 16th January**

11am Morning Praise

kingdom is not from here' ([John 18.36](#)).

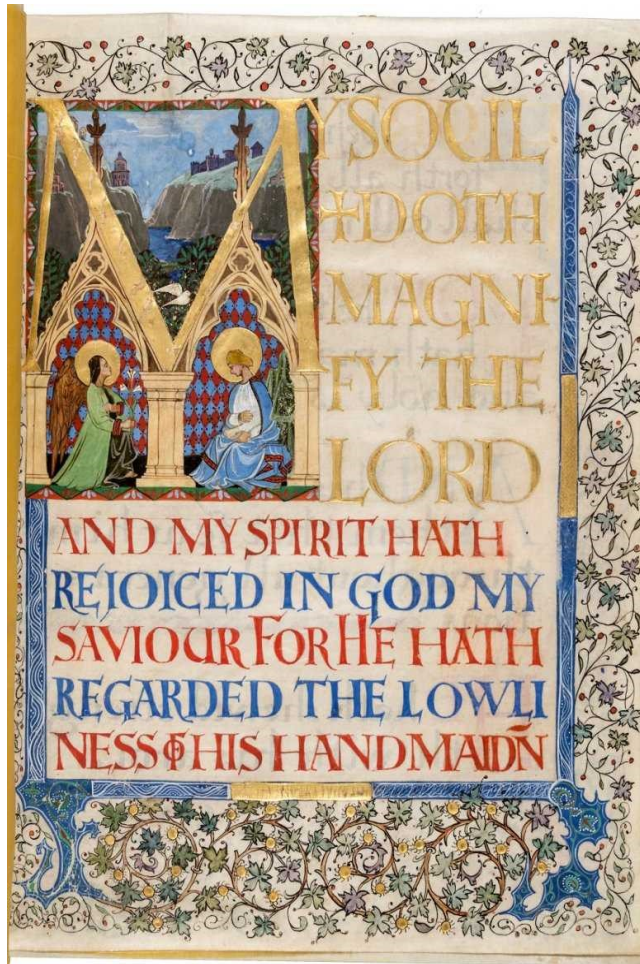
Jesus' disciples, including Mary, expected him to be the ruler of an earthly kingdom; he turned that idea on its head and spoke of a radically different, heavenly kingdom.

However, this doesn't mean that the kingdom is only 'spiritual', with no practical outworking in the world. After all, Jesus himself taught his disciples to pray, 'Your kingdom

come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

([Matthew 6.10](#)).

When Mary sang her unashamedly political Magnificat, she was voicing a hope that continually challenges us – that the righteous, just and peaceful kingdom of God would be seen on earth, in very real and tangible ways,



through Jesus and his message.

## Bible Society Q&A: Why was Mary political?

### PART TWO

*(Continued from last week)*

*This article represents the author's personal view. It accords with Bible Society's values, but is not intended to express our position as an organisation.*

#### Question:

Was Mary really getting political when she sang, 'He has brought down rulers from their thrones... He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich empty away'?

#### Answer:

The expectation that Jesus was going to lead a rebellion against the occupying Romans and bring down those rulers from their thrones was very deep-rooted in the minds of his followers. Why else would Peter bring a sword to the garden of Gethsemane ([John 18.10](#))? Even up to the day of Jesus' ascension, the disciples were still clinging to this hope, asking, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ([Acts 1.6](#)).

But Jesus never saw himself as that kind of Messiah. He had already redefined the kingdom of God as a place where violence is neutralised by peaceful resistance ('If anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also', [Matthew 5.39](#)), and his words to Pontius Pilate had made his position clear: 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my



### A Short Reflection

The season of Epiphany is an invitation to reflect on the many little 'epiphanies', glimpses of how things really are, which are vouchsafed us in the Gospel. The first Sunday of Epiphany is a time to reflect on the moment when 'the heavens opened' at Jesus' Baptism and we were given a glimpse of Father Son and Holy Spirit at the heart of all things

### Westfield Notices

**Home groups begin again on Wednesday 19th January-** Wednesdays every week 7:30pm @ Cathy and Howard's Cockmartins Farm or Dawn and Jess @ Apple Tree Down.

**Prayer Group** 1st, 3rd (and 5th when there is one) Tuesdays 7:30pm @ Cathy and Howard's Cockmartins Farm.

**Parents, Toddlers and Babies** every Wednesday in church 1.30-3pm in term-time

**Youth Church Zoom** 1st and 3rd Saturdays 4pm.

Email [kathyandericdarvill@gmail.com](mailto:kathyandericdarvill@gmail.com) for an invitation.

### Guestling Notices

**Guestling Prayer Diaries** are now available in Church St Laurence's will re-open from Monday 10th January

#### COVID Guidelines in Church

**Masks or face coverings are now mandatory in places of worship** unless you have a medical exemption. Singing can be a reason to remove them but please ensure you are socially distanced if you choose to do so. **Please replace your masks when Communion is distributed. Please also remember to sanitize hands.**



Juliette has sent through some more photographs of the ducklings and now her doves have got in on the act as well. Juliette writes that the babies, hatched on New Year's Day. Not a good time of year to have them as we are now in a cold spell but, as you can see Mum and Dad are both doing their best. Dad also takes his turn with feeding and keeping them warm and you can just see a baby showing beneath Mum's warm feathers. Most doves seem to share the responsibility and are very good parents.



The ducks grew amazingly quickly, soon got bored with the daily moist chick crumb and water diet and are now adult in size but still keeping close to their mum (Corinne). They were introduced to the others just before Christmas in the large pen with a spacious fenced outdoor area. ~They are now on 'adult' rations of sweetcorn, mixed seeds and pellets, a dose of tasty mealworms - preferred in water - what a noise when they all dip in! Chopped lettuce -

lunchtime - followed by cooked spaghetti with rice for their last meal. I think they sometimes eat better than I do!

