

Parish News

Sunday 3rd January 2021

Epiphany

Parish Clergy

Revd Vicky Fleming 01543 502857 (Not Fridays)

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Mon– Fri leave message on
machine and we will call you back

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It is so frustrating trying to make contact with Vicars so Vicky will endeavour to be in her study every evening except Fridays and Sundays between 6pm and 7pm so that you can be sure of speaking to her. You are welcome to ring at other times but you may have to leave a message!

Reverend Vicky and Reverend George would like to thank you for the Christmas cards they received. For the encouragement and support they have had through this difficult year. We are taking a break but you will continue to be held in our prayers so our thanks to the Licensed Ministry team and administrators for holding the fort.

We wish you every blessing for the New Year and looking forward to seeing you again.

Collect

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory 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.

First Reading - Ephesians 3.1-12

I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles –
Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Second Reading— *Matthew 2.1-12*

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.” Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Post Communion

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! George and I would like to thank you for the Christmas Greetings we received. It hasn't been the end to the year we had hoped as Covid once more takes a grip of the nation. And now we are into the Epiphany Season.

This is when we celebrate how God reveals himself to us through Jesus Christ. I love the opening passage of the letter to the Hebrews— *...in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the exact reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.*

Isn't it amazing that we can know the Almighty by knowing Jesus? God is not distant from us and through Jesus we discover God's love for us, and we can receive it by opening our hearts and saying thank you. When we do that we too can reflect something of God's glory by sharing that love with others.

Although this year has started on a difficult footing, we can rest assured of God's love and know he will sustain us by his powerful word. Why not spend some extra time reveling in God's love by reading his Word and meditating on the truths it reveals.

God Bless,

Rev. Vicky

We are the body of Christ and everyone is important.

God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly, thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others, mindful that our steps make an impact and our words carry power. May we walk gently. May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life, help us enter the New Year reverently, aware that you have endowed every creature and plant, every person and habitat with beauty and purpose. May we regard the world with tenderness. May we honour rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls, help us enter the New Year joyfully, willing to laugh and dance and dream, remembering our many gifts with thanks and looking forward to blessings yet to come. May we welcome your lavish love. May we cast off the small, vindictive god our fears have made.



May the grace and peace of Christ bless us all now and in the days ahead. Amen



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Faith in Later Life

CONNECTIONS



Please continue to support the foodbank by donating during these difficult times. The foodbank needs the following per week to ensure there are sufficient stocks. Please donate if you can. Every week they need:

- **200 BOXES OF CEREALS**
- **600 TINS OF BEANS**
- **170 TINS OF TOMATOES**
- **552 TINS OF MEAT**
- **410 TINS OF RICE PUDDING**
- **410 TINS OF FRUIT**
- **205 JARS OF JAM**
- **255 PACKS OF BISCUITS**
- **355 BOTTLES OF JUICE/SQUASH**
- **255 BOTTLES OF UHT MILK**

If you can help by bringing these items the box is at the back of Church and Ian Coulter will take up when he is on duty at the foodbank.

Thank you

We build community with Christ at the centre when we really take care of others. Giving food for the Foodbank is wonderful and so is caring for our immediate neighbours. Is there anyone near you who would appreciate a note through the door, a homemade cake or some shopping done. We care for others by remembering **HANDS, FACE, SPACE.**

Special Thanks Liz and Vikki representatives at Moto Hilton Park, for community support, who have made a generous donation to the foodbank. Thanks to Ian our warden for taking to the distribution centre.

Thanks All



PLEASE NOTE

This area is getting closer to more strict restrictions so

remember HANDS, FACE AND SPACE

If you take risks you are not caring for others!

Owing to the serious spread of the virus please check the website for any changes to our planned services resulting from Government guidelines

	St Luke's	St Thomas'
10th January	8.00 Holy Communion 10.00 Morning Prayer	Closed
17th January	10.00 Holy Communion	11.00 Morning Prayer (TBC)
24th January	8.00 Holy Communion 10.00 Morning Prayer	Private Prayer TBC