

# Parish News

Sunday 10th January 2021

## Baptism of Christ

### Parish Clergy

Revd Vicky Fleming 01543 502857 (Not Fridays)

Revd Gill Joynson 01543 502131

Parish Office 01543 502131

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

Email: [stlukesparish@btconnect.com](mailto:stlukesparish@btconnect.com)

<http://www.stlukescannock.org.uk>

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!

### **Important Reminder**

If you like a member of the Pastoral Care Team to make contact with you, or anyone you know in need, you should inform the Parish Office. Because of Data Protection legislation access to contact details is restricted and so the person concerned must give permission.

If someone would like prayer please tell the Parish Office.

## **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.

## ***First Reading Genesis 1:1-5***

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God **said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.** And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

## ***Second Reading - Acts 19.1-7***

<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He said to **them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?’** They replied, **‘No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’** <sup>3</sup>Then he said, **‘Into what then were you baptized?’** They answered, **‘Into John’s baptism.’** <sup>4</sup>Paul said, **‘John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.’** <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the

Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied – <sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

**Second Reading**– .Mark 1.4-11

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>**Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt** around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, **'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'** <sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>**And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'**

**Post Communion**

Lord of all time and eternity,  
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father  
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:  
by the power of your Spirit  
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth  
through the waters of the new creation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sadly, we cannot meet up to celebrate birthdays but we can pray for those who are. This week please remember.

**Janice Middleton** whose birthday is on  
**13th January**

Congratulations! We thank God for you and pray that you will be richly blessed with love from the Church Family.

And.....

**John Winter** whose birthday is on  
**17th January.**

We celebrate the gift of life with you and thank God for you. Congratulations! We pray that God will bless you wonderfully. With love from the Church Family



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



Dear Friends,

Well here we go again, another lockdown. I don't know whether it's better this time around because I know what to expect or worse because of Christmas and spending time with people other than my own household.

Mark tells us (1.4 -11) that when Jesus was baptised the heavens opened and the curtain of our world was pulled back. This symbolises God's intervention. In fact Jesus' baptism symbolises a new creation, for just as it happened in the beginning God when God breathed the world into existence, so here he breathes his Spirit upon Jesus and says *you are my dear child, you are my chosen, I am delighted in you.* Although Jesus did not have to be baptised he submitted to it as a sign that he identified himself with us,

Jesus' baptism symbolised a fresh start, a new beginning in God's relationship with us. This is who God is and what God does. He loves each and

every one of us so much that he calls us every minute of every day to respond to his love through repentance and a change of life so that he can breathe his Spirit upon us and say *You are my dear, dear child, I am delighted with you.*

Who cannot respond to these words spoken to us by a loving Father? Try saying this sentence slowly to yourself, inserting your own name at the start *N You are my dear, dear child, I am delighted with you.*

As we enter yet another lockdown, during the time of year that many find difficult; more than ever we need to hear God

speaking those words to us - *N You are my dear, dear child, I am delighted with you as we allow ourselves to be taken up in his arms, comforted and protected. Afterwards, somehow the world will look different and we will be different too. Amen!*

Rev. Gill Joynson

A prayer idea:

Father, thank you for each and every day you have blessed us here on earth.

Thank you for your tender mercies.

Thank you for giving us friends and family to share joys and sorrows with.

I ask you to bless my friends, relatives, brothers and sisters in Christ and those I care deeply for, who are reading this right now.

Where there is joy, give them continued joy, where there is pain or sorrow, give them your peace and mercy.

Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence.

Where there is need, fulfil their needs.

Bless their homes, families, finances, their goings and their comings.

**In Jesus' name, Amen.**



## 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 and high rates of infection in the Cannock area we have made the decision to close all our churches for worship.

Sunday Morning Prayer and Wednesday Morning Prayer will be on our website, Facebook page and on our You Tube Channel.

Please join us for these times of worship and if you know people who do not have access to a computer please tell them about the free phone service offered by the Church of England. It would be a very kindly act to print off the notice sheet for others as well.



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers



**CONNECTIONS**